

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
June 17, 2021, 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 June 17, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (619 present, 380 absent):

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

1. Call to Order

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

a. Flag Salute followed.

The Superintendent welcomed Alicia Boulette (Skow) to the Board.

2. Good News and Recognitions

Jean Pillsbury, Principal of Bloomfield Elementary School, introduced Grade 3 Teacher Sarah Young to the Board. Sarah expressed her appreciation to the Board for allowing her to teach in person. She shared a slideshow that demonstrates all that took place in one year in her classroom. while maintaining the protocols surrounding social distancing, etc.

High School Principal Bruce Mochamer updated the Board on the Olympia Snowe Women’s Leadership Institute. Four seniors who participated in the program, which is a three-year progression through the themes: “My Values” (gr 10), “My Voice” (gr 11) and “My Vision” (gr 12), were recognized at the 2021 Year End Celebration. SAHS Leaders include Kayla Furbush, Gabrielle Manasco, Ella Siren and Abigail Washburn. Board member Desiree Libby, along with Brandi Meisner, served as advisors and supported a group of five girls from sophomore to senior year.

3. Annual Reorganization Meeting

The Superintendent of Schools conducted the Election of a Board Chair.

a. Election of Chair

Jean Franklin nominated Lynda Quinn and Maryellen Charles seconded the nomination.

There being no other nominations, the Superintendent declared the nominations closed. **Lynda Quinn was elected Chair of the Board.**

b. Election of Vice Chair

Maryellen Charles nominated Amy Rouse and Jeannie Conley seconded the nomination.

There being no other nominations, the Chair declared the nominations closed. **Amy Rouse was elected Vice Chair of the Board.**

c. Election of Finance Committee Chair

Mark Bedard nominated Jean Franklin and Theresa Howard seconded the nomination.

There being no other nominations, the Chair declared the nominations closed. **Jean Franklin was elected Chair of the Finance Committee.**

d. Election of Finance Committee

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to elect Lynda Quinn, Sarah Bunker and Mark Bedard as members of the Finance Committee. (619 yes)

4. Approval of the Minutes

ON A MOTION BY Dixie Ring, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to a to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 6/3/21 into the record. (619 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Vellangi Stringos, Art Teacher at Skowhegan Area High 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. Finance Committee – 6/3/21

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Karen Smith, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 6/3/21 into the record. (619 yes)

Jean Franklin, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

b. Personnel Committee – 6/15/21

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Desiree Libby, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 6/15/21 into the record. (619 yes)

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the nomination of Robert Rodrigue as Principal of Mill Stream Elementary School in accordance with the contractual terms outlined by the Superintendent, with a two-year contract. (619 yes)

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to approve the nomination of Christy Johnson as Principal of North Elementary and Margaret Chase Smith Schools in accordance with the contractual terms outlined by the Superintendent, with a two-year contract. (619 yes)

c. Building Committee – 6/16/21

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Maryellen Charles, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Building Committee meeting of 6/16/21 into the public record. (619 yes)

Theresa Howard reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

ON A MOTION BY Goff French, seconded by Mark Bedard, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one and two. (619 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of June 17, 2021, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) were current on their monthly assessments, with June assessment payments due on the 20th.

c. Computation and Declaration of Votes

The Superintendent shared the Computation and Declaration of Votes of the District Budget Validation Referendum held June 8, 2021. A total of 528 affirmative and 222 negative votes were declared on Article 1, relating to the adoption of the District's 2021-2022 budget.

ON A MOTION BY Maryellen Charles, seconded by Dixie Ring, the Board voted that the Computation and Declaration of Votes dated June 17, 2021, and attached hereto be approved.

FURTHER VOTED that the Computation and Declaration of Votes be entered upon the records of RSU 54/MSAD 54.

FURTHER VOTED that a certified copy of the Computation and Declaration of Votes be sent to each of the Municipal Clerks within the District.

(619 yes)

Following the vote, the Board of Directors signed the Computation and Declaration of Votes.

d. Approval and Signing of Assessment Warrants

ON A MOTION BY Maryellen Charles, seconded by Dixie Ring, the Board voted to approve and sign the Assessment Warrants for the District's six towns, as presented. (619 yes)

Following the vote, the Board of Directors signed Assessment Warrants.

e. Update on New School Construction Building Project

As part of the site approval process for the building project, the

Superintendent recommended the Board's approval of a Resolution to Ratify and Authorize Site Option and Park Relocation Agreement, Application for State Board of Education Site Approval and Site Suitability Studies for Proposed Elementary School Construction Project.

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Amy Rouse, the Board voted to approve the Resolution to Ratify and Authorize Site Option and Park Resolution Agreement, Application for State Board of Education Site Approval and Site Suitability Studies for Proposed Elementary School Construction Project in form presented to this meeting, and that the Secretary file an attested copy of said Resolution with the minutes of this meeting. (619 yes)

f. Update on Schools and COVID-19

The Superintendent requested the Board's approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Directors and Education Association and revised 2021-2022 school calendar as presented. The revision moves one unused workshop day from the 2020-2021 school year to August 30th and August 27th and 31st will be the first two regularly scheduled workshop days for the 2021-2022 school year.

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and revised 2021-2022 school calendar as presented. (619 yes)

The Superintendent requested the Board's authorization to offer contracts to qualified teachers and staff during the summer months so that the District would not face the possibility of losing good candidates between Board meetings.

ON A MOTION BY Amy Rouse, seconded by Maryellen Charles, the Board voted to authorize the Superintendent to offer contracts to qualified teachers and staff during the summer months so that the District would not face the possibility of losing good candidates between Board meetings. (619 yes)

The Superintendent shared the new state guidelines regarding masks in MSAD 54 buildings this summer and asked the Board to vote on the

following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Amy Rouse, seconded by Jeanne Conley, the Board voted to follow the new state guidelines, MSAD 54 will continue to recommend that unvaccinated people, including those under 12 years of age who are no eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, wear face coverings indoors. (619 yes)

g. Update on Federal Funds

The Superintendent shared that we are still awaiting approval of our ESSER II application.

h. Other

With the Board's support, the Superintendent will post a stipend Teaching Principal position at North Elementary/Margaret Chase Smith Schools, to serve as part-time AP under the Principal, to help support operations in both buildings.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent shared an update on the summer school program. Programs being offered include Title I, Special Ed, Middle and High School which is being extended two additional weeks. As a result of a grant there are two new summer school programs at the elementary level. R.E.A.C.H. Program is running eight weeks this summer.

In addition, Somerset Career and Technical Center is offering a free summer semester for middle and high school students with classes ranging from Career and College Prep, Psychology 101, Honeybee Husbandry, Culinary Arts, Residential Construction, Outdoor Leadership and Pre-Engineering.

The Support Services Manager reported that crews are busy and will be ready to open school.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business

10. Executive Session – Negotiations pursuant to *Title I MRSA §405(6)(A)*

ON A MOTION BY Amy Rouse, seconded by Karen Smith, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 8:07 pm to discuss negotiations. (619 yes)

The Board returned to regular session at 8:13 pm and voted on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Amy Rouse, seconded by Maryellen Charles, the Board voted to ratify the 2021-2024 Comprehensive Contract between MSAD 54 and the MSAD 54 Education Association for the period September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024. (619 yes)

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools