

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
July 15, 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 July 15, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (705 present, 251 absent, 43 vacant):**

|                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT      | Jeannie Conley* (Skow-53) ABSENT   |
| Alicia Boulette (Skow-53) PRESENT  | Annemarie Dubois* (Skow-53) ABSENT |
| Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT   | Derek Ellis* (Skow-53) ABSENT      |
| Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT  | Haley Fleming* (Norr-46) ABSENT    |
| Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT     | Desiree Libby* (Norr-46) ABSENT    |
| Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT   |                                    |
| Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT   |                                    |
| Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT    |                                    |
| Brandy Morgan (Norr-46) PRESENT    |                                    |
| Jennifer Poirier (Skow-53) PRESENT |                                    |
| Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT      |                                    |
| Dixie Ring (Canaan-43) 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

There were no scheduled presentations.

3. Approval of the Minutes

**ON A MOTION BY Dixie Ring, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to a to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 6/17/21 into the record. (705 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted the following letters of resignation from Oliver Mackenzie, EMT Instructor at Somerset Career and Technical Center, effective June 2021.

The Superintendent acknowledged a letter of resignation from Mercer Board of Director, Maryellen Charles.

The Superintendent shared a letter from Department of Education thanking the District for the continued work to finalize the FY20 ESEA (Title I-VII) monitoring work and successfully submitting and receiving approval of all required documentation. The DOE officially closed out their in-depth review of RSU 54, and thanked the staff for its diligence throughout the process and for the hard work we continue to do in support of Maine's students who are in our care.

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. Personnel Committee – 6/17/21

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 6/17/21 into the public record. (705 yes)**

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

b. Support Services Committee – 6/17/21

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Jennifer Poirier, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 6/17/21 into the record. (705 yes)**

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

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Jennifer Poirier, the Board voted to accept donation of sanitation disinfecting supplies from Quinn Hardware. (705 yes)**

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

**ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one and two. (705 yes)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of July 15, 2021, all towns were current on their monthly assessment payments, with Canaan and Smithfield paid for July, Cornville, Norridgewock and Skowhegan were outstanding for July and Mercer was outstanding for July and a portion of June. Assessment payments due on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Superintendent shared that following a presentation on June 25<sup>th</sup> the State Construction Committee unanimously supported moving the Margaret Chase Smith as the site for the state funded building project to the State Board of Education. On July 14<sup>th</sup> the State Board of Education approved the site. MSAD 54 will be meeting with Blatt Architects and moving forward with work on the educational specifications that began this spring with meetings with all staff K-8 on the elementary building project. Staff have given feedback through in-person meetings and through a survey that was distributed digitally. The next district building committee meeting is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>.

d. Update on Schools/COVID-19

The Superintendent updated the Board on the current guidelines/recommendations by the DOE/CDC. Currently the physical distancing requirement has been lifted. Summer Schools are continuing with masking for those unvaccinated this summer. The board will review practices for the start of the year including masking.

The Superintendent reviewed the use of federal funds and the positive impact it had on MSAD 54's ability to keep kids in school for the 2020-21 school year.

WIFI Bid Opening was held June 28<sup>th</sup>, with the lowest bidder going to VoDaVi at a bid total of \$1,136,969.75. The Superintendent requested the Board's approval to award the bid to VoDaVi.

**ON A MOTION BY Amy Rouse, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to accept the low bid of \$1,136,969.75 for WIFI upgrade to VoDaVi. (705 yes)**

e. Update on Federal Funds

The Superintendent reviewed the federal funds that have been awarded to MSAD 54 including: \$1,116,703.06 for ESSER I (The First Cares Act, July 2020) \$4,621,847.87 for ESSER II (2<sup>nd</sup> Cares Act) and most recently \$10,383,195.58 for ARP (American Recovery Plan). These funds have been used and will continue to be used to keep kids in school safely while positively impact the long-term well-being of the school district.

The Superintendent shared that the District has received formal approval of its ESSER II federal fund application, which included several large projects. The projects include constructing and equipping a cafeteria expansion and a new team wing existing of four classrooms at Skowhegan Area Middle School; HVAC, wiring, window improvements and other renovations at one or all of Canaan Elementary School, Bloomfield Elementary School and Mill Stream Elementary School; Expansion of broadband networks throughout the District, and other similar projects that the board reviewed for the 2020-21 school year. The intent of all projects is to use federal funding to address the COVID-19 public health emergency and to meet recommendations of the state and federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Although it is anticipated that 100% of project costs will be fully supported with federal

grand funds, the District is seeking to issue bonding needed to cover the costs until grant funds are received through federal reimbursement. Although not anticipated, in the event that federal reimbursement did not occur on a portion of a project the district would have the ability to bond those funds if necessary. The superintendent indicated that a referendum vote would be recommended and suggested it be scheduled for August 31, 2021, to coincide with a special election being called in the town of Skowhegan.

Following review, the Superintendent requested the Board's approval and adoption of the warrant and notice of election as follows:

**ON A MOTION BY Amy Rouse, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted that the warrant and notice of election of Maine School Administrative District No. 54 presented to the meeting be approved and that a referendum election for this District be called for August 31, 2021, for the purpose of approving the issuance of bonds or notes of the District for School Construction and Minor Capital project as described therein.**

**FURTHER, that the Notice of Public Hearing presented to the meeting be approved and that a public hearing on the issuance of bonds or notes for School Construction and Minor Capital project purposes be held on August 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm as provided therein. (705 yes)**

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent reported on the various summer school programs being offered including Title I, Middle School, High School, the REACH program and Somerset Career and Technical programs. Unvaccinated students and staff have been required to wear masks during summer programming. MSAD 54 district summer programs have had roughly 300 students participating in summer programming this summer.

The Support Services Manager reported that the summer food program, which runs through August 12<sup>th</sup>, has ten pick up sites with over 400 meals per day being distributed.

Recent bus bid openings for three retired buses were awarded to Crabapple Whitewater, Inc.

There are four to five vacancies remaining for bus drivers and custodians.

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 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools