

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
January 18, 2024, 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 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (725 present, 274 absent):**

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

Bloomfield Elementary School Principal, Deidre Mitchell, and her grade one teaching staff, shared information on the newly piloted program – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade for ME. An adaptive curriculum integrating math, literacy, science and social studies. Emily Hartford, Allicia Hilton, Michelle Creps and Amber Labbe shared the many successes they have witnessed in their classrooms, as well as increased student NWEA scores in vocabulary and language.

3. Approval of the Minutes – 1/4/24

**ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Cheyenne Goodrich, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 1/4/24 into the record. (725 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Lori Farmer, Ed Tech I at Mill Stream Elementary School.

b. School Personnel

c. Visitors

A community member spoke with regards to flag etiquette at Skowhegan Area High School; and also noted his preference regarding a second SRO from the Somerset County Sheriff's Department.

5. Committee Reports

a. Support Services Committee – 1/4/24

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Mark Bedard, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 1/4/24 into the public record. (725 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 establishment of the Paul R. Lynch Memorial Scholarship. (725 yes)**

**ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to accept the following donations: School supplies and \$48.87 from United Way's Stuff the Bus Campaign; \$258 to North Elementary and \$285 to Mill Stream Elementary from Hannaford Helps School Program; and \$23.10 to Mill Stream Elementary from Box Tops for Education. (725 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 Michelle Taylor, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (725 yes)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of January 18, 2024, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield were current on their monthly assessments, with February due on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Canaan was also current on their monthly assessments, although there was an error on the summary sheet indicating they were outstanding for December and January (updated summary will be shared). Assessments are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared that the building project weathered the storm very well. Project is moving along at a good pace. Fly over videos are being updated on the website soon. Mr. Moody also shared good news regarding CDS funding which passed the senate. He is in hopes that this will dramatically reduce new school costs. Next meeting is Wednesday, 1/24 at 6pm in Skowhegan Area Middle School Library, at which time colors will be discussed.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Finance Director, Melannie Keister, continues to work on reimbursements for ARP grant funds which end on 9/28/24. Reimbursements for ESSER I and II were successful.

e. SRO Update

Superintendent Moody discussed the vision to have a second SRO at the elementary level. Mr. Moody had conversations with the school attorney, the Somerset County Sheriff, the Skowhegan Police Chief, and District Attorney prior to tonight's meeting. The town of Skowhegan has indicated that they will remove their support of the SRO program, a

program they have supported for over 20 years, if the district votes to add a second SRO from the Somerset County Sheriff's department.

Superintendent Moody suggested that it would hurt the district to lose the current SRO and stated that this partnership has been very successful from his perspective. It is the district's hope that both departments can work together to provide this coverage at the elementary level. Several clarifying questions regarding jurisdiction, training, availability and costs. Mr. Moody stated that an MOU would be in place outlining all parameters prior to the hiring process.

Following questions and comments, the Board voted on the following recommendation:

**ON A MOTION BY Julian Payne seconded by Daniel Frey, the Board voted to approve contract with Somerset County Sheriff's Department for an elementary SRO position. (566 yes, 159 no)**

f. Other

Superintendent Moody updated the Board on Student Serving on School Board. Mr. Moody, Mr. Hatch and Mr. Bellerose met with Senior, Carly McCabe, who has completed the Board adopted process, and has applied to be a student on the School Board. Carly came highly recommended from staff and has the support of both the building administrators and the Superintendent. Carly was present at tonight's meeting and expressed her gratitude as well as her eagerness to bring a student perspective to the School Board.

Following questions and comments, the Board voted on the following recommendation:

**ON A MOTION BY Amy Rouse, seconded by Michael Lambke, the Board voted to approve Student Serving on School Board. (615 yes, 110 no)**

Carly McCabe will officially be joining the Board at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The January 16<sup>th</sup> Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting has been moved to February 27<sup>th</sup>.

The February Board meeting has been adjusted to February 8<sup>th</sup>.

An updated Board calendar with budget timeline will be shared with the Board before our next meeting.

Superintendent Moody anticipates having an update regarding negotiations for the Board at its next meeting.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch shared that the district is in its third year of K for ME implementation, which directly impacts the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade for ME curriculum presented this evening. Mr. Lambke inquired about music development (rhythm, tone, etc) and whether that was integrated as well. Mr. Hatch confirmed that the district now offers music at the Pre-K level.

Mr. Moody shared that after speaking with staff, the focus on professional development has been positive and he has asked Mr. Hatch and the PD committee to expand offerings tailored to educational technicians.

Support Services Manager David Leavitt updated the Board on storm recovery. Buses are running and three of the nine vans thus far have been totaled. He is working with insurance adjusters to assess the damages from the December storm. Mr. Leavitt discussed the new alert systems in place; the district is now a part of both the Brookfield Alert System as well as County EMS and Kennebec Flow.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Julian Payne acknowledged and thanked Mr. Moody for his tireless efforts in bringing the second SRO to fruition.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business.

10. Executive Session Negotiations pursuant to Title I RSA 405(6)(A)

**ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Daniel Frey, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 8:08pm to discuss negotiations pursuant to Title I RSA 405(6)(A). (725 yes)**

The Board returned to regular session at 8:25pm.

Following the executive session the board discussed questions regarding board voting practices with respect to previous board decisions.

11. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools