

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
September 17, 2020, 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 September 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium. Jean Franklin*, Dixie Ring* and Gary Sinclair* were absent. *excused

1. Call to Order

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

a. Flag Salute followed.

2. Approval of the Minutes – 9/3/20

**ON A MOTION BY Goff French, seconded by Theresa Howard,
the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors’
meeting of 9/3/20, into the public record. (883 yes)**

3. Communications

a. Letters – There were no letters to share.

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

c. Visitors

Parent, Dana Fortin, spoke to the Board in support of athletics.

4. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 9/3/20

**ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Amy Rouse,
the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services
Committee meeting of 9/3/20 into the public record. (883 yes)**

Jennifer Poirier, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Brandy Morgan, the Board voted to accept the following donations:

- **School supplies and seventeen \$50 gift cards for each classroom at Mill Stream Elementary School from the Town of Norridgewock, the Mill Stream PTG and community members;**
- **\$7,500 from Franklin Savings Bank to the MSAD 54 Summer Nutrition Program**

(883 yes)

5. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

ON A MOTION BY Desiree Libby, seconded by Kathy Wilder, the Board voted to approve nomination pages 1 and 2. (883 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of September 17, 2020, Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current with September assessment due on the 20th. Skowhegan was outstanding for August and September.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Study

The Superintendent shared that a meeting with DOE's construction project team and Stephen Blatt Architects was held to review the Architect/Engineer Agreement for Pre-Concept Services up to a maximum amount of \$173,705.

The Superintendent requested the Board's approval of agreement, as written:

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to approve the Architect/Engineer Agreement for Core Consulting Services between RSU 54/MSAD 54 and Stephen

Blatt Architects, for Pre-Concept Services up to a maximum amount of \$173,705. (883 yes)

Site study work continues with review of properties and traffic flow studies.

d. Update on Nickname/Mascot and Related Imagery Process

The Superintendent reviewed the results of the student mascot survey. The top three choices include:

- 1st – Phoenix
- 2nd – River Hawks
- 3rd – Skowhegan

The next steps in the process is for the Support Services and Educational Policy/Program Committees to review student feedback and make final recommendations, by consensus, of 3 options for School Board consideration. The committees will meet on September 22nd.

Karen Smith (Skowhegan) suggested foregoing the next step in the process for committee review, and vote for the top choice at this meeting. The Superintendent recommended following the steps approved in the Nickname/Mascot Transition Plan.

The committees will meet separately on 9/22/20 to make final recommendations, by consensus.

e. Update on Return to School

The Superintendent updated the Board on the return to school. Students have been in school a total of six days and beginning Monday, 9/21, K-6 students will be in school daily.

Technology challenges are being sorted through with remote learning challenges as well as the additional laptops and iPad.

With allergy/flu season upon us, we are working in conjunction with Redington Fairview General Hospital to promote the flu vaccine. The District will be holding flu vaccine clinics for all students and staff during the month of October. Protocols for symptoms are being followed and

enforced based on the CDC's screening tool. The District's website has been updated to include mask guidance from CDC and screening tool.

Based on feedback from the Education Association, a recommendation to revise the 2020-2021 school calendar to include two additional workshop days (9/28 & 10/26) to allow staff prof development and support.

ON A MOTION BY Desiree Libby, seconded by Todd Smith, the Board voted to approve the revised calendar to replace student days with workshop days on 9/28/20 and 10/26/20. (883 yes)

The District continues to hire subs and ed tech positions. We are exploring a process to encourage/engage volunteers in school and offer training process for parent volunteers to support our teachers.

f. Athletics Update

The Superintendent shared and reviewed the MSAD 54 Extracurricular/Cocurricular Recommendations, based on the MPA guidelines released. Athletic Director Jon Christopher was present to answer questions and provide additional details. Following questions and comments, the following recommendation was made:

ON A MOTION BY Jennifer Poirier, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to move forward with the sport seasons allowable under the revised MPA guidelines as of 9/10-11/20: Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Soccer and Football, with the rules/guidelines in place. (632 yes, 251 no)

g. Other

i. Enrollment Report

Enrollment as of 9/17/20 was 2,249 (last report – 2,253)

ii. Child Care Funds Grant

The District has been approved for \$293,000 for child care funds.

6. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent reported that the Professional Development Committee has met this week and discussed various PD needs including more time to focus on particular programs and tools being used with students, as well as training on new devices. The additional workshop days will be helpful in this.

The District-wide Leadership Team has met. The team's focus is on making sure we are living by, deciding by and planning by our guiding principles making decisions that are going in a direction that fits what we know about student learning.

The Support Services Manager shared that crews are working hard.

7. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old or unfinished business discussed.

8. Introduction of New Business

It was agreed that the next Board meeting would be on October 8, 2020.

9. Executive Session – Personnel Matter pursuant to *Title 1 MRSA §405(6)(A)*

ON A MOTION BY Maryellen Charles, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 8:09 pm, to discuss a personnel matter pursuant *Title 1 MRSA §405(6)(A)*. (883 yes)

The Board returned to regular session at 8:31 pm and the following motion was made:

ON A MOTION BY Haley Fleming, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to deny the grievance discussed and in accordance with Article 18 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement direct the Board Chair to draft a response in writing within five (5) days. (883 yes)

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools