

**RSU 54/MSAD 54**

**Meeting of Board of Directors  
April 1, 2021, 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 April 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Cafeteria.

**ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (900 present, 99 absent):**

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) – PRESENT                      Derek Ellis\* (Skow-53) ABSENT  
Harold Bigelow (Skow-53) PRESENT                      Kathy Wilder\* (Norr-46) ABSENT  
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT  
Maryellen Charles (Mercer-16) PRESENT  
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT  
Annemarie Dubois (Skow-53) PRESENT  
Haley Fleming (Norr-46) PRESENT  
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT  
Goff French (Smith-27) PRESENT  
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT  
Christy Johnson (Smith-27) PRESENT  
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT  
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT  
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT BY REMOTE  
Brandy Morgan (Norr-46) PRESENT  
Jennifer Poirier (Skow-53) PRESENT  
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT  
Dixie Ring (Canaan-43) PRESENT BY REMOTE  
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT  
Gary Sinclair (Corn-30) PRESENT  
Karen Smith (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

High School Principal Bruce Mochamer introduced Band Director Jennifer Fortin. Jennifer shared some of the great things happening in the music department, even during the pandemic. Band students presented a guitar arrangement of *America the Beautiful*. This was their first public

performance in front of an audience in 484 days. The Board congratulated the ensemble for their tremendous performance.

3. Approval of the Minutes

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Jean Franklin, to approve the minutes of the following minutes:**

- Board meeting of 3/25/21
- Personnel Committee meeting of 3/25/21 (Item 5a)

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (900 YES)**

4. Communications

- a. Letters - There were no letters to share.
- 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 – 3/25/21

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

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

The Superintendent reviewed vacancies and recommended the Board's approval of page one the nominations.

**ON A MOTION BY Amy Rouse, seconded by Jennifer Poirier, the Board voted to approve nominations page one.**

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (900 yes)**

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

The Superintendent shared that as of April 1, 2021, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) paid their March assessments. Monthly assessment payments are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

The Superintendent reported that the Building Committee is scheduled to meet on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Ongoing meetings have been held with the town to review the land acquisition (land transfer option).

d. Update on Schools/Extra and Co-Curriculars/COVID-19

One of the projects we will be submitting for new federal money includes the ability for staff to be compensated for additional work time for planning for interventions or direct work with student outside of their school hours as a result of COVID-19.

A proposal to adjust the last day of school is being reviewed by the Education Association and will be brought to the Board for approval at its next meeting. This proposal includes moving a workshop day to next year to allow additional planning time prior to the start of the 2021-22 school year. With 20% of federal dollars needing to be targeted to learning loss, teachers will be given the opportunity to work additional days at the end of the school year, to focus on creating opportunities for students throughout summer school and next year to plan around learning loss.

Discussions are taking place with the Alford Center for potential before and after care at Canaan and Mill Stream schools, to provide students with extra help and provide parents flexibility of picking up later in the day. Skowhegan Area Schools currently have access to the 21<sup>st</sup> century after-school program as part of the District 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant.

e. FY22 Status Quo Draft Budget

In regard to the FY22 draft budget, we are still waiting on health insurance, workers' comp rates and negotiated salaries for 2021-2022.

The District was granted 10.3M in the next round of federal funding (ESSER III), with a lot of stipulations including a maintenance and effort and maintenance of equity clauses. These clauses will not allow the District to spend less money than we did in FY20. These limitations will not allow spending to decrease local taxes or to supplant any items currently in the budget. The District will continue to focus on high impact areas including spending money on approved items that will avoid future costs, and on staffing to support students. Superintendents around the State will be meeting tomorrow on both the national legislation and state side regarding the implications of spending in various categories.

In an effort to update the District's network, utilizing federal funds, the Board voted on the following recommendation to solicit bids for network upgrade:

**ON A MOTION BY Goff French, seconded by Cynthia Johnson, the Board voted to authorize the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager, acting singly, to solicit bids or proposals to upgrade the District's network, and to award, negotiate, and execute a contract with the successful bidder in the best interest of the District.**

**The MOTION PASSED with all members present voting YES by ROLL CALL. (900 yes)**

f. Other

The Superintendent shared his testimonial on LD838, which addresses the language on the Earned Paid Leave law. The bill exempts substitute teachers, other substitute employees, coaches and temporary employees in school systems from being covered by the law that requires employers to offer earned paid leave to employees.

i. Enrollment Report

Enrollment as of 4/1/21 was 2,241 (last report – 2,246)

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent shared the following:

- There is a professional development link on the District's website with resources for all staff to utilize.

- The State has moved to a new state assessment; the Maine Educational Assessment this year will be the NWEA assessment, which will result in instantaneous data versus waiting nearly six months.
- The internet pathway that leads our District will be widened from 1GB to 10GB and should benefit the district long-term.
- Kindergarten registration dates and communications are being finalized and once completed, an informational flyer will be mailed to all homes in the District.

The Support Services Manager shared that ESSER project planning and construction project planning continue.

Staff is preparing for tomorrow's delivery of meals, which will include meals for the next three days as well as April vacation.

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. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools