

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
August 26, 2021, 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 August 26, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (870 present, 129 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Alicia Boulette* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Haley Fleming* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Gary Sinclair* (Corn-30) ABSENT
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Daniel Frey (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Brandy Morgan (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Jennifer Poirier (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gerry Redlevske (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Dixie Ring (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Karen Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Kathy Wilder (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Jacqueline Wolinski (Skow-53) 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 – There were no scheduled presentations.

3. Approval of the Minutes

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 8/12/21 into the record. (870 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted the following letters of resignation:

- Antoine Morin, Special Ed Teacher at SAHS
- Kim Bonneau, Ed Tech at SAMS
- Jessica Cowan, School Nutrition at SAMS
- Tim Poulin, Ed Tech III at North El

b. School Personnel – There were no school personnel who wished to speak.

c. Visitors

Visitors spoke in opposition of the recommendation on masking for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

5. Committee Reports

There were no minutes to report.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

The Superintendent reviewed vacancies and recommended the Board's approval of pages one through four of nominations.

ON A MOTION BY Dixie Ring, seconded by Jennifer Poirier, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one through four. (870 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of August 26, 2021, Canaan and Norridgewock were current on their monthly assessment payments, with August assessments paid. Cornville, Mercer and Smithfield were outstanding for August and Skowhegan was outstanding for July and August. Assessments are due on the 20th.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Superintendent shared that the next Building Committee meeting is scheduled for September 22nd. Architects Stephen Blatt and Doug Breer will be updating the committee on progress with ed-specs and the next step in the process, the Concept Design.

The Town of Skowhegan has moved forward with the environmental assessment of the land abutting the Margaret Chase Smith property as part of the LWCF conversion process.

d. Review of District Budget and Federal Funds

The Superintendent reviewed the ballot question for the August 31st District Referendum for school construction and minor capital projects.

The Superintendent updated the Board on the 2021-2022 District Budget and state funding. The Superintendent noted that the Board may wish to consider adjusting the FY21-22 budget to recognize additional costs incurred as a result of negotiations and updated guidance/regulations on the use of federal ARP (American Recovery Plan) funds. Additionally, after the state informed SCTC on August 4th that its state funding allocation was reduced by \$74,985.36, the Superintendent recommended that the SCTC budget be adjusted to reflect that lost revenue. The recommended adjustments would allow the district budget to accurately reflect projected spending. With the state's move to fund 55% of public education, the Superintendent expects next year's budget to have minimal impact to the local taxpayers.

e. Update on the Opening of School

The Superintendent acknowledged the hard work support staff have put in to have our schools and grounds ready for opening day.

Focus on our guiding beliefs and trauma informed work will be highlighted at our opening workshop day for staff.

In accordance with state and federal law in regard to the requirements for full immunization, parents will have 90 days from the start of school to complete the requirements in order to attend school in person. This state immunization law, which goes into effect 9/1/2021, will no longer allow the district to have unvaccinated students in school. The one exception to this law are those students receiving a medical exemption from a doctor. The district is able to work with families to enroll them in remote learning so long as the students do not ever participate in school activities in person (no co-curriculars, sports, etc.).

School Pooled Testing is being explored and discussed at this time.

The Superintendent informed the board of the tragic death of a MSAD 54 student. The district has made resources available on its website and has increased counseling supports for students in all schools for the 2021-22 school year. The district Crisis Team are bringing in NAMI Maine to meet with staff on September 10th to review best practices and the district's response to the tragic loss of two students in 2021.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent reported on the following:

- Remote Learning: A plan is in place to use a platform called Edgenuity, which is an asynchronous virtual program that provides video lessons, activities and assessments to students. We will have a K-5 remote teacher that will track students' progress and provide support when needed. Grades 6-12 students will receive support from Edgenuity teachers and a district staff member who will collaborate with those teachers to assist students when they need more help.
- Professional Development: 33 new staff members were welcomed at the August 25th new staff orientation. Staff completed payroll and

benefits paperwork, various mandatory trainings, as well as reviewed the recertification process, our trauma informed approach and an introduction to the MSAD 54 guiding beliefs.

- All staff return on August 30th and will focus on building specific needs and discussions to be ready to welcome students to our school on September 1st.

The Support Services Manager reviewed open positions that include five part-time custodians, one school nutrition worker, one bus driver, and two van drivers/custodians.

The Support Services Manager reviewed projects highlighted in the August 31st District Referendum to issue bonds or notes for school construction and minor capital project. Projects include cafeteria expansion and a new wing at the Middle School; HVAC, wiring and window improvements at Canaan, Bloomfield and Mill Stream schools; expansion of broadband networks throughout the district.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools