

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
February 16, 2023, 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 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Library.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (873 present, 126 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Rebecca Anderson (Smith-27) ABSENT
Alicia Boulette (Skow-53) PRESENT	Peggy Lovejoy* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Brandy Morgan* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Janet Burrill (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	*excused
Daniel Frey (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Bruce Hurley (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Morrigan McLeod (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gary Sinclair (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Timothy Williams (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Jacqueline Wolinski (Skow-53) PRESENT	

1. Call to Order

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

a. Flag Salute followed.

2. Good News and Recognitions

KVCAP's Noella DesPres, Family Services Supervisor, and Kaitlyn Butler, Education Supervisor, presented to the Board. Each shared information on the Pre-K and Early Head Start Programs, including Family Engagement, Health and Wellness, Policy Council, as well becoming a member of First4 AmeriCorps and Maine State Parent Ambassadors.

3. Approval of the Minutes - 2/2/23

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Mark Bedard, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 2/2/23 into the record. (873 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

There were no letters to share.

b. School Personnel

Skowhegan Area High School Principal, Bruce Mochamer, shared with the Board that two students, Erin Taylor a junior and Ahnalese Higgins a senior, were chosen for the Youth Policy Leadership Program.

c. Visitors

Skowhegan Selectmen Chair, Todd Smith, shared with the Board that on February 14th the Town signed the deed to transfer land for the new Margaret Chase Smith Community School.

5. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 2/2/23

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 2/2/23 into the public record. (873 yes)

Jean Franklin, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendations:

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Janet Burrill, the Board voted to approve the following donations to Canaan Elementary School: \$2,500 from Good Shepard Food Bank for the addition of a freezer and improve shelving in the Food Cupboard; \$338 from Darlings Ice Cream Truck; \$226 from Hannaford Help Schools. (873 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 Samantha Delorie, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (873 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of February 16, 2023, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) were current on their monthly assessments. Assessments are due on the 20th of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody thanked Todd Smith and Skowhegan officials signing the deed for the land for the new elementary school.

Superintendent Moody shared that following a review with the Town's Review Committee a public hearing and deliberation by the Planning Board is scheduled for February 21st at 6pm at the Skowhegan Municipal Office. The next building committee meeting is set for Wednesday, March 1st.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Superintendent Moody reported that he and Finance Director, Melannie Keister, have completed the comprehensive review of federal funds. These funds have been integral in the districts success navigating the pandemic, have been focused on the classroom (student and teacher needs), and have helped minimize local expenses on additional student needs. The district has planned for the loss of federal funds in the summer of 2024.

e. FY24 Budget

Superintendent Moody shared that he anticipates presenting the 2023-2024 Status Quo Draft Budget at the March 2nd Board meeting. This budget will represent the cost of continuing current programming and staffing levels into next year and unless otherwise noted will not include additional spending requests. Committee review will take place throughout the month of March.

f. 2023-2024 Draft Calendar

Superintendent Moody shared the draft 2023-2024 calendar, and will ask for the Board's approval at the March 2nd meeting.

g. Update on Schools

Superintendent Moody shared a handout on the Aspire River Hawks Grant (1 Million Dollars over 5 years) which is designed to raise aspirations Pre-K through Grade 12 and beyond. The handout included updates and highlights of what's happening in the schools as well as upcoming plans to further engage the staff and community in this effort.

h. Other

Enrollment Report for 2/16/23 was shared – 2,255 (2,252 last report).

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch referenced the School Board Walkthrough Schedule handed out and asked Board members to RSVP Tracey Foster if interested in attending any of the scheduled walkthroughs.

Mr. Hatch reported on various activities happening in the schools, as well as acknowledged the following nominated teachers for Somerset County Teacher of the Year: Katherine Flannery, Elizabeth Clark, Emily Hartford, Tiffany Frost, Alyssa Leonard, Katherine Drummond and Christopher Beaman.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Mark Bedard updated the Board on the River Hawks osprey nest boxes, which are now being installed.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business.

10. Executive Session – Superintendent’s Performance Assessment pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405(6)(A)

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to enter into executive session to review the Superintendent’s Performance Assessment pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §405(6)(A). (873 yes)

The Board returned to regular session at 7:55 pm, and the following recommendation was made:

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jacqueline Wolinski, the Board voted to extend the Superintendent’s 3-year contract to June 30, 2026, subsequent to the terms of the contract and future negotiated salary and benefits. (873 yes)

11. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools