

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
January 21, 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 January 21, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Gymnasium.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (900 present, 99 absent):

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

Matthew Clark, JMG Instructor at Skowhegan Area High School, presented an update to the Board on how the JMG program adjusted to support remote learning last spring the best way they possible could while being apart. With the support of JMG business partners, \$100 Hannaford gift cards were

provided to students' families inside program in the spring and again in the fall. Students raised just over \$2,500 from their annual Santa's helper project supporting seven families and thirteen students in our school district. Students Michaela and Abigail shared their future goals and aspirations with the Board.

Brandi Merry, Franklin Team Alternative Education Teacher at the Skowhegan Area Middle School, shared the Classroom Mission, which is "that every student will receive highly qualified education that aligns with their own unique learning, emotional and social potential." Various projects were shared, including many outside projects along the Kennebec River Trails that incorporate math, science and history. The Franklin Refinishing Project during the month of December included restoring and refinishing furniture for staff. Students learned valuable skills that aligned with math, reading, writing core standards.

3. Approval of the Minutes

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

- Board meeting of 1/7/21
- Support Services Committee meeting of 1/7/21 and approval of donations as listed (Item 5a)
- Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 1/12/21 (Item 5b)

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (900 YES)

4. Communications

a. Letters – There were no letters shared.

b. School Personnel

Bruce Mochamer, Principal of Skowhegan Area High School, announced that the first senior of the year graduated today at the high school.

c. Visitors – There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 1/7/21

Jennifer Poirier, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 1/7/21. There were no recommendations.

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 1/12/21

Sarah Bunker, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 1/12/21. There were no recommendations.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

ON A MOTION BY Goff French, seconded by Jennifer Poirier, the Board voted to approve nominations page one.

The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (900 YES)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of January 21, 2021, the towns of Cornville and Mercer paid January assessment. Canaan, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield were outstanding for January. Assessments are due on the 20th.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Study

The Superintendent updated the Board on the New School Construction Building Study. A meeting with town officials was held this week to work through the option agreement for the land at the Margaret Chase Smith School site and the need to assure the town that they are going to get a value for the fields to be moved. Engineering and Architects are

working on a cost estimate to move the fields to another location.
Building Committee will meet on February 3rd at 6pm.

c. Update on Schools/COVID-19

In regard to County Yellow Designations and sports, Districts determines whether to play games. SAHS admin will develop a protocol that will limit play with schools in a yellow designation based on case numbers.

e. Update on Use of Federal Funds

The annual Maine School Superintendents Association Winter Convocation was held via Zoom on January 14 and 15. Very beneficial topics included Budget Development and federal and state funding; social and emotional learning and the impact on students; COVID-19 presentation by Dr. Cheryl Liechty, Infectious Disease Physician.

f. FY22 Budget Timeline and Development

Federal information on additional funding is anticipated soon. The ED279 subsidy printout is anticipated next week. Significant changes in legislature that could have a potentially significant impact on budget include possible special education services for ages 3-5 in 2024 which will be voted on this spring. As of today, effective immediately the age special education students can stay in school changed from age 20 to 22. Both of these changes will likely increase the special education budgets for districts around the state.

g. Other

Doug McEwen updated the Middle School on sports. Middle School basketball will start practices on Monday, 1/25/21. It anticipated that a total of six games will be played.

An initial draft calendar for 2021-2022 was shared. The Education Association will review, and we will revisit at a later time.

i. Enrollment Report

Enrollment as of 1/21/21 was 2,245 (last report – 2,247)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent updated the Board on the following:

- The Professional Development Committee has been working on the March “Chose Your Own Adventure” Workshop Day. The four identified areas of focus include technology training; trauma informed practices; best practices for teaching and learning in-person and hybrid remote environments; and social justice issues. A two-part survey will be sent out to staff asking for specifics within each area of focus, as well as asking for feedback on how things are going and identifying any needs they may have.

The Support Services Manager shared that there is a shortage of bus drivers and custodians which makes for daily challenges.

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 7:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools