

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
April 25, 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 April 25, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (804 present, 195 absent):**

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

1. Call to Order

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

a. Flag Salute followed.

2. Good News and Recognitions

Bloomfield Elementary School Principal, Deidre Mitchell, introduced Katie Flannery, Title I Reading Specialist, to the Board. Deidre nominated Katie, who was chosen as 2023 Somerset County Teacher of the Year. Katie shared a power point presentation of her rewarding experiences this past

year serving as ambassador for students, teachers, and quality education in Maine.

3. Approval of the Minutes – 4/11/24

**ON A MOTION BY Michelle Taylor, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors’ meeting of 4/11/24 into the public record. (802 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

There were no letters to share.

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. Support Services Committee – 4/11/24

**ON A MOTION BY Mark Bedard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 4/11/24 into the public record. (802 yes)**

Mark Bedard, 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 Valerie Coulombe, seconded by Mark Bedard,  
the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (802 yes)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of April 25, 2024, Mercer and Norridgewock were paid through April; Canaan, Cornville, Skowhegan and Smithfield outstanding for April but are expected soon as payments are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared that the Capping Ceremony for the installation of the final beam at the new Margaret Chase Smith Community School went very well. We are hoping for the opportunity to schedule a walk through of the new school toward the end of the year and will keep the Board informed.

Discussions are taking place for the 2024-25 school year with options to adjust the end of school as early as possible to allow contractors to complete the demolition of the old school. The possibility of exploring remote snow days would allow us to close five days earlier; adjusting Thanksgiving week and Teacher Workshop Days may also provide the opportunity to get out of school earlier. A suggestion was made to survey parents to determine which option works best. The administrative team will discuss and Mr. Moody will follow-up with the full Board.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody reported that our district was chosen to conduct a desk audit for federal funds, which, along with Finance Director, Melannie Keister, we are working on.

e. Review of FY25 Budget

Superintendent Moody referred to a handout (<https://bit.ly/3WfqPEh>) that is shared during the various town selectboard meetings, which provides a breakdown of the local impact to each of the towns and

explains why the overall budget is up 16.840% yet the overall increase is 5.698% when non-local spending (CTE, new school) is removed.

The Superintendent shared and reviewed the adjustments made to the FY25 budget, which has a 3.950% local increase to taxpayers. The Superintendent will continue to review the budget with community select boards over the next few weeks. The district budget informational hearing is set for May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 in the middle school cafeteria. The district budget meeting is set for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00, in the High School gymnasium.

f. Approve and Signing of Warrants for District Budget Meeting, Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted

Superintendent Moody moved that the Vote entitled, “Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Budget Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted,” be approved in form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting.

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted that the warrant for the Maine School Administrative District No. 54 (the “District”) Budget Meeting presented to the meeting be approved and that a District budget meeting be called for May 22, 2024 for the purpose of voting on the annual budget for the District for the 2024-2025 fiscal year;**

**That the Warrant and Notice of Election for the District Budget Validation Referendum presented to the meeting be approved, and that a District budget validation referendum be called for June 11, 2024 for the purpose of approving the budget adopted at the District budget meeting for the 2024-2025 fiscal year; and**

**That the form of Notice of Amounts Adopted at Budget Meeting presented to this meeting be approved, and that the Superintendent of Schools of the District be authorized and directed to complete said Notice in accordance with the District budget meeting on May 22, 2024, and to cause copies of said Notice, as completed, to be delivered to the municipal clerks of each municipality of the District for posting**

**at the polling places for the June 11, 2024 District budget validation referendum. (802 yes)**

g. Other

Superintendent Moody shared that he attended the tennis matches at Camp Somerset prior to the Board meeting.

Skowhegan Selectboard voted to table the decision on the baseball field until they have spoken to the Clerk of the Works to review the design of the field.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch reported that we have been approved for the competitive Title I Reallocation Grant again this year, which pays for our summer elementary programming. We are waiting to hear on another summer school grant that will target SAMS, SAHS and SCTC programming.

Also mentioned was the District PEPG Committee's work throughout the year on rewriting our teacher evaluation system with a model that focuses more on the impact of students.

In addition, curriculum work this year is ongoing with focus on math curriculum review, as well as world language, health and physical ed, visual and performing arts.

Mr. Hatch shared various activities taking place in the schools, including arts and academic night in the elementary schools; Learning Palooza at MSES; the planetarium has been at several schools as well.

SAMS had their attendance celebration; SAHS is gearing up for all of the upcoming senior events; MSLC has been having a lot of community partners come to do activities on various topics, such as financial literacy; Adult Ed has 17 graduates so far this year.

Special Education students will participate in the annual track and field event on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Seven high school music students were inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Support Services Manager David Leavitt was not present.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Valerie Coulombe (Norridgewock) asked what happened to the bus that broke down on the SAHS drama trip to MA, and whether the replacement bus had proper insurance and fuel stickers, and did driver have interstate license. Mr. Leavitt was not present to confirm.

9. Introduction of New Business

Julian Payne asked if the awarded CDS funds will go back to the taxpayers. Superintendent Moody clarified that 100% would be applied towards the new school.

Valerie Coulombe questioned the addition of artwork at the high school and asked who approved it. Mr. Moody shared that Mr. Mochamer worked with The History House, which commissioned a piece of art a few years back, and that this was the artwork that was recently added at SAHS. The mural in question is a painting of the transition of Native American History over time. Valerie questioned why the district would put art up done by Barry Dana, someone who wasn't a local artist. Mr. Moody suggested that he believed that this was connected to the curriculum but that he would gather additional information and that a discussion about artwork could occur at the committee level.

Lauren Fox asked how poverty levels are determined. Superintendent Moody said it's determined at the federal level.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools