

**MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
February 7, 2008, 7:00 PM  
Skowhegan Area Middle School**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 54 was held on February 7, 2008, at 7:00 PM at Skowhegan Area Middle School. Lisa Hickey\* was absent.

\*excused

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.  
Flag Salute followed.

2. Good News and Recognitions

Skowhegan Area Middle School Jazz Band performed for the Board prior to the start of the meeting. The Jazz Band will be performing at the High School next week.

Skowhegan Area Middle School Principal, Bruce Mochamer, introduced to the Board representatives from Apple Computers, Inc. Doug Snow, Senior Project Specialist for Apple, presented the Apple Distinguished School Award to Principal Mochamer, for the school's outstanding integration of technology in providing a rich learning environment for all students. The Middle School is one of 18 schools in the United States selected as an Apple Distinguished Schools. Principal Mochamer thanked Apple for believing in their school. Technology Integrator, Laura Richter, commented on the Run of the River project students are working with Skowhegan Town Officials. iPods donated by Apple will provide visitors with resources and pictures as well as historical information about Skowhegan. The Skowhegan Chamber received 24 of the donated iPods.

3. Approval of Minutes – 1/24/08

**ON A MOTION BY Richard Irwin, seconded by Les Flannery, the Board  
voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 1/24/08.  
(900 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire/resign from Helen Flewelling, Food Service at Norridgewock Central Grade School.

The Superintendent also acknowledged a letter received from the Department of Education for final funding approval for the Norridgewock School.

- b. School Personnel – No school personnel wished to speak.
- c. Visitors – There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Personnel Committee – 1/24/08

**ON A MOTION BY Kathy Libby, seconded by Mary Turbyne, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 1/24/08 into the public record. (900 yes)**

Chair Kathy Libby, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

The next meeting of the Personnel Committee is scheduled for March 6, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.

- b. Building Committee - 1/28/08

**ON A MOTION BY Kathy Libby, seconded by Paul Natale, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Building Committee meeting of 1/28/08 into the public record. (900 yes)**

The Superintendent reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

**ON A MOTION BY Les Flannery, seconded by Robert Mealey, the Board voted to approve the naming of the new Norridgewock School as Mill Stream Elementary School. (794 yes, 106 no)**

6. Superintendent's Report

- a. Vacancies, nominations, and recommendations

**ON A MOTION BY Lorraine Mahoney, seconded by Carol Rasmussen, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (900 yes)**

- b. Other

The Superintendent reported on the following:

- State Aid funding for next year shows a significant reduction. The District receives \$450,000 annually in Medicaid money. As a result of new rules, most of that money will be taken away starting in March 2008. The Governor announced an additional 99M shortfall and directed the Commissioner to cut an additional \$35,860,088 from G.P.A.

- The 2008-2009 budget will be up by 1.5-2M if we present the same budget as last year.
- Superintendent met with Smithfield Selectmen to answer questions on future budgets, etc.
- The Status Quo budget will be presented to the Board as in the past with discussions to follow as to what communities will support.
- Consolidation discussions continue.
- Enrollment report was shared (2835).

7. Assistant Superintendent and Business Administrator

The Assistant Superintendent reported on the following:

- Scores from the National German Exam for High School Students were shared. In the State of Maine, the following students scored in the top ten and were honored recently at the Blaine House: in German II, Kaidi Ilves placed 2<sup>nd</sup>; in German III, Reeve Baker placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Kelsey Hickey placed 10<sup>th</sup>; and in German IV, Kyle Norweg placed 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The following students were winners of the MSAD #54 Spelling Bee, which was held on 2/5/08 for grades 6, 7 and 8: 7<sup>th</sup> grader Nigel Fine of Cornville was the winner and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Logan Taylor of Cornville was the runner up. Both will compete in the Somerset County Bee on 2/26/08 in Guilford.
- Margaret Chase Smith School Teacher Marilyn Renfrew will be hosting a foreign exchange teacher from Thailand, who teaches English and Music in Thailand.
- The Release Day activities on 1/30/08 included: Elementary teachers working on technology and Power Teacher Web Grading, Reading Recovery, RTI (Response To Intervention), and PLC (Professional Learning Communities). The Middle School faculty worked on literacy initiatives. At the High School there were faculty meetings, Professional Learning Group facilitators training as well as Department focus work. The SRVC conducted inspection and completed safety inspections. The MSLC staff reviewed policy and report cards.
- During a recent observation of Middle School Social Studies teacher, Carrie Luce's students created their own Declarations of Independence. Some of the declarations focused on teenage self-esteem, bullying, global pollution and class schedule. The students did a remarkable job.

The Business Administrator reported that his office continues to work on the budget and crews are working hard to keep up with the weather.

- 8. Old and Unfinished Business – Nothing was discussed
- 9. New Business – Nothing was discussed.

10. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brent H. Colbry, Superintendent of Schools