

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**  
**Educational Policy/Program Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
**MARCH 5 – March 19, 2019**

**March 5, 2019**

**Attending:** Amy Rouse (chair), Maryellen Charles (vice-chair), Peggy Lovejoy, Goff French, Dixie Ring, Jeannie Conley, Derek Ellis, Christy Johnson, Sarah Bunker

**Also Attending:** Eileen Crowley, Bruce Mochamer, Jean Pillsbury, David Dorr, Zachary Longyear, Julie Kimball, Steve Swindells, Brent Colbry, Jon Moody, Patty Moody

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The Superintendent reviewed the individual budgets for Instruction K-12, Student Activities, Guidance, Library, School Administration and for the Somerset Career and Technical Center. This was followed by a summary of how this effects the overall budget.

The Superintendent presented the first draft of a Status Quo Budget. The total budget as presented was \$36,756,420 which includes a \$14,240,248.00 assessment to the local communities, up \$31,683.00 from FY19 for an increase of 0.223%.

The Committee discussed insurance rates, which have not come out and are not factored into this budget, as well as reductions made to the overall budget to limit the increase on taxpayers. State valuation shifts for the towns will impact individual town assessments and reflect the impact of Skowhegan's reduced state valuation.

The Board asked questions which were answered and discussed by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

The Superintendent reviewed proposed legislation that may impact MSAD 54's State subsidy.

The Committee will meet again on March 12, 2019.

**March 12, 2019**

**Attending:** Amy Rouse (chair), Maryellen Charles (vice-chair), Goff French, Lynda Quinn, Jeannie Conley, Derek Ellis, Christy Johnson, Sarah Bunker

**Also Attending:** Eileen Crowley, Dale Lancaster, Bill Laney, Erica Thompson, Renee Hovey, Barry Sites, Brent Colbry, Jon Moody

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Sherriff Dale Lancaster reviewed the COPsync911 alert system and a federal grant his office has acquired for the schools of Somerset County. Sheriff Lancaster answered questions about the system which would put an app (button) on each teacher computer in the district, allowing MSAD54 teaching and administrative staff to alert law enforcement in the event of a high priority emergency (threat/medical emergency).

The Superintendent reviewed the individual budgets for Other Instruction (ESL, Alt. Education), Special Education, Health, District Wide Technology, Other Student Support Services(K-12), Improvement of Instruction (K-12) and Adult Education. This was followed by a summary of the overall budget.

The Superintendent reviewed history of the Adult Education program and the efficiency shown by a budget which remains flat as it has the past several years.

The Superintendent reviewed the state's changes to Technical Center funding and the impact the separate warrant has on the overall budget. The district anticipates not needing to bill neighboring districts for additional funding this year as current state subsidy will be adequate to fully fund the program for FY20.

The Board asked questions which were answered and discussed by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

The Committee will meet again on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **March 19, 2019**

**Attending:** Amy Rouse (chair), Maryellen Charles(vice-chair), Goff French, Lynda Quinn, Jeannie Conley, Derek Ellis, Christy Johnson, Sarah Bunker, Peggy Lovejoy, Kathy Wilder

**Also Attending:** Laurie McFarland, Bruce Mochamer, Sandy Belanger, Exchange Students, Brent Colbry, Jon Moody

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Bruce Mochamer (SAHS Principal), introduced Laurie McFarland, SAHS Guidance Counselor and Exchange Student Coordinator, who introduced three of the high school's exchange students and shared an overview of the district's exchange student program. Laurie touted the positive impact of the students on the high school and the positive outcomes foreign students experienced as a result of coming to school at Skowhegan Area High School. The students each took a moment to share where they were from, what they were most surprised about in coming to Maine, and what they have found to be the most beneficial. Students each shared positive experiences about their time in MSAD 54. The Board asked questions and thanked the students for coming.

The committee reached consensus to support administration in moving forward with the COPsync911 alert system grant shared by Sherriff Dale Lancaster at the meeting of March 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Superintendent reviewed updates to the budget including the unemployment rates which had been recently released. The committee discussed the status-quo budget, support services, and outstanding Health and Workers Comp Insurance rates. The Superintendent expects insurance rates to be available by mid-April.

The Superintendent reviewed the impact of shifting local community valuations on the budget. The Board asked questions which were answered and discussed by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.