

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
February 4, 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 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (606 present, 393 absent):

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

Mill Stream Elementary School Kindergarten teachers Barbara Welch and Cassidy Clement presented to the Board. Barbara has 32 years of teaching in the district and Cassidy is a first-year teacher. They shared their approach to co-teaching Kindergarten at Mill Stream Elementary School.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Amy Rouse, to approve the minutes of the following minutes:

- Board meeting of 1/21/21

- Personnel Committee meeting of 1/21/21 (Item 5a)

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (606 YES)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Juline Bilodeau, Grade 1 Teacher at Canaan Elementary School, effective June 2021.

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from JoEllen Gifford, Kindergarten Teacher at North Elementary School, effective June 2021.

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. Personnel Committee – 1/21/21

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

The Superintendent reviewed vacancies. There were no nominations.

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of February 4, 2021, all six towns were current on their monthly assessments, with February due on the 20th.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Study

The Building Committee met Feb 3rd, with Engineer Patrick Carroll and Architect Steve Hoffman, who walked the committee through the site selection process. Of the five sites being considered, the focus is on the assessment of the Dillon site and Margaret Chase Smith site. A follow up with the town of Skowhegan will be scheduled to review the value of the fields and the breakdown of costs. The consensus of the committee was that the Margaret Chase Smith site is the best option. The pros and cons with both sites will be reviewed further, as well as consideration of relocating the bus garage.

b. Update on Schools/COVID-19

A COVID-19 update letter scheduled to be released to parents tonight was shared with the Board. The letter highlights that we were notified by the Maine CDC that SAHS and SCTC are now being classified as an “outbreak”, as a result of having “3 or more active cases within a 14-day window”. There was no recommendation to close school and both SAHS and SCTC will remain open.

e. Update on Use of Federal Funds

The Superintendent reported that the DOE announced the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) funds have been released, and the application portal is open. These funds will be available through September 2023 and will provide a glide path to get through the pandemic related to preventing, preparing for and responding to COVID-19.

We are closing down the three sets of funds on the state side. Extension of spending of COVID-19 funds was extended until June.

f. FY22 Budget Timeline and Development

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. Insurance rates are not released until April, these too are not built into the budget until after they are released.

There are some outstanding questions that will impact the Special Education budget regarding the phase in of child development services transferring to the schools for ages 3-5. In addition, the state has acted on a court ruling that changed the age of highest needs special education students who can stay in school from 20 to 22 years of age.

g. Other

The Superintendent thanked the Board for being engaged and attending meetings. He recognized there is a lot on everyone's plate and appreciates all for showing up for the kids, staff and community.

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:

- Good News presentations at the last several board and committee meetings have highlighted all the phenomenal things being accomplished in the classroom, whether remote or in person. Staff have taken on a huge challenge that requires immediate change and have been doing an amazing job.
- Classroom observations of all probationary teachers have begun, which has given the opportunity to sit in for whole classes and seeing the teachers and student interacting.

The Support Services Manager shared that meal deliveries are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday of school vacation week. He acknowledged the efforts of his staff during the pandemic.

The Support Services Manager requested permission to monitor and lock-in fuel prices when appropriate.

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jennifer Poirier, the Board voted to authorize the Support Services Manager to monitor fuel/oil prices and lock-in when appropriate.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (606 YES)

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business discussed.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools