

RSU 54/MSAD 54
Educational Policy/Program Committee
MINUTES
May 14, 2024
6:00 PM
Skowhegan Area High School –Library

Committee Attendance: Karyn Curran, Samantha Delorie, Sarah Bunker, Jeannie Conley, Michael Lambke, Peggy Lovejoy, Janice Malek, Amy Rouse

Also Present: Jon Moody, Mark Hatch, Jason Bellerose, Myla Kreider, Lynda Quinn, Valerie Coulombe

1. **Core Literacy Program Presentation** – Kara, Bubier, Heidi Goodwin, and Barbara Welch, the MSAD 54 district literacy coaches, shared information on a literacy grant that the Maine Department of Education awarded MSAD 54. The coaches shared how they worked with district staff to review and select resources and programming that would support the literacy learning of their students. The \$298,649.00 grant is a short-term grant and will be used to provide professional development to staff, purchase necessary supplies and resources for our Pre-K-5 classrooms and to purchase literacy kits which provide books and instructional materials that are research proven. The committee asked questions and the coaches answered them.
2. **2024-25 School Calendar** – Mr. Moody shared what he believes is a balanced approach to potentially adjusting the MSAD54 2024-25 calendar. The concept that was shared was to make the two workshop days in November (25th & 26th) student days and to move those days to the end of the school year. The second proposed adjustment would be to make 2-3 snow days become remote days (if needed), utilizing pre-designed packets and online activities for students. This would not require face-to-face instruction over the computer. Finally, the district could potentially reach out to the state and request adjusting the calendar to make up additional time. Mr. Moody listened to committee feedback and said he would bring it to the full board at the next meeting, and would meet with the union to discuss.

3. **Display of Art in Schools** - Mr. Moody shared a variety of pieces of art that are in MSAD 54 schools and discussed the process of selection and approval that occurs with the building administration. He discussed the feedback that he received from the district's attorney including the recommendation that the board to be cautious of any practice that would be considered as excluding art based on who the artist was. Mr. Moody discussed the law that requires that school districts educate students annually on the history of the indigenous peoples of Maine history of the partnership between the Skowhegan History House and Skowhegan Area High School. The committee discussed the issue and shared their ideas. Mr. Moody said that he was going to share this with the Support Services Committee at their next meeting.