

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
April 17, 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 April 17, 2008, at 7:00 PM at Skowhegan Area Middle School. Jean Franklin*, Victoria Hatch*, Lisa Hickey, Robert Mealey* and Carol Rasmussen* were absent. Paul Natale left before business was conducted.

*excused

1. Call to Order

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

2. Good News and Recognitions

At the direction of Music Teacher Becky Eldridge, chorus students from Smithfield Elementary School performed for the Board.

3. Approval of Minutes – 4/3/08

ON A MOTION BY Paul Natale, seconded by Kathy Libby, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 4/3/08. (681 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent shared Commissioner Gendron's letter dated 4/11/08, in regard to the revised Alternative Plan submitted on 3/28/08. The revised plan is complete and in compliance with the law.

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted two letters of resignation from bus drivers Barrie Elliot and Cindy Elliot.

b. School Personnel – No school personnel wished to speak.

c. Visitors

Several Cornville parents/residents and teachers shared their opinions and concerns in regard to combining classes with one teacher for the 2008-2009 school year and requested the Board to consider restoring a teaching position

that was eliminated this past school year. Letters from parents were shared in opposition of combining grades 3 and 4, with enrollment in each grade over 10 students.

A request was made to post the District budget on the web. The Chair thanked the visitors. The Board will take their opinions under consideration.

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 4/3/08

ON A MOTION BY Kathy Libby, seconded by Mary Turbyne, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 4/3/08 into the public record. (681 yes)

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

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee - 4/8/08

ON A MOTION BY Karen Dunn, seconded by Maureen Provencal, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 4/8/08 into the public record. (681 yes)

Chair Karen Dunn reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations. The next meeting of the Educational Policy/Program Committee is scheduled for 5/20/08 at 6:00 p.m. at the Superintendent's Office.

c. Support Services Committee – 4/10/08

ON A MOTION BY Karen Dunn, seconded by Les Flannery, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 4/10/08 into the public record. (681 yes)

Karen Dunn reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Matthew Quinn, seconded by Les Flannery, the Board voted to approve the gift of \$800 for the Lattin/Powers sixth grade class trip to Boston. (681 yes)

The next meeting of the Support Services Committee is scheduled for 5/8/08 at 6:00 p.m. at the Superintendent's Office. (This meeting will need to be rescheduled for a later date - TBA)

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, and recommendations

ON A MOTION BY Lorraine Mahoney, seconded by Allan Laney, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one and two. (681 yes)

b. Other

The Superintendent shared a Legislative Bulletin from Maine School Management Association in regard to LD #2323-An Act to Remove Barriers to the Reorganization of School Administrative Units. The Senate gave preliminary approval of the bill and will now go before the House.

The Superintendent shared a payment schedule for the QZAB Lease Purchase.

The Superintendent reviewed the budget referendum process and potential schedule for the budget referendum two-step process. If the budget is approved, warrants can be signed at the May 1st Board meeting. During the week of May 5th, the Superintendent will meet with the Selectpersons of each town to sign the warrants. Warrants need to be posted seven days prior to the District Budget Meeting. The date for the District Budget Meeting will be May 12th with the Referendum to follow on May 15th.

The Board agreed with the referendum timeline.

The Superintendent shared and reviewed with the Board an updated Budget Summary sheet, which shows an increase of 4.57% from this year's budget. An updated Revenues page was shared as well as Budget Assessment Comparisons and 5-year Local Appropriations Summary. Local Dollars needed to be raised by taxes is \$14,655,622, which is a decrease of -0.66% over this year's allocations.

The Superintendent shared information from the District's attorneys in regard to Legal Steps and Time Parameters for Budget Validation Referendum. Also shared from the Department of Education was Budget Category Information Sheet.

The Superintendent asked for the Board's consideration to adopt the proposed 2008-2009 Budget.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Karen Dunn, seconded by Donna Russakoff, to adopt the proposed 2008-2009 Budget as presented.

Cornville Board member, Joseph Parker, thanked the Cornville parents and staff for sharing their concerns with the Board and expressed his respect to the Board and the Superintendent for the work that has been done on the proposed budget. He still has some concerns in regard to budget cuts and how it affects the Cornville Elementary School.

Skowhegan Board member, Sarah Tracy, commented that she would like to see focus on other areas for budget cuts other than teachers.

Following questions and comments, the Board voted:

THE MOTION PASSED. (370 yes, 295 no, 16 abstain)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Business Administrator

The Assistant Superintendent reported that the 21st Century Grant application has been submitted. The five year grant will provide \$300,000 in funding. Administrators involved in gathering information for the grant application were commended for their dedicated time and effort over a five week period, as well as staff, local agencies and organizations. It was a remarkable team effort. Approval of the grant should be heard in May or June.

The Business Administrator reported that a team meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss abatement of the Norridgewock School. The furniture bids are being reviewed and fine tuned. A tour of the new school is scheduled for May 28th at 5:30 p.m. for Building Committee and any Board members who would like to see the progress.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Skowhegan Board member Karen Dunn requested information on the Budget meetings and a Cost per Pupil per School spreadsheet as part of the information shared.

9. New Business

Skowhegan Board member Mary Turbyne announced that a Youth Forum is set for May 3rd from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm at the Skowhegan Community Center. The forum will identify risks of the youth in our county and students will share their insights.

10. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brent H. Colbry, Superintendent of Schools