

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
October 3, 2024, 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 October 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (721 present, 278 absent):**

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jeannie Conley* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Karyn Curran* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Janet Burrill (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Daniel Frey* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	Desiree Libby* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Valerie Coulombe (Norr-46) PRESENT	Janice Malek* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Lauren Fox (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Timothy Williams* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Tanya Groce (Skow-53) PRESENT	*excused
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Michelle Kelso (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Julian Payne (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michelle Taylor (Smith-27) PRESENT	

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

a. Flag Salute followed.

Chair Quinn welcomed Student Representative to the Board, Olivia Huff.

2. Good News and Recognitions

There were no scheduled presentations.

3. Approval of the Minutes - 9/19/24

**ON A MOTION BY Michelle Taylor, seconded by Michelle Kelso, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 9/19/24 into the record. (721 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted the resignation of Cheryl Barnes, Ed Tech at Bloomfield Elementary School.

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 – 9/19/24

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 9/19/24 into the public record. (721 yes)**

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

b. Support Services Committee – 9/19/24

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 9/19/24 into the public record. (721 yes)**

Jean Franklin, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Mark Bedard, the Board voted to accept the following donations: \$2,000 from Skowhegan Savings Bank for teacher supplies; Fire Truck from Mid-Maine Technical Center for the SCTC program; Star seats from KVCAP for Pre-K transportation. (721 yes)**

c. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 9/24/24

**ON A MOTION BY Samantha Delorie, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 9/24/24 into the public record. (721 yes)**

Samantha Delorie, Committee Vice-Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

**ON A MOTION BY Samantha Delorie, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to adopt the revised Policy GBGE/GBGE-R as written. (721 yes)**

6. Superintendent’s Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

Superintendent Moody reviewed vacancies and recommended the Board’s approval of nominations.

**ON A MOTION BY Michael Lambke, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to approve nominations pages one. (721 yes)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of October 3, 2024, Canaan, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current on their monthly assessments. Cornville was outstanding for September and Skowhegan was outstanding for August and September. Assessments are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Building Committee's next meeting is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm at the SAMS Library, and in addition to an overall project update the committee will review the donor naming information and discuss decommissioning of current buildings. The Percent for Art Committee will meet on December 11<sup>th</sup> and will discuss the editing of release for artists. Superintendent Moody shared that it is important to continue to get the word out to communities that because of fundraising (local/federal) the building project has had no impact on local property taxes as the budget has included \$0 in local funding for the project as a result of those fundraising dollars.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects

Superintendent Moody shared that the final reimbursements have been submitted for federal funds. MSAD54 made good use of federal dollars to support education for students and staff. There will be a full report of spending in November.

e. FY26 Budget

Superintendent Moody is scheduling FY26 budget meetings with each school's staff to discuss the budget and the reality of what we see ahead of us. Discussion with staff will include what is anticipated to be a challenging budget year – the impact of the mandated raises for support staff (anticipated to be near a million dollars) as well as state mandated FMLA, which will be partially funded by the State for one year, and will result in an increase of 1% of salaries, or approximately \$400,000 which will impact both employees and the District. Unfunded mandates to schools are anticipated to have a significant impact on the district budget.

f. Other

Superintendent Moody shared that he met with Executive Committee of Maine School of Superintendents and the Head of the State Board of Education with a focus on Superintendents Agreements and the challenges surrounding the State Board's ability to overturn denials of requests by Superintendents; as well as Staff Certification and the challenges around the State for schools to adequately fill important educational positions. Superintendent Moody believes that there is a pathway, should the State Board support it, for local districts to leverage

high quality professional development and higher ed partnerships to certify staff internally, similarly to what was done with NCLB 15 years ago. Regardless, there appears to be consensus that having the best people working with kids is at least as important as having individuals with a certification (which could support individuals from the private sector transitioning to teaching, etc.).

Current enrollment, as of 10/3/24, was 2,186 (last report – 2,182).

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch reported that last Saturday approximately 30-35 staff attending a full day in-district literacy instruction training.

The Support Services Manager reported that the Tennis Courts are finished. The Pellet Boiler has arrived at the new school and window installation has begun. CMP will set the transformer on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Julian Payne (Cornville) shared he attended the Celebration of Life for Amanda Sandford. He summarized the essence of the message that Superintendent Moody shared with staff and the Pastor shared the message at the service.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no new business presented.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools