

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
February 25, 2021, 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 February 25, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (797 present, 202 absent):**

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) - PRESENT	Derek Ellis* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Harold Bigelow (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jean Franklin* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Jennifer Poirier* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Maryellen Charles (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Karen Smith* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Haley Fleming (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Christy Johnson (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT BY REMOTE	
Brandy Morgan (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Dixie Ring (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gary Sinclair (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Kathy Wilder (Norr-46) 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

David Dorr, Director of Somerset Career and Technical Center, shared with the Board that he has been asked by the Governor's Office of Innovation to serve on a governing board that will oversee 4M in funds available for Franklin and Somerset County, specific to Career and Technical Education STEM scholarships/internships over the next ten years. Mr. Dorr and High School Science Teacher Kate Drummond will represent Somerset County,

along with two representatives from Franklin County and three from the Governor's Office. In her budget, the Governor announced she would like to use a portion of the money for paid internships to juniors and seniors.

3. Approval of the Minutes

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Cynthia Johnson, to approve the minutes of the following minutes:**

- Board meeting of 2/4/21
- Building Committee meeting of 2/3/21 (Item 5a)
- Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 2/9/21 (Item 5b)

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (797 YES)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Rebecca Albertson, Ed Tech at Canaan Elementary School, effective June 2021.

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Caitlyn Adams, Ed Tech at Bloomfield Elementary School.

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

a. Building Committee – 2/3/21

The Superintendent reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 2/9/21

Sarah Bunker, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

**ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Cynthia Jonson, the Board voted to support the adoption of the draft policy IHBEA, Program for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and the Lau Plan, as written. (797 yes)**

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

**ON A MOTION BY Goff French, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to approve nominations page one.**

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (797 yes)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of February 25, 2021, all six towns paid February assessments, which are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The DOE responded very positively to the work of the Architect and Engineering Firm's progress, and feel we are at the point in the process where we should be looking at the site application process.

The committee will review the updated reports from the Engineer and Architects, including a transportation analysis done by DOT at their next meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

c. Update on Schools/Extra and Co-Curriculars/COVID-19

There have been no positive cases in four days and staff, students and parents are commended for being proactive.

The District delivered 12,000 meals prior to the February break. Credit to Renee Hovey for coordinating and to the staff and volunteers to make the process go smoothly.

High School Drama will be holding their zoom performances and link will be shared.

The High School will host the State's Speech Competition this weekend.

e. FY22 Budget Timeline and Development

The 2021-2022 Status Quo Draft Budget will be presented at the next scheduled Board meeting on 3/11/21. Many factors affecting the budget include a decline in enrollment due to COVID-19 (homeschool/charter school). The impact of new state aid allocation, based on the current year budget, is down \$104,378. Salary increases have not been determined due to current contract negotiations, which will increase the status quo budget. Health insurance rates have not been received, which could potentially have a significant impact as well.

The Superintendent asked for a consensus to change the Support Services Committee meeting scheduled for March 18 to March 17.

The Superintendent, along with Accounting Supervisor Brenda Murray and David Leavitt, have worked hard to align the various COVID-19 federal funds to maximize the usefulness based on timelines and requirements of each fund.

f. Other

The Superintendent congratulated board member Haley Fleming, who accepted a position with the Maine State Police Troop C.

i. Enrollment Report

Enrollment as of 2/4/21 was 2,248 (last report – 2,244)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent updated the Board on the following:

Based on adjusted guidance from CDC around band and chorus, special “socks” for the bell of instruments have been ordered. As relates to chorus, students will be in small ensembles with six feet spacing, and students must sing through 3-ply masks. Elementary music options are being reviewed.

The Professional Development Committee has been planning the March 19<sup>th</sup> workshop day to be a “Choose Your Own Adventure” virtual event. Staff can sign up for at least three sessions. A survey will be sent to staff to help determine how many people are interested in each offering.

The Support Services Manager shared that heating/diesel prices have been locked in and is up \$25,000 for next year.

The Mill Stream Elementary School will be closed for remote learning on March 1<sup>st</sup> for town government elections. Meals for Saturday, Sunday and Monday will be sent home with students on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Kathy Wilder asked for update on mascot imagery. Bruce Mochamer shared that they are very close, and a survey of students and staff will be done on how imagery will look (face on, sideways, full body, caricature, etc.)

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools