

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
April 15, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Skowhegan Area High School**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 54 was held on April 15, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (655 present, 344 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) – PRESENT	Derek Ellis* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Harold Bigelow (Skow-53) PRESENT	Haley Fleming* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Jean Franklin* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Maryellen Charles (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Theresa Howard* (Corn-30) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Desiree Libby* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	Dixie Ring* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT	Gary Sinclair* (Corn-30) ABSENT
Christy Johnson (Smith-27) PRESENT	Karen Smith* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) 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	
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

Jennifer Poirier, Skowhegan Board of Directors and member of the House of Representatives, presented a legislative sentiment to the High School Speech Team, for their State win.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Goff French, to approve the minutes of the following minutes:

- Board meeting of 4/1/21
- Support Services Committee meeting of 4/1/21 (5a)

- Educational Policy/Program Committee meetings of 3/16/21, 3/23/21 and 4/6/21
- Building Committee meeting of 4/7/21 (5c)

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (655 YES)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Blaine Sites, Ed Tech at Marti Stevens Learning Center.

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Ed Bernard, Bus Driver/District-wide Delivery.

- b. School Personnel – There were no school personnel who wished to speak.
- c. Visitors – There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 4/1/21

Jennifer Poirier, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to approve the listed donations for the SCTC Welding Program Expansion Project.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (655 yes)

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 3/16/21, 3/23/21 & 4/6/21

Sarah Bunker, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to approve and adopt the changes to the Federal Procurement Manual as written.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (655 yes)

c. Building Committee – 4/7/21

Superintendent Jonathan Moody reviewed the minutes. 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 the nominations.

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Brandy Morgan, the Board voted to approve nominations page one.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (655 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of April 15, 2021, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) were current on their monthly assessments, with April payment received from Mercer and Skowhegan. Monthly assessment payments are due on the 20th of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Superintendent updated the Board on the Site Selection Process. A meeting is scheduled for 4/16/21 with the DOE School Construction Team to provide an update. The Superintendent met with the Skowhegan Selectmen, who voted to support the project and the Purchase Option Agreement which will secure the site application with the State Board of Education. The State Board’s vote is anticipated for June. The Town Public Hearing is scheduled for April 27th at the Skowhegan Community

Center. The Ed Specs process should begin after April school break, which will include first the engagement of staff, and then students and families and the community on what educational programming. The concept design, which comes during the fall of next school year, will include many more specifics of the building structure and composition.

d. Update on Schools//COVID-19

MSAD 54 was impacted significantly this week by COVID-19, having to move all 6th grade and the entire high school to remote learning for the week. Additional positive cases that impacted individuals at several schools in the district including SAHS, SAMS and MSES.

The new mascot imagery was shared with the Board and will be finalized prior to the next board meeting. Senior, Ethan Staples, designed the chosen image, which involved 565 out of 700 votes.

e. Determination of 2020-2021 Final Student Day

The Superintendent requested the Board's approval to revise the last student day from June 18 to June 11 as a result of so few snow days being used this year.

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Brandy Morgan, the Board voted to approve the revised 2020-2021 school calendar to move the last student day from June 18 to June 11.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL (655 yes).

f. FY22 Status Quo Draft Budget Update

The Superintendent shared a comparison of District Per-Pupil Spending with the State and MSAD 54. The District spends significantly more dollars than the State average in the classroom and directly in its schools while overall district spending is 11% less than the state average.

MSAD 54's state allocation subsidy went down this year as a result of a combination of decreased student count, decreased poverty and increased state valuation of our towns. This has affected our state valuation numbers and resulted in a reduction in state aid.

The FY22 proposed budget is up by \$724,248, or 1.975%. This represented a roughly \$500,000 cut from the original Status Quo budget. The largest single increase to the budget is additional state aid for the Somerset Career and Technical Center (\$364,284); which has been provided for the expansion of the welding program, career exploration, and a CDL Driving program. Last year the MSAD 54 budget was down (-0.278%) overall and (-1.28%) locally. Over the combined two-year period the local budget is up \$290,459, or 2.08% over that period.

The Superintendent shared his testimonial on LD838, Representative Poirier's bill, which addresses the language on the Earned Paid Leave law. The bill exempts substitute teachers, other substitute employees, coaches, and temporary employees in school systems from being covered by the law that requires employers to offer earned paid leave to employees.

i. Enrollment Report

Enrollment as of 4/1/21 was 2,241 (last report – 2,246)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent shared the following:

- We have been advertising and hiring for 2021-2022 position, including intervention support and remote learning support (Federal COVID-19 funds)
- Summer School Program planning is underway, including the hiring of staff. Through a competitive grant summer programming offering with SCTC teachers are being explored.
- Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration Informational flyer will be mailed to all homes in MSAD 54 over the next week.

The Support Services Manager shared that meal deliveries are planned for May 12, June 14, and June 15. Planning for Summer Feeding Program is underway. ESSER project planning and construction project planning continue.

Staff is preparing for tomorrow's delivery of meals, which will include meals for the next three days as well as April vacation.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools