

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
August 17, 2023, 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 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (830 present, 169 absent vacancy):

Janet Burrill (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Mark Bedard* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Sarah Bunker* (Mercer-16) ABSENT
Karyn Curran (Skow-53) PRESENT	Daniel Frey* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	Cheyenne Goodrich* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	Michelle Taylor* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Bruce Hurley (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Michelle Kelso (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	*excused
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Janice Malek (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Julian Payne (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Timothy Williams (Skow-53) PRESENT (arrived after Item 6e)	

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

The Chair commented on the wonderful turnout at today's groundbreaking ceremony for the new Margaret Chase Smith Community School.

3. Approval of the Minutes - 8/3/23

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Desiree Libby, to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 8/3/23 into the record.

Following a request to include more detail of the meeting in the minutes, the **motion passed. (777 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted letters of resignation from the following:

- Janelle Saucier – Ed Tech at SCTC
- Matthew Crate – Culinary Arts Instructor at SCTC
- Tammy St Peter – Ed Tech at North Elementary
- Sadie Ross – Ed Tech at Bloomfield Elementary
- Ashley McAvoy – Ed Tech I at Mill Stream Elementary

Superintendent Moody shared a letter of congratulations from Senator Angus King for our Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) grant application being included in the FY24 Appropriations Bill that has passed the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill will now go to the full Senate for consideration and if approved, the bill would help reduce our 1.9M local only debt on the new school construction project to hopefully zero.

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

There were no committee reports.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one and two. (777 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of August 17, 2023, Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current on their monthly assessments. Skowhegan was outstanding for July and August. Assessments are due on the 20th of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody thanked all who attended the groundbreaking ceremony. He received positive feedback from several involved, including contractor Landry/French, Stephen Blatt Architects, KVCAP staff and fundraising committee, many of whom said this was one of the best groundbreaking events attended. Jenny France, SCTC Early Childhood Instructor, was acknowledged for her work with students to prepare for their speeches.

Superintendent Moody received an email from Commissioner congratulating us.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody shared that David Leavitt will provide an update on summer projects under his report.

e. Summer School

Assistant Superintendent Hatch reported on summer school, with programs at various levels including Special Ed, Elementary/Title I, Tier III, Middle and High School. SCTC ran a number of opportunities, including Honeybee Husbandry, Career and College Prep, Scrub Club, Girls Who Code, Robotics. Over 160 students attended at the elementary level and 38 students at the middle school.

At the High School, three students graduated and 85% of possible credits that could be recovered were recovered. One homeless student accomplished four credits needed to graduate. Lots of effort by staff and students made for a positive outcome this summer.

Superintendent Moody shared that most summer programs are funded by grants

f. Opening of School

Superintendent Moody reported that over the summer several training sessions took place, including for administrators who participated in a math training and investigation and due process with a Drummond Woodsum Attorney. Administrators spent a full day meeting which included a focus on the Aspire Program and raising aspirations for kids, curriculum and math program review, as well as reviewing the staff evaluations system and process for observations. The model has been and will continue to focus on growth. Walkthroughs at each school will be implemented over the course of the year and individual monthly meetings with administrators will occur.

Superintendent Moody challenged Board members with questions on the District's Vision, Guiding Beliefs and Mission Statement and those who answered correctly received a book *Wisdom of the Bullfrog* by William H. McRavin. Administrators were given the book and are doing a Book Talk/PD on the book this fall.

Superintendent Moody shared that one area of focus for administrators is focusing on a positive optimistic environment.

Superintendent Moody invited Board members to attend the August 28th opening with staff at 8:00 a.m. in the high school auditorium.

New Teacher/Ed Tech Orientation on August 22nd, and will continue with new teachers on August 23rd and 24th.

The annual end of summer cookout is Tuesday, August 22nd from 11 to 1 in the Superintendent's Office backyard and all board members are welcome to attend.

We have collaborated with several other districts for an Affirmative Action Training on August 21st.

The Superintendent shared that the first day of school for K-9 students is August 30th and for Grades 10-12 on August 31st.

Crisis Plans will be reviewed by staff at the start of the school year as well as crisis training throughout the year.

g. Other

Superintendent Moody updated the Board on the progress of an additional School Resource Officer. After meeting with both Chief Bucknam and Sheriff Lancaster, further discussion is needed and will be on the agenda for the September 6th Support Services Committee meeting.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch reported on the following:

- Although the candidate pool is small, we have really strong candidates who will be great assets to the District.
- Day One of the New Teacher/Ed Tech Orientation will include a review of ed tech roles and responsibilities and instructional strategies to use to reinforce learning with the students.
- For new teachers, the focus will be on technology and the first days of school. The second day for new teachers will focus on curriculum, Social Emotional Learning, and how to use Powerschool.
- Hiring continues, one special education coach position remains open. A math position will not be filled this year as no candidates applied and will be absorbed by the department with support from SCTC. The position will likely be re-advertised this winter for the 2024-25 school year. An interview is scheduled for the CDL Instructor position at SCTC.
- Currently there are 26 ed tech openings. Prioritizing placement with the ed techs we have and looking at other options for hiring including subcontracting, which will be discussed with the Education Association. UMF has agreed to adjust college students' schedules to allow them to be available in the schools.

The Superintendent shared the pay rates for Ed Tech I, Ed Tech II and Ed Tech III, including health insurance benefits and plan options. Ed Tech pay and benefits will be part of the discussions at the upcoming negotiations. Suggestions for a job fair was discussed.

The Support Services Manager updated the Board on summer projects, including:

- Bids for tennis courts has been rescheduled to August 23rd.
- Elevator project is on schedule with elevator being installed the end of September.
- In Canaan, crews are working to clean and prep for the start of school and the kitchen will be completed in mid-September, and arrangements have been made to pilot meals until complete.
- Paving at the high school will be complete next week.

- SCTC remodel is near completion.
- New freezer and fridge at the high school has been installed.
- Internet and phones are now working at the newly relocated bus garage.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

A Board member shared that KVCAP made flyers and hung them on doors of all neighborhood homes about the groundbreaking ceremony; the community had a very positive reaction to the outreach regarding the project.

9. Introduction of New Business

A Board member shared that Cornville has a special election next week to elect a selectperson to fill an open seat until March 2024. There are two candidates running.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools