

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
December 1, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Skowhegan Area High School**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 54 was held on December 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (685 present, 314 absent):

Alicia Boulette (Skow-53) PRESENT	Rebecca Anderson (Smith-27) ABSENT
Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Sarah Bunker* (Mercer-16) ABSENT
Janet Burrill (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Annemarie Dubois* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Daniel Frey* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	Bruce Hurley* (Mercer-16) ABSENT
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Michael Lambke* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	Morrigan McLeod* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	Brandy Morgan* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	Gary Sinclair* (Corn-30) ABSENT
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	*excused
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Timothy Williams (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Jacqueline Wolinski (Skow-53) PRESENT	

1. Call to Order

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

a. Flag Salute followed.

2. Good News and Recognitions

The Skowhegan Area High School's Field Hockey State Champions and Football State Champions, along with their coaches, were present to share their winning season experiences. The Board congratulated them on their tremendous accomplishments.

3. Approval of the Minutes - 11/17/22

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Jacqueline Wolinski, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 11/17/22 into the record. (685 yes)

4. Communications

- a. Letters - There were no letters shared.
- b. School Personnel - There were no school personnel who wished to speak.
- c. Visitors - There were no visitors present who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 11/17/22

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 11/17/22 into the public record. (685 yes)

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

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Janet Burrill, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (685 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of December 1, 2022, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) were current on their monthly assessments. Assessments are due on the 20th of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody updated the Board on the New School Construction Building Project, including:

- There have been several playground meetings with staff, Early Childhood and PreK-K staff, as well as the parent advisory group. Landscape

Architect, Sashie Misner, who specializes in natural playground designs, will be presenting a playground update to the Building Committee at its meeting on December 7th.

- A Bond Anticipation Note in the amount of \$75,338,985 for the voter approved new elementary school project was reviewed and Superintendent Moody requested the Board's approval, as follows:

ON A MOTION BY Samantha Delorie, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted that the resolution entitled, "Resolution to Authorize Issuance of \$75,338,985 in General Obligation Bonds to Finance a School Construction Project be adopted in form presented to this meeting and that an attested copy of said Resolution be filed with the minutes of this meeting. (685 yes)

- Skowhegan Savings Bank was the low bidder on the Bond Anticipation Note for the \$75,338,985 School Construction Project, in the amount of \$5,000,000. Superintendent Moody requested the Board's approval, as follows:

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Janet Burrill, the Board voted to accept the lowest bid of 3.99% fixed rate from Skowhegan Savings Bank for the issuance of a Bond Anticipation Note in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for the School Construction Project. (685 yes)

- Superintendent Moody reported that Sam Hight, Chair of the "Building Better Beginnings" Fundraising Campaign for the early childhood wing of the new elementary school, indicated the group had raised roughly \$2.1 Million of the \$3 Million goal; the committee has worked very hard to get funding for the project.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds Update

Superintendent Moody commented on how incredibly fortunate he is to work with exceptional office staff and commended the six staff members who worked on the Saturday after Thanksgiving to help meet the December 1st deadline to complete the ESSER 1 Federal Compliance.

e. Update on Schools

See Assistant Superintendent Hatch's report on school updates (item 7).

f. Other

Superintendent Moody updated the Board on the elevator project bids, which originally came in at \$975,000, which was \$190,500 over our estimated budget of \$784,500 and were previously rejected by the Board. In working with the architects and engineers the district has been able to decrease costs by \$132,474 through value engineering, moving the new total to \$842,526.

The Superintendent requested the Board's approval to accept the adjusted value engineered bid of \$842,526.

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Desiree Libby, the Board voted to accept the value engineered bid of \$842,526 for the Elevator Project. (685 yes)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch reported on the following:

Adult Ed: Through HiSET Academy, five students have graduated so far this year.

Bloomfield Elementary: A variety of monthly activities including Bloomfield Bunches, and monthly whole school recognitions assemblies are taking place as part of MSAD 54's vision of "All individuals in our schools feel safe, welcome and respected for who they are".

Canaan Elementary: CES's food pantry had their first distribution during parent conferences. PTF is sponsoring breakfast with Santa on December 10th and the holiday concert scheduled for December 21st.

Mill Stream Elementary: On Dec 13th, 4th graders will display their Maine Day projects in the form of a school-wide outside parade. Winter concert is scheduled for Dec 20th.

Margaret Chase Smith School: Tier III Leadership Team is working hard on their three school-wide goals. The chorus will be visiting North El for a sing-a-long concert, and 8 ER students will read holiday books reading at North El. The Parent/Teacher Group will be making gift bags for students to take home before the break.

North Elementary: Teachers are busy taking the district math courses and participating in Level 1 training for Safety Care and learning de-escalation

techniques. Students are studying about owls with K for ME and planning engaging events throughout the month.

MSLC: Students raised boiler chickens this fall and then partnered with Greaney's Poultry to harvest birds and educate students at their facility in Mercer. Staff delivered one whole chicken and a box of pantry food to each MSLC student's home.

SAMS: Classrooms are conducting their door decorating contest; winter sports have started; the Orchestra/Band/Chorus will have their first concert on December 14th.

SAHS: Congratulations to our Field Hockey and Football State Champions, as well as to our theater students for four great performances of *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*. The Holiday Concert is schedule for December 8th.

SCTC: Thanks to a grant from the Good Shepard Food Bank, the SCTC garage is being converted to a Food Pantry and holiday food boxes are going to be packed and delivered at SCTC on December 14th; MSAD 54 gives out the second most amount of food in Somerset County.

Special Education: Staff are receiving Safety Care training the de-escalation techniques and physical management tools to use with students. This year, 45 staff are being recertified.

Support Services Manager, David Leavitt, reported they are working on a tentative schedule with the construction company for the Canaan Elementary School project and anticipate project starting once school ends in June with a completion date of August 20th.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business

9. Introduction of New Business

Theresa Howard shared that the weekend of the football championship game, several players went to the school play. The day of the game, the play was delayed an hour in order to support and greet the football team on their return from the championship game. The Board acknowledged the Drama advisors and cast for their impressive display of support, and for their wonderful performance, that many of the Board members were able to attend.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools