

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
June 20, 2024, 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 June 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Library.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (628 present, 318 absent, 53 vacancy):

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

*excused

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

There were no scheduled presentations.

3. Annual Reorganization Meeting

The Superintendent of Schools conducted the Election of a Board Chair.

a. Election of Chair

Jean Franklin nominated Lynda Quinn and Karyn Curran seconded the nomination.

There being no other nominations, the Superintendent declared the nominations closed. **Lynda Quinn was elected Chair of the Board.**

b. **Election of Vice Chair**

Jean Franklin nominated Amy Rouse and Sarah Bunker seconded the nomination.

Valerie Coulombe nominated Julian Payne, who respectfully declined the nomination.

There being no other nominations, the Chair declared the nominations closed. **Amy Rouse was elected Vice Chair of the Board.**

c. **Election of Finance Committee Chair**

Amy Rouse nominated Jean Franklin and Theresa Howard seconded the nomination.

There being no other nominations, the Chair declared the nominations closed. **Jean Franklin was elected Chair of the Finance Committee.**

d. **Election of Finance Committee**

ON A MOTION by Amy Rouse and seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to stay with the current members of the Finance Committee, Mark Bedard, Sarah Bunker and Lynda Quinn. (628 yes)

4. **Approval of the Minutes - 5/30/24**

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Samantha Delorie, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 5/30/24 into the record. (628 yes)

5. **Communications**

a. **Letters**

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

- Gage Currie, Grade 5 Teacher at Canaan Elementary School
- Jana Mitchell, Ed Tech at Skowhegan Area High School
- Rebecca Klinge, Ed Tech at Canaan Elementary School

Superintendent Moody shared a letter of request for a one-year unpaid leave of absence from Rebecca Hutchinson, Kindergarten Teacher at Canaan Elementary School and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence to Rebecca Hutchinson for the 2024-2025 school year. (628 yes)

b. School Personnel

There were no school personnel who wished to speak.

c. Visitors

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

6. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 5/30/24

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 5/30/24 into the public record. (628 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 Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the dispersal bidding of the two portables at Margaret Chase Smith School. (628 yes)

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Desiree Libby, the Board voted to accept the following donations:

- Canaan Elementary School has received a donation of \$500 from MHFCU for the Food Cupboard
- SCTC has received a donation of \$50,000 from The David J. Hannigan Foundation

- SAHS Class of 2024 project donation of \$1,200 from rec center collaborative event
- Mill Stream received a donation of \$8.10 from General Mills Box Top program
- The District received \$1,800 in donations for staff appreciation day (see attached list)

(628 yes)

7. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to approve nomination pages one through four. (628 yes)

With the next Board meeting not being until August 8th, the Superintendent requested the Board's authorization to offer contracts to qualified teachers and staff during the summer months so that the District would not face the possibility of losing good candidates between Board meetings.

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Valerie Coulombe, the Board voted to authorize the Superintendent to offer contracts to qualified teachers and staff during the summer months so that the District would not face the possibility of losing good candidates between Board meetings. (628 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of June 20, 2024, 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. Computation and Declaration of Votes for Budget Validation Referendum

The Superintendent shared the Computation and Declaration of Votes of the District Budget Validation Referendum held June 11, 2024. A total

of **1,030** affirmative and **608** negative votes were declared on Question 1, relating to the adoption of the District's 2024-2025 budget.

ON A MOTION BY Michael Lambke, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted that the Computation and Declaration of Votes dated June 11, 2024, and attached hereto be approved.

FURTHER VOTED that the Computation and Declaration of Votes be entered upon the records of RSU 54/MSAD 54.

FURTHER VOTED that a certified copy of the Computation and Declaration of Votes be sent to each of the Municipal Clerks within the District.

(628 yes)

Attested copy attached hereto.

Following the vote, the Board of Directors signed the Computation and Declaration of Votes.

d. Approval and Signing of Assessment Warrants

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Desiree Libby, the Board voted to approve and sign the Assessment Warrants for the District's six towns, as presented. (628 yes)

Following the vote, the Board of Directors signed Assessment Warrants.

e. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared that the project was moving along on schedule. He discussed setting up a board walkthrough in the summer and indicated that an email would go out after the July 4th holiday for a Board walkthrough later in July or early August. The Superintendent shared that the district, which received word that it was awarded a CDS Grant for just under 2 million dollars as part of a federal earmark, has not yet received the award information or been able to move forward with the process. Superintendent Moody also shared that the district will be working through the second round of Bonding for the project (Fall 2024) which will include both Local and state funded portions of the project.

f. Review/Update of Federal Projects

Federal projects are beginning to wind down and will cease by September, 2024. The Superintendent shared that the district has utilized federal covid relief funds to positively position the district for the future, including both direct supports for students (staffing, interventions, etc.) and longer term infrastructure (technology, building improvements, and other infrastructure). Finance Director, Melannie Keister, is working through the federal reimbursement process and will continue to do so through next fall.

g. Update on Schools and the End of Year

Superintendent Moody expressed his appreciation to the Board for participating in the various year-end events. Theresa Howard shared that she has received positive feedback on graduation. Peggy Lovejoy shared that the Marti Stevens Learning Center graduation was well attended, and Michelle Kelso shared what a nice event it was and that she spoke with each of the five graduates.

h. Other

Superintendent Moody shared and reviewed a draft calendar of meetings and budget schedule for 2024-2025.

Superintendent Moody shared that an MCI student who attends Somerset Career and Technical Center had tragically died in a car accident earlier this week.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch reviewed open positions. He reported that there are currently nine teaching and a number of ed tech openings that he will be working to fill over the summer.

The Support Services Manager shared that the tennis court project has started, with completion anticipated by August 15th.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business discussed.

9. Introduction of New Business

Julian Payne suggested that moving forward refreshments be available at Board meetings.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools