

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
August 12, 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 August 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (665 present, 281 absent, 53 vacant):

Alicia Boulette (Skow-53) PRESENT	Mark Bedard* (Skow-53) ABESENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Jeannie Conley* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT	Haley Fleming* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	Brandy Morgan* (Norr-46) PRESENT
Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT	Jennifer Poirier* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Daniel Frey (Smith-27) PRESENT	Gary Sinclair* (Corn-30) ABSENT
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Gerry Redlevske (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Dixie Ring (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Karen Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Kathy Wilder (Norr-46) 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 scheduled presentations.

3. Approval of the Minutes

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Kathy Wilder, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 7/15/21 into the record. (665 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted the following letters of resignation:

- Derek Ellis, Skowhegan Board of Directors
- Kim Landry, Ed Tech at Skowhegan Area Middle School
- Kim Smart, Ed Tech at Bloomfield Elementary School
- Rebecca Shanoski, School Office Assistant at Marti Stevens Learning Center

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Jane Libby, School Office Assistant at Somerset Career and Technical Center.

b. School Personnel – There were no school personnel who wished to speak.

c. Visitors

Several visitors spoke in opposition of the recommendation on masking for the start of the 2021-2022 school year, which will be discussed under Item 6e of the agenda.

A request was made by a community member to allow for public comment following the discussion on masking.

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin the Board voted to allow for public comments and questions following Item 6e of the agenda regarding the recommendation on masking for the start of the 2021-2022 school year. (665 yes)

5. Committee Reports

There were no minutes to report.

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 Sarah Bunker, seconded by Goff French, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one and two. (665 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of August 12, 2021, Canaan, Cornville, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current on their monthly assessment payments, with August assessments due on the 20th. Mercer was outstanding for a portion of June, July and August; Skowhegan was outstanding for July and August.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Superintendent shared that the State Board of Education approved to move forward with state building project at the Margaret Chase Smith School site. We will continue to move forward with the educational specs process that began this spring with meetings with all staff K-8 on the elementary building project.

d. Update on Federal Funds

There was a Public Hearing prior to the Board meeting to review and answer questions in regard to the August 31st referendum on the issuance of bonds or notes for School Construction and Minor Capital project purposes.

d. Discussion on the Opening of School and COVID-19 Requirements and Regulations

The Superintendent reviewed his recommendation on masking for the start of the 2021-22 school year, using data and guidance from Maine and federal CDC, to begin school having everyone mask, even those individuals who have been fully vaccinated and to review the decision monthly through the school year.

Following questions and comments by school board members and visitors, the following recommendation was made:

ON A MOTION BY Kathy Wilder, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted, BY ROLL CALL, to begin the 2021-2022 school year, having everyone mask, including those individuals who have been fully vaccinated, and to review the decision beginning the second meeting in October, and continuing monthly through the year. (473 yes, 192 no)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent reported summer school programs are wrapping up this week. 83 elementary students on average attended each day. The middle and high school had over 70 students. High school students recovered a total of 68.5 credits. SCTC's summer school programs were a success with 129 students participating. 22 high school students completed 30 early college credits.

The Support Services Manager reported that crews continue to prepare buildings for the start of school. There are five custodial positions and three driving positions open.

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 – Confidential Student Records *pursuant to MRSA §405(6)(F)*

ON A MOTION BY Kathy Wilder, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 8:40 pm to discuss confidential student records *pursuant to MRSA §405(6)(F)* (665 yes)

The Board returned to regular session at 9:02 pm.

11. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools