

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
November 2, 2023, 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 November 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (887 present, 112 absent):**

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

Skowhegan Area High School Principal, Jason Bellerose, introduced Michael Jones, Wood Working Instructor/Civil Rights Advisor, to the Board. Mr. Jones, along with students, presented on the Story Walk Project, which was done in collaboration with JMG, Somerset Public Health and Lake George Corporation. Students shared the process of building the sign boards for the trails in Madison and at Lake George. Students came together building their problem-solving skills, forming relationships and giving back

to the community. Discussions are ongoing with Somerset Public Health for future story walk trails.

3. Approval of the Minutes – 10/19/23

**ON A MOTION BY Samantha Delorie, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 10/19/23 into the record. (887 yes)**

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Blanche Lyons, Bus Driver.

b. School Personnel

There were no school personnel who wished to speak.

c. Visitors

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 10/19/23

**ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 10/19/23 into the public record. (887 yes)**

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

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

**ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Jean Franklin, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (887 yes)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of November 2, 2023, Canaan, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current on their monthly assessments. Cornville and Skowhegan were outstanding for October and November. Assessments are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Building Committee met on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Doug Breer, Carl Cook and Greg Bouchard, Clerk of the Works presented to the Committee, and shared all the components of the process. The next meeting of the Building Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and color pallets will be discussed. A YouTube video of the flyovers at the construction has been uploaded to the District's website.

Superintendent Moody reported that the CDS funding process has passed the Senate, and next goes to the House for approval. The district is working with our attorney to better understand the federal CDS process.

A Board walkthrough of the construction site will be coordinated for those interested in a tour.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

The Finance Director and staff continue working hard with federal compliance documentation to submit for reimbursements.

e. SRO Update

Superintendent Moody shared that due to last week's Lewiston shootings, he has no new information to share on the SRO process. He did share how impressed and grateful he is for the relationship he has with our local law enforcement. Both the Sheriff and Police Chief communicated with him immediately following the Lewiston shootings and followed up independently, and provided consistent guidance on how to approach school that Thursday and Friday. The district chose to close school and

used that time Friday to meet with staff, get their thoughts, and provide supports for the return to school on Monday (10/30).

f. Update on Schools and School Closures, Consideration of Waiver of Days (10/26 and 10/27)

Superintendent Moody requested the Board's approval to send a letter to the Commissioner of Education requesting a two-day waiver of student days for the 2023-2024 school year for October 26 and October 27.

**ON A MOTION BY Peggy Lovejoy, seconded by Michelle Taylor, the Board voted to support sending a letter to the Department of Education requesting a waiver of the instructional day requirements for students for the 2023-2024 school year due to the October 25 mass shooting, resulting in a two-day school cancellation on October 26 and 27, 2023. (887 yes)**

g. MSBA Delegate Assembly/MSMA Fall Conference (Sharing)

Board member Julian Payne attended the MSBA Delegate Assembly as our representing Delegate and updated the Board on the proposed resolutions reviewed and voted on, including a somewhat controversial proposed new resolution to support Non-Partisan School Board Members, which passed.

Board member Karyn Curran shared information from the MSMA Fall Conference, including one clinic of interest on Substance Abuse Education, presented by two recovering young adults that started drug use in their early teens. They visit schools and talk to students about substance abuse. Superintendent Moody shared that Danielle Denis from Somerset Public Health, through a Drug-Free Community Grant, works exclusively with MSAD 54. November workshop day includes Narcan training for all staff. Mr. Hatch added that intervention options for students are being discussed with one of our new clinical counselors who is a certified substance abuse counselor.

h. Other

Superintendent Moody shared that district school counselors offered to provide support for the Lewiston School District and neighboring

districts following the shootings; district counselors cleared their schedules to be assessable but as of the meeting, were not needed as a result of what he believed was an outpouring of support from districts across the state.

The District Crisis Plan was reviewed and updated over the course of last year and this summer and will be presented to EPPC.

Staff would like to have active shooter training, which will be discussed with law enforcement regarding options.

Move More Kids is working with students utilizing Fit Kits, which will include collecting data through surveys and as is district practice, individual student data will be deidentified.

Friday is the state Day of Welcome, which is run by the Maine Attorney General's office and school civil rights teams. The day, which supports the district's vision that *everyone comes to school feeling safe, welcome and respected for who they are*, has been observed in age-appropriate ways throughout the district.

Superintendent Moody was acknowledged as Maine's Superintendent of the Year, an award he received at the Annual Superintendents meeting last week. During his address he highlighted how sincerely lucky he is to be in MSAD 54 with the amazing staff and community we have. Mr. Moody thanked the Board for its support.

Superintendent Moody shared a copy of the Superintendent's Professional Assessment Survey, which is an online survey for board members to complete.

#### 7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch shared a copy of the press release on the Superintendent of the Year award.

A reminder that the school board walkthrough schedule has been shared for board members to sign up for scheduled walkthroughs at each school throughout the remainder of the school year.

Support Services Manager David Leavitt shared that start up is scheduled next week for HVAC system and installation of hoods at Canaan Elementary School. Extension on the baseball field fence was done today.

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 8:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools