

<b>RSU 54/MSAD 54</b>
<b>Educational Policy/Program Committee</b>
<b>Minutes</b>
<b>March 7, March 21 &amp; April 11, 2023</b>
<b>6:00PM</b>
<b>Skowhegan Area High School - Library</b>

**March 7, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sarah Bunker, Jeannie Conley, Samantha Delorie, Janet Burrill, Amy Rouse, Lynda Quinn and Morigan McLeod

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jon Moody, Mark Hatch, Bruce Mochamer, Zachary Longyear, David Dorr, Jean Pillsbury, Myla Kreider, Rob Rodrigue and Melannie Keister

The Superintendent reviewed the individual budgets for Instruction K-12, Student Activities, Guidance, Library, and for the Somerset Career and Technical Center. This was followed by a summary of how this affects the overall budget.

The Superintendent presented the first draft of a Status Quo Budget. The total budget as presented was \$39,857,731 which included a \$15,670,455.46 assessment to the local communities, up 6.78% over the prior year.

The Committee discussed health insurance rates, which have not come out and are not factored into this budget, as well as significant reductions made to the overall budget to limit the increase on taxpayers. The primary driver of the local increase was the state changes to town valuations and an increase in the state mil rate. MSAD 54 went from nearly a 62% receiver, to a 59.4% receiver, dramatically increasing the local contribution in the state funding formula.

The committee asked questions which were answered and discussed by the Superintendent.

The committee will meet again on March 21, 2023.

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**March 21, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sarah Bunker, Jeannie Conley, Amy Rouse, Janet Burrill, Mike Lambke and Lynda Quinn

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jon Moody, Mark Hatch, Erica Thompson, Renee Stevens, Dylan Engler, Jeremy Lehan, Myla Kreider, Rob Rodrigue, David Dorr, Melannie Keister, Bruce Mochamer, Zachary Longyear, Dan Dwelley and Christy Johnson

The Superintendent reviewed the individual budgets for school administration, other instruction, special education, health, district wide technology, other student support services, improvement of instruction and adult education.

The committee asked questions which were answered and discussed.

The committee will meet again on April 11, 2023

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**April 11, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sarah Bunker – Vice Chair, Michael Lambke, Peggy Lovejoy, Amy Rouse, Lynda Quinn, Samantha Delorie, Janice Malek

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jon Moody, Bruce Mochamer, Julian Payne, Morgan Marden, Beth Downing and Mark Hatch

**Math Program Pilot –**

The committee reviewed the process that district has used to research, pilot and select a math program for grades K through 5. The 3-year process that included all teachers interested in piloting programs and solicited feedback on programs and professional development needs, resulted in Illustrative Mathematics being selected. Morgan Marden and Beth Downing, our district Mathematics coaches, shared the data behind the decision and the reactions of the teachers piloting the programs. The program will be launched next year, and the implementation will be supported by the district's federally funded Mathematics coaches.

### **Final Review of Proposed Budget –**

Mr. Moody shared the final version of the proposed budget and discussed the impact of health insurance (\$392,209) the drop in our poverty rate and the state reduction in poverty factor (\$580,298), the state funded CTE subsidy increase (\$337,208.52) as well as the impact of the state town valuations. The budget includes 5 positions that were cut.

The overall budget is up 3.598%, the local budget is up 5.647%. The five-year average for the overall budget is 2.177% per year over five years. The five-year average for the overall local budget is an annual increase of 1.788%.

### **Discussion of Proposed Policy BBAB**

The committee discussed the intent of the policy to have student representatives on the school board. Mr. Hatch collected questions from the committee to inform the conversations the committee will have on policy BBAB in May.

### **School Resource Officer Discussion**

The committee discussed the possible addition of a resource officer to MSAD 54. Members shared their thoughts regarding the position and Mr. Moody shared potential costs associated with adding a position. The committee discussed the timing of the addition; Mr. Moody will provide a recommendation of next steps at the April 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting.