

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
January 7, 2021, 7:00 p.m.  
Skowhegan Area Middle School**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 54 was held on January 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (887 present, 112 absent):**

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) - PRESENT	Maryellen Charles* (Mercer-16) ABSENT
Harold Bigelow (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jeannie Conley* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Dixie Ring* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	excused*
Derek Ellis (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Haley Fleming (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Christy Johnson (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT BY REMOTE	
Brandy Morgan (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Jennifer Poirier (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gary Sinclair (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Karen Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Kathy Wilder (Norr-46) PRESENT	

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

a. Flag Salute followed.

2. Good News and Recognitions

Kate Drummond, High School Science Teacher and Co-Advisor of the Eco Team, presented to the Board, along with students/members of the Eco Team. Students shared information on their Bee Keeping Project, which has produced 50 lbs. of honey. The Eco Team's Founder and Co-Advisor is High School Science Teacher,

Kevin McFadden. Students also shared information on their Waste and Recycling Project.

Mill Stream Elementary School Teacher, Eileen Crowley, presented to the Board on “Using Technology for Buddy Reading”.

3. Approval of the Minutes

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jennifer Poirier, to approve the minutes of the following minutes:**

- **Board meeting of 12/17/20**
- **Building Committee meeting of 12/15/20 (Item 5a)**
- **Personnel Committee meeting of 12/17/20 (Item 5b)**

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (887 YES)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Sandra Karkos-Powers, district bus driver/delivery person, effective 12/31/20.

b. School Personnel – No School Personnel wished to speak.

c. Visitors – There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Building Committee – 12/15/20

The Superintendent reviewed the minutes of the Building Committee meeting of 12/15/20. There were no recommendations.

b. Personnel Committee – 12/17/20

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 12/17/20. There were no recommendations.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

The Superintendent reviewed vacancies and recommended the Board's approval of page one of nominations.

**ON A MOTION BY Goff French, seconded by Amy Rouse, the Board voted to approve nominations pages one.**

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (887 YES)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of January 7, 2021, the towns of Canaan, Cornville, Mercer and Norridgewock were current on their monthly assessment payments, with January due on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Skowhegan and Smithfield were outstanding for December and January.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Study

The Superintendent updated the Board on the New School Construction Building Study. The Margaret Chase Smith likely is a site that makes sense if the towns support the transfer of lands contingent on the reallocation of ball fields per the 6F conversion process. This appears to be a win-win for both the town and the District provided that site is selected by the district for the new school. Town Selectmen will review this information at their meeting next week. Once determined, a public hearing will take place with a straw poll vote. In the event MCSS site is selected, the town will have a town meeting vote to approve the sale of the land. As part of the state building construction process, regardless of the site, the State Board of Education will vote to approve the process (likely in June). A meeting with the Architects and DOE Construction Team to review site selection and process is scheduled for tomorrow, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

d. Update on Schools/COVID-19

- Update on COVID-19 cases - 15 positive cases in the district to date.
- A lot of positive feedback with compliance in our schools and with parent communication.

- Much appreciation was extended to our school nurses and administrators and others for the constant conversations and follow ups surrounding contact tracing.
- Appreciation for staff across the district and their work.
- Middle School teachers rotate be adjusted to have students rotate and have to ability to move around. 6<sup>th</sup> grade will remain the same due to class size
- SAMS after school activities have started. A cohort model for Middle School basketball is being discussed.

e. Update on Use of Federal Funds

MSAD 54 has worked to leverage federal funds to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. MSAD 54 was the only school district in the State of Maine to receive funds from the New Balance Foundation’s COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Grants totaling \$375,000. The District received \$25,000 to help support costs associated with digital learning.

f. FY22 Budget Timeline and Development

The Superintendent shared a tentative 2021-2022 budget schedule. Principals’ budgets are due on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The tentative budget schedule moves March board meetings to the second and fourth Thursday (March 11 and 25), which will allow additional time to receive funding information from the State. Additional federal dollars have come in from the State and will use the Title I funding stream. An update on additional funds will be provided at the next board meeting.

g. Other

i. Enrollment Report

Enrollment as of 1/7/21 was 2,247 (last report – 2,247)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent updated the Board on the following:

- The Professional Development Committee have arranged for trainers to come in to train staff on how to use promethean boards, with 37 staff members attending a Saturday training and 152 staff attending two sessions this past week.

- The District PBE Leadership Team continues to meet. The team has been focusing on the District's mission and vision. MSAD 54 Guiding Beliefs, developed in 2016 by the team in concert with staff, was shared with the Board. The team plans to survey parents and staff around the District's vision.
- The Remote Learning Committee continues to meet. The District's Green/Yellow Plan and Red Plan are completed. The Committee is working on an Orange Plan, for situation that would have most of our students remote learning while our county is Yellow.

The Support Services Manager shared that maintenance/custodial crews are working hard and the district is in good shape.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business discussed.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools