

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
September 21, 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 September 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (636 present, 363 absent):

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

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 Teacher, Linda Greenlaw and two students presented on this year's flag display in honor of the 2,973 victims of 9/11. In 2003, retired teacher Larry Ross started this annual tradition on the front lawn of the Margaret Chase Smith School. This year the flags, which are borrowed from Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, were displayed in the field between the high school entrance road and Superintendent's Office. Students and many other volunteers set the flags. Prior to September 11th, classrooms learn about various events that happened on 9/11/01, as well as talk about ways our country is safer now and ways to honor and remember, as well as the importance of treating each other with kindness..."don't let goodness stop here" (Larry Ross).

3. Approval of the Minutes - 9/7/23

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Karyn Curran, to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 9/7/23 into the record. (636 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

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

- William Hill – Custodian at SAHS
- Brandi Ireland – Title I Ed Tech II at MSES
- Adam Masterman – Elementary Art Teacher

b. School Personnel

David Dorr, Director of SCTC, shared that last week SCTC was recognized with a trophy from Somerset Public Health for the Backpack Program. The Backpack Program serves over 200 families per week. The food pantry at SCTC was made possible by a grant from Somerset Public Health/Move More Kids.

David also shared that during the pandemic a man from Ohio reached out about ways SCTC could benefit from a work-based learning opportunity for students and wanted to gift SCTC his share of Beeline Cable. The David Hannigan Foundation for the Arts and Sciences was created and SCTC is one of three beneficiaries. SCTC received their first check for \$50,000 to support kids with work-based opportunities (internships, job shadows and apprenticeships).

c. Visitors

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 9/7/23

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 9/7/23 into the public record. (638 yes)

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

ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Samantha Delorie, the Board voted to approve the high school Baseball and Softball teams to attend spring training events in Tennessee and North Carolina. (638 yes)

ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to approve the following donations: \$28.50 from General Mills Box Top to Mill Stream Elementary; \$30,000 from the John T. Gorman Foundation to SCTC; \$3,000 from the Move More Kids Program to SCTC; and \$50,000 from the David Hannigan Foundation to SCTC. (638 yes)

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 9/12/23

ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Samantha Delorie, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee of 9/11/23 into the public record. (638 yes)

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

ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to support and adopt draft Policy IKFA – Early Graduation, as written. (638 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 Samantha Delorie, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (638 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of September 21, 2023, Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current on their monthly assessments. Skowhegan was outstanding for August and September. Assessments are due on the 20th of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared that the cistern has been installed at the middle school. An asbestos containing pipe was found at the elementary school construction site and will need to be dealt with. The middle school project is complete, and the Canaan project is near completion. There will likely be some power disruption at the Canaan school, but it should not affect the school day. Mr. Leavitt will work with Principal Kreider on this.

The elevator project at the high school is on hold as a result of delays with the elevator, which we anticipate arriving in November. This delay affects the federal funding of this project and required the district to revise and resubmit both the ESSER II and ARP grants to move the funding from ESSER to ARP, which has been approved by the state.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

The finance office is working hard on ESSER II and ARP reimbursements.

e. SRO Update

Superintendent Moody updated the Board on the status of the School Resource Officer. As a result of a town's request to wait on a recommendation to move forward with the Town of Skowhegan due to concerns, further discussion will occur over the next two weeks. The committee had discussed the "Millinocket Model", which was presented by Chief Buckham at the Support Services Committee, which would require towns to have agreements with the Town of Skowhegan to allow a SPD resource officer to have jurisdiction in the town they are working in (well child visits, etc.).

Superintendent Moody will follow up with the town's concerns as well as the potential issues around liability and will update the Board at its next meeting.

g. Opening of School

Superintendent Moody shared that the ASPIRE Initiative has \$25,000 available to support field trips. ASPIRE t-shirts have been handed out to all high school students, sling bags and water bottles will be distributed to elementary students and River Hawks plushies have been ordered for PreK–2 students. The goal of the ASPIRE Initiative is to raise aspirations for students by helping determine what is next for kids and helping make connections along the way through meaningful educational / career related experiences.

h. Other

Superintendent Moody shared that the best part of this year has been the ability to be back in school and focused on instruction. Although we've certainly done that as a district over the last several years, urgent items would take precedence over our instructional focus. This year coordinated walkthroughs and observations are taking place at the schools (with all administrators, to develop consistency and common feedback for staff), as well as monthly meetings with each principal to support them with instructional leadership.

Superintendent Moody shared challenges around technology. Since the beginning of the school year there have been challenges with internet filtering. Student safety has always been the top priority in the district, but supporting instruction teacher needs are being prioritized. A technology position has been re-posted to support the team which has been without a network technician since Dan Dwelley shifted into the director position.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch shared that the opening of school has been going great. We had 25 students attend our first HiSET Program Orientation. Kickoff events have taken place in the schools with students and parents. A unified Skowhegan parent/teacher group is being organized to cover all in-town schools and rotate where they meet.

Mr. Hatch shared that we are continuing to post and interview to fill open positions. There are currently 16 open ed tech positions.

The Support Services Manager reported that all schools are in good shape.

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 7:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools