

RSU 54/MSAD 54
Educational Policy/Program Committee
MINUTES
MARCH 6 – March 27, 2018

March 6, 2018

Attending: Amy Rouse – Chair, Maryellen Charles – Vice Chair, Jeannie Conley, Tim Downing, Goff French, Peggy Lovejoy, Dixie Ring, Brent Colbry and Jon Moody

Also Attending: Eileen Crowley, Patty Moody, Terry Atwood, Ann Belanger, David Dorr, Anita Hopkins, Zachary Longyear, Bruce Mochamer, Jean Pillsbury, Barry Sites and Steve Swindells

The Superintendent reviewed the individual budgets for Instruction K-12, Special Education, Student Activities, Guidance, Library and School Administration. This was followed by a summary of how this effects the overall budget.

The Superintendent presented the first draft of a Status Quo Budget. The total was \$35,369,198 or an increase of 1.62% over FY18.

The Committee discussed insurance rates, which have not come out and are not factored into this budget, as well as possible strategies to reduce the overall budget and limit the increase on taxpayers.

The Board asked questions which were answered and discussed by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

The Superintendent reviewed the numerous changes to the EPS funding formula that has negatively impacted MSAD 54's State subsidy.

The Committee will meet again on March 13, 2018.

March 13, 2018

Meeting was canceled as a result of inclement weather.

March 20, 2018

Attending: Amy Rouse-Chair, Maryellen Charles – Vice Chair, Jeannie Conley, Derek Ellis, Goff French, Desiree Libby, Peggy Lovejoy, Lynda Quinn, Dixie Ring and Jon Moody

Also Attending: Brandy Morgan, Eileen Crowley, Bruce Mochamer, David Dorr, Bill Laney, Laurie McFarland, Barry Sites, and Exchange Students and Host Families

Bruce Mochamer, SAHS Principal, introduced Laurie McFarland, SAHS Guidance Counselor and Exchange Student Coordinator. Laurie shared an overview of the district's exchange student program which she has overseen for years. Laurie touted

the positive impact of the students on the high school and the positive outcomes they experienced as a result of coming to school at Skowhegan Area High School. The students each took a moment to share where they were from, what they were most surprised about in coming to Maine, and what they have found to be the most beneficial. Students each shared positive experiences about their time in MSAD 54. The Board asked questions and thanked the students for coming to present.

The Superintendent reviewed the individual budgets for SCTC, Health, District Wide Technology, Other Instruction (ESL, Alt. Education), Other Student Support Services, Improvement of Instruction (Elementary & Secondary) and Adult Education. This was followed by a summary of how this effects the overall budget.

The Superintendent reviewed history of the Adult Education program and the efficiency shown by a budget which remains flat as it has the past several years.

The Superintendent reviewed the state's changes to Technical Center funding and the impact it has on SCTC. Although revenues from contributing schools has gone away, state funding is currently adequate for the program to be fully funded.

The Board asked questions which were answered and discussed by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

The Superintendent reviewed the potential impact of various percentages of Local Appropriation increases/decreases on each town.

The Committee will meet again on March 27th.

March 27, 2018

Attending: Amy Rouse – Chair, Maryellen Charles – Vice Chair, Janet Anderson, Jeannie Conley, Desiree Libby, Peggy Lovejoy, Lynda Quinn, Brent Colbry and Jon Moody

Also Attending: Eileen Crowley and Patty Moody

The Superintendent reviewed an updated budget draft. The original budget draft of 2/6/18 of \$35,369,198, represented an increase of 1.62% over last year. The Superintendent shared that although information on individual district insurance rates have not yet been released, the district now knows range of increases. Should the district experience an increase in the insurance rate of 9%, the overall budget would increase to \$35,822,912, which would represent a 2.92% increase.

The Superintendent expects health insurance rates to be available in the next week or two. The Committee will continue to review the budget as new information comes in and adjustments will be made.

The Board asked questions which were answered and discussed by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

The Committee will meet again when health insurance rates have become available.