

RSU 54/MSAD 54
Meeting of Board of Directors
May 15, 2025, 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 May 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (850 present, 149 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Sarah Bunker* (Mercer-16) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Daniel Frey* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Valerie Coulombe (Norr-46) PRESENT	Michelle Kelso* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Karyn Curran (Skow-53) PRESENT	Timothy Williams* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Becky Eldridge (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Lauren Fox (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Olivia Huff* (Student Rep) ABSENT
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Tanya Groce (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Samantha Hilton (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lisa Sironen (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michelle Taylor (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Wayne Wofford (Corn-30) PRESENT	

1. Call to Order

a. Flag Salute – 7:00pm

2. Good News and Recognitions

At the direction of Music Teacher, Gail Kelly, SAMS Strings Students performed.

Danielle Denis from Somerset Public Health, presented on the Student Leadership Conference.

3. Approval of Minutes – 5/1/25

ON A MOTION BY Desiree Libby, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of 5/1/25 into the public record. (850 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted the following letters of resignation:

- Angel Bellavance, Special Education Teacher at Skowhegan Area Middle School
- Karen Demo, Study Hall Monitor at Skowhegan Area High School

Superintendent Moody acknowledged a letter of intent to retire from Mary Ashe, School Counselor at MSLC/SAHS.

Superintendent Moody shared that Skowhegan Area High School Athletic Director, Brian Jones, will be transferred to a Social Studies Teacher position for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

There were no committee reports.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (850 yes)

b. Report on Assessment Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody reported that as of May 15, 2025, all towns were current (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield) were current were current on their monthly assessment payments, with May due on the 20th.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody reported that the Central Office staff toured the new Margaret Chase Smith Community School recently. Principal Myla Kreider shared the student tours are scheduled to take place on May 27th and 28th.

The Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening for the new school will take place at the beginning of August and will be announced by the next Board meeting.

d. Update on FY26 Budget

Superintendent Moody reported that budget presentations in the towns have gone well as did the May 21st District Budget Meeting. The Validation Referendum is on Tuesday, June 10th in all six towns.

e. Other

i. Consideration of Review of MSAD 54 Cost Sharing Formula

Superintendent Moody reviewed the process if the Board considers a change to the Cost Sharing Formula. At this time we are waiting for information from the state regarding the process. Superintendent Moody expects to recommend to the Board that a vote be taken to go through a review of the cost sharing formula by August, which would allow any changes to move forward for a June 2026 Referendum vote.

ii. Vote to Finalize PLD Plan for Ed Tech I's Hired After July 1, 2025

Superintendent Moody reviewed and requested the Board's approval of the following motion:

ON A MOTION BY Michael Lambke, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to exclude Educational Technician I's who are hired on or after July 1, 2025 from participating in MainePERS.

FURTHER VOTED to change its PLD plan for its eligible school support employees not covered by the Teacher Retirement Program as follows:

Exclude Educational Technicians I's who are hired on or after July 1, 2025 from participating in Regular Plan AC with the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS); and

- a) Remit payment to MainePERS for the associated partial withdrawal liability of \$158,733.00 as required by MainePERS Rule Chapter 803; and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to determine whether the payment to MainePERS will be made in a lump sum by June 30, 2025 or amortized for a period of up to 30 years at the actuarial assumed rate of return used in the June 30, 2024 valuation; and**
- b) Authorize *Jonathan D. Moody, Superintendent of Schools* to sign the Amended Agreement between the RSU 54/MSAD 54 and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.**

(744 yes, 106 no)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch updated the Board on Federal Funding. Title I, Title II and Title IV will be funded at the same amount as this year (specific numbers have not been released). The District is losing 2 years of the 5-year EASE Grant.

Dawn Fickett, REACH After School Director, provided an update on the After School Program.

The Superintendent indicated that federal funding for public schools makes up less than 2% of the federal budget, that federal funds for education are focused on interventions for our most needy learners, and that those funds allow districts like ours to significantly reduce the local costs of education.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business

9. Introduction of New Business not listed on the Agenda

There was no introduction of new business listed on the agenda.

10. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools