

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
August 3, 2023, 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 August 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (771 present, 228 absent vacancy):**

Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Mark Bedard* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Janet Burrill* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Karyn Curran (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jean Franklin* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	Cheyenne Goodrich* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	Bruce Hurley* (Mercer-16) ABSENT
Daniel Frey (Smith-27) PRESENT	Michelle Taylor* (Smith-27) ABSENT
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Michelle Kelso (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	*excused
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Janice Malek (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Julian Payne (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Timothy Williams (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

There were no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes - 6/15/23

**ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Karyn Curran, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 6/15/23 into the record. (771 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted letters of resignation from the following:

- Susan Trott – Bus Driver (retired)
- Andrea Ferrari – Literacy Coach at Bloomfield Elementary
- Michael Baker, Ed Tech at SCTC
- Kymberly Wright, Kindergarten Ed Tech at North Elementary
- Isabel Turgeon, Ed Tech at Bloomfield Elementary

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 – 6/20/23 and 7/24/23

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Samantha Delorie, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meetings of 6/20/23 and 7/24/23 into the public record. (771 yes)**

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes of the 6/20/23 meeting and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to approve the nomination of Ryan Libby as Assistant Principal of Skowhegan Area High School in accordance with the contractual terms outlined by the Superintendent, with a two-year contract. (771 yes)**

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes of the 7/24/23 meeting and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jeannie Conley, the Board voted to approve the nomination of Dylan Engler as Assistant Principal of Skowhegan Area High School in accordance with the contractual terms outlined by the Superintendent, with a two-year contract. (771 yes)**

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

Superintendent Moody reviewed vacancies and recommended the Board's approval of nominations.

**ON A MOTION BY Peggy Lovejoy, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one, two and three. (741 yes, 30 abstain)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of August 3, 2023, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) were current on their monthly assessments. Assessments are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared that preparations for the August 17<sup>th</sup> groundbreaking ceremony for the new school continue. The next groundbreaking committee meeting is scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup>. Information on the groundbreaking and project can be found on our district project website: <https://www.msad54.org/building-project>

Superintendent Moody shared that the District's 1.94M CDS grant application has moved forward and is included in current legislation through the house and the senate. This is a political process and it's likely the district will not have an update on this potential federal funding until later this fall. Should the District be fortunate enough to receive this grant, we will need to apply for a waiver to utilize the funds as the HUD grants have requirements for materials/supplies that the building likely can't accommodate based on where we are at in the project. The District is working with our attorneys and representatives from our legislators offices to explore this should the District be fortunate enough to be awarded CDS funding. If approved and able to be used, fundraising

(including the CDS Funds) should bring the total local only cost of the new school close to zero.

Fundraising Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> and over 2.7M has been raised to date.

The Clerk of the Works has pulled together images of the progress of the construction and will be posted on the building project page on our website. Jeremy Bourque will be doing drone footage of the site every two weeks throughout the construction process.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody shared and reviewed the updated Federal Funds Summary, including spending timelines and summaries. Updated iteration of the plan and federal spending can be found on the district public page at <http://msad54.org/public>.

e. Summer School

Superintendent Moody shared that an update on summer school will be given at the next meeting.

On August 10<sup>th</sup> a LifeFlight of Maine Helicopter will be at the high school and doing a presentation to the Scrub Club students.

David Dorr, SCTC Director, shared that over thirty students attending Career and College Prep, Financial Literacy, and Honeybee Husbandry programs completed and received \$500 each through JMG's Career Exploration Badge Program.

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and congratulated our newly hired Assistant Principals Dylan Engler and Ryan Libby.

f. Opening of School

The Superintendent updated the Board on the hiring of an additional School Resource Officer. A meeting with the Chief and Sheriff is scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup> and will hopefully have a plan moving forward.

Mr. Hatch will provide an update on hiring at our next meeting.

g. Other

Superintendent Moody shared that the suggestion of videoing for public access to School Board meetings is being explored and is reviewing options.

During COVID, sports physicals were moved to a 3-year cycle and will go back to a 2-year cycle next year.

The tennis courts project is out to bid and opening bids are scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch was not present.

The Support Services Manager updated the Board on summer projects, including:

Canaan SRRF/ESSER II/ARP: Electrical system upgrade will bring 3 phase power and generator to run the complete building. This includes all new LED lighting. The ventilation / heating and cooling throughout the main structure of the building is all new. Windows have been replaced along with moisture barrier, drywall, and insulation in the roof space above the ceilings. This project is slightly behind schedule but is scheduled to be completed prior to the start of school. Mr. Leavitt will have all hands-on deck to get the school clean and ready for staff and students as soon as the contractors have concluded their work.

SAHS SRRF/ESSER II: The elevator build out is on schedule for completion this fall. The elevator is scheduled to arrive mid-September.

SAMS ESSER II: The addition and punch list is complete. Furniture for the new spaces will be delivered and installed soon. The cistern tank and installation for the sprinkler system should be completed soon.

Bus Garage: We have moved the bus garage to the DOT site/garage on Rt. 2 by the eddy. The District has started the process with the state to purchase this facility as a permanent home for our bus fleet. This would be fully funded by the elementary building project and would likely be a significant cost-savings to taxpayers.

High School Tree Removal: Mr. Leavitt shared that the pine trees were removed from the high school driveway as supported by the School Board. Maple trees will be planted in the coming month. This should be a significant safety improvement.

Mr. Leavitt also provided an update regarding work done at SAHS, SCTC, SAMS, MCSS, BES, and MSES that is typical for the summer including driveway paving, striping, office spaces, special education needs, kitchen work, classroom space and adjustments to spaces for learning/storage/classroom needs.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Desiree Libby shared that the Backpack Program at the Food Pantry served over 500 households this summer.

9. Introduction of New Business

Peggy Lovejoy shared her concerns with the removal of the playground at Margaret Chase Smith School during the new school construction. Superintendent Moody commented that a fenced in area in front of the school and a section of the parking lot will be used for four-square.

Jeannie Conley shared concerns that transportation is not provided for PreK students.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools