

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
December 17, 2020, 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 December 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (662 present, 337 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) - PRESENT	Harold Bigelow* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Maryellen Charles* (Mercer-16) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Derek Ellis* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jean Franklin* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Haley Fleming (Norr-46) PRESENT	Michael Lambke* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT	Dixie Ring* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	Gary Sinclair* (Corn-30) ABSENT
Christy Johnson (Smith-27) PRESENT	Kathy Wilder* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT BY REMOTE	
Brandy Morgan (Norr-46) PRESENT	excused*
Jennifer Poirier (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Karen Smith (Skow-53) 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 – There were no presentations

3. Approval of the Minutes – 12/3/20

ON A MOTION BY Goff French, seconded by Amy Rouse, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 12/3/20, into the public record.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (662 YES)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Lisa Ames, Custodian at Mill Stream Elementary School, effective 1/1/21.

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

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

5. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 12/3/20

Goff French reviewed the minutes of Support Services Committee meeting of 12/3/20.

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 12/8/20

Sarah Bunker, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 12/8/20.

ON A MOTION BY Desiree Libby, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 12/3/20, including acceptance of listed donations; and the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 12/8/20.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (662 YES)

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of December 17, 2020, the towns of Canaan, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield were current on their monthly assessment payments, with December due on the 20th. Mercer paid December assessment on 12/14/20, and Cornville was outstanding for November and December.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Study

The Superintendent shared that the Board's Building Committee met with Stephen Blatt Architects on Tuesday, December 15th to review project site updates. Four sites are being considered, including the Margaret Chase Smith School site as an option to consider.

d. Update on Return to School and County Green Designation

The Superintendent shared and reviewed a proposed 2020-2021 revised calendar that includes four additional teacher workshop days (1/4/21, 3/5/21, 4/2/21 and 5/21/21).

A suggestion was made to change the May 12th early release day to a Teacher Workshop Day, rather than add a workshop day on May 21st.

The Board voted on the following recommendations, including approval of nominations page 1 and 2 (Item 6a):

ON A MOTION BY Amy Rouse, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one and two; and

The Board approved the proposed revisions to the 2020-2021 school calendar to include the following Teacher Workshop Days: 1/4/21, 3/5/21, 4/2/21 and change the 5/12/21 Early Release Day to a Teacher Workshop Day.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (662 YES)

The Superintendent also shared:

- Participated in a video interview with New Balance as a result of the company's recent \$25,000 donation and all of its help and support during the pandemic.
- There have been no new COVID-19 cases since Thanksgiving.
- As a result of Somerset County being designated Green, high school winter sports will begin, as well as school-based clubs and activities. Discussion is taking place on middle school intramurals (no competition with other schools). Additional information will be shared at the next board meeting.
- Weekly COVID updates continue.
- There has been a mild drop in K-6 attendance from last year; no significant drop for in-school attending students in 7-12, but more significant drop for students attending remotely and on hybrid days.
- Failure rates have increased at SAHS, something that has gone down for 5 consecutive years previously.

e. Update on Use of Federal Funds

The Superintendent shared that Corona Virus Relief Fund spending is winding down as CRF-1 and CRF-2 funds are nearly fully spent.

f. Other

i. Enrollment Report

Enrollment as of 12/17/20 was 2,247 (last report – 2,243)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent shared that a plan for substitutes is being worked on and will report to the Board at the January 7th meeting

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

Mark Bedard asked if it is possible to donate Board member attendance stipend. This will be researched and reported back.

Board Chair Lynda Quinn acknowledged the exceptional handling of the COVID pandemic by administration and staff and commended the Board for its support of administrators and teachers.

10. Executive Session – Superintendent’s Performance Assessment

pursuant to *Title 1 MRSA §405(6)(A)*

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Brandy Morgan, the Board entered into Executive Session at 7:48 pm to review the Superintendent’s Performance Assessment and discuss the terms and conditions of the Superintendent’s Contract.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (662 YES)

The Board returned to regular session at 8:02 pm, and the following recommendation was made:

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Karen Smith, the Board voted to extend the Superintendent’s 3-year Contract to June 30, 2024, subsequent to the terms of the contract and future negotiated salary and benefits.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (662 YES)

11. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools