

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

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

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (831 present, 152 absent, 16 vacancy):**

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

Carly McCabe (Student Rep) 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

Margaret Chase Smith School Principal, Christy Johnson, introduced Grade 4 Teacher, Carla Seymour to the Board. Carla presented on 3D printers in the classroom using Tinkercad, which is a free web app for 3D design that bring project-based learning to the classroom. Carla shared a slideshow of various projects done with lessons built into the program, which challenge students in every subject. Students designed and printed bubble wands for North Elementary students, following interviews on what they liked.

4<sup>th</sup> Grader, Hunter, shared some of his designs as well as other students' designs with the Board.

3. Approval of the Minutes – 2/8/24

**ON A MOTION BY Mark Bedard, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 2/8/24 into the public record. (831 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted letters of intent to retire in June 2024 from the following:

- David Evans, Social Studies Teacher at Skowhegan Area High School
- Roxanne Davis, Title I Reading Recovery Teacher at Mill Stream Elementary School
- Anita Hilton, Grade 1 Teacher at Mill Stream Elementary School
- Terrylee Gauvin, Ed Tech I at Bloomfield Elementary School

Also acknowledged and accepted were the following letters of resignation:

- Griffin Graves, Science Teacher at Skowhegan Area Middle School
- Katelyn Warren, Grade 3 Teacher at Bloomfield Elementary School

b. School Personnel

Zachary Longyear, Principal of Skowhegan Area Middle School, shared with the Board that students gathered at the high school for an iPOWER presentation on online safety with Detective Joe Royle, Maine State Police Computer Crimes Unit. The topic for the next iPOWER presentation will be on civil rights.

The Superintendent acknowledged our new School Resource Officer for Canaan and Mill Stream Elementary Schools, Deputy William Quigley, who thanked the Board for its support. He is enjoying the meet and greets with students and answering all of their questions.

c. Visitors

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 2/8/24

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 2/8/24 into the public record. (831 yes)**

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

b. Building Committee – 2/13/24

**ON A MOTION BY Sarah Delorie, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Building Committee meeting of 2/13/24 into the public record. (831 yes)**

Superintendent Moody reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

c. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 2/27/24

**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 2/6/24 into the public record, with revisions to committee attendance. (803 yes, 30 no)**

Julian Payne (Cornville), questioned the contents of the minutes for correction to attendance and specific to Item 3 – Review of Flags in School.

Samantha Delorie, Committee Vice-Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

**ON A MOTION BY Samantha Delorie, seconded by Julian Payne, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (831 yes)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of March 7, 2024, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) were current on their monthly assessments, with March due on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared that the building project remains on schedule and that the next meeting of the Building Committee is tentatively scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody shared that our Finance Director continues to work on reimbursements of federal covid relief funds.

e. Presentation of FY25 Draft Status Quo Budget

Superintendent Moody reviewed the Draft FY23 budget which includes a significant increase as a result of the new school project. Although the new school has no impact to local property taxes in the FY25 budget, the budget itself will be up substantially as a result of pass-through dollars which are required to be included as part of the overall budget. It will be important to focus on the local impact when reviewing this year's budget. The Superintendent pointed out that it is important that the district understand how fortunate we are to be receiving over 70 million dollars in state funding to support our district schools. Annual shifting of towns state valuation will have an impact on local taxes. The district is poised to weather this budget cycle, but the Superintendent anticipates a very challenging budget which will require a combination of cuts in all areas as well as the recommended use of a significant level of fund balance.

The Board will work on the budget over the next two months. The Superintendent stressed the importance of participation in committee meetings and thanked the Board for their hard work.

f. Other

As a result of being named Superintendent of the year, Mr. Moody attended the national Superintendents Conference in San Diego last month (expenses covered by the state association as part of the award) and thanked the Board for its support.

Superintendent Moody shared and reviewed Maine School Management Association's March updates which highlighted the CDC's updated COVID-19 guidelines. Also reviewed was a summary of Bills which may potentially impact school budgets, including LD 974, which amended to increase Ed Tech salaries over the state minimum wage by 150% and other support staff salaries over the state minimum wage by 125%.; and LD 1064, which will increase the minimum teacher salary to \$50K over a four-year period. Mr. Moody explained that LD 974 alone would likely drive-up district spending approximately 1 million dollars. This unfunded mandate, which removes local control and doesn't take into account negotiated benefits or the local market, would force the district to both cut positions and dramatically increase local taxes.

Superintendent Moody shared that Melannie Keister's mother, Gail Quimby of Norridgewock, passed away. Many years ago, Mrs. Quimby served on the MSAD 54 School Board. Our condolences to Melannie and her family.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch shared District administrators have participated in recent job fairs, including UMF's annual job fair. SCTC, SAHS and ASPIRE hosted a job fair last week at the high school, sharing opportunities of career pathways for kids, with several businesses attending.

Support Services Manager David Leavitt reported that all district projects are going well.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business.

9. Introduction of New Business

Superintendent Moody shared that David Leavitt has rescinded his intent to retire and that he will be remaining on through the completion of the building project.

Amy Rouse (Skow) shared that High School is hosting the Drama Festival this weekend. Carly McCabe (Student Rep) shared that SAHS is scheduled to perform at 7:00pm on Saturday.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools