

**Meeting of Board of Directors
April 3, 2025, 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 April 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (956 present, 43 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Daniel Frey (Smith-27) PRESENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Valerie Coulombe (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Karyn Curran (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Becky Eldridge (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Lauren Fox (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Tanya Groce (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Samantha Hilton (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Michelle Kelso (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	*Excused
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lisa Sironen (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michelle Taylor (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Timothy Williams (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Wayne Wofford (Corn-30) PRESENT	

Olivia Huff (Student Rep) PRESENT

1. Call to Order
 - a. Flag Salute – 7:00pm
2. Good News and Recognitions

The scheduled presentation was postponed due to the weather.

Chair Quinn introduced and welcomed Lisa Sironen (Canaan) to the Board.

3. Approval of Minutes – 3/20/25

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of 3/20/25 into the public record. (972 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted the following letters of resignation:

- Mercedes Towle, Ed Tech at Bloomfield Elementary School
- Jessica Dutterer, Ed Tech at Mill Stream Elementary School
- Paige Dutterer, Grade 5 Teacher at Canaan Elementary School, effective June 2025.

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. Support Services Committee – 3/20/25

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 3/20/25 into the public record. (972 yes)

Jean Franklin, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

b. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 3/18/25 and 3/25/25

ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Michelle Taylor, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting into the public record. (972 yes)

Karyn Curran, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (972 yes)

b. Report on Assessment Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of April 3, 2025, all six towns (Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield) were current on their monthly assessment payments, with April due on the 20th.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody updated the Board that we remain ahead of schedule on the building project. The next Building Committee meeting will be held at the new school at 5pm on April 30th. There will be a tour of the new building with the meeting to be held in one of the classrooms.

Assistant Superintendent Hatch reported on the Maine Bond Bank's recent tour of the new school.

The sale value of the bus garage site came in at \$100,000, resulting in over 1 million dollars going back to the State.

June 15th is the date for substantial completion of the building itself with the whole project wrapping up in early fall.

d. Update on Funding of Public Schools

Several meeting and most recent information from the State are that federal funds for FY26 are safe (Title funds and federally awarded grants that impact students) as congress had previously allocated those funds. Federal programs that have been cut that have had a negative impact on students/community include the local foods program, which impacts our local farmers, and 1st Ten Community Schools Grant, which focuses on connecting schools to the community.

The Superintendents Association voted to support LD1337, which is a bill that would change the Human Rights Act to comply with the Federal Title IX regulations.

e. Status Quo Budget

Superintendent Moody acknowledged the Board's hard work to have a responsible budget. The Board has taken a long-term approach to budgeting which has resulted in the district right-sizing over time to limit the impact to local property taxpayers.

The Superintendent shared that the initial FY26 draft budget has been reduced by 1.243 Million, bringing the overall budget to 5.053%, and the local impact is \$304,539, or a +1.891% average local impact. This Draft budget does not include a health insurance increase, which is expected next week. Superintendent Moody shared that he and the administrative team are working to consider additional budget cuts (positional) in anticipation of a health insurance increase. The Superintendent shared that he has had conversations with townspeople regarding the Board's cost sharing formula and suggested that it may be time to go through a process to review that formula as there may be adjustments that could reduce the fluctuations that have recently resulted from the district's current cost sharing 100%, which is 100% valuation.

There will be a Budget Workshop for the full Board on April 15th (in place of EPPC meeting), at 6pm in the High School Library. The Board will hold their regular meeting on April 17th at 7pm in the Middle School Cafeteria.

Superintendent Moody shared that as part of the district's effort to reduce costs, discussions continue with Madison on the possibility of merging high schools. The consolidation would offer benefits to students and likely reduce the budget long term.

f. Other

The Outdoor Leadership Program at SCTC will have their annual trip to the Adventure Center. Additional information will be shared at the next meeting on the 20th, and will require the Board's approval.

As one of the fastest growing Tech Centers in the State, SCTC is working to expand the CDL Program by requesting a federal earmark from Senators Collins and King.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent reported on the following:

- Annual Special Olympics Spring Track and Field Event will be held on May 14th
- The Annual International Potluck Dinner is scheduled for May 5th at Bloomfield Elementary School
- Jason Bellerose, High School Principal, shared that the NEASC Accreditation Visiting Team was here for three days for their final review. The team interviewed several students and staff members. Jason also shared that in partnership with the Law Offices of Joe Bornstein there are “Arrive Alive” Art Exhibits on display. On April 30th Freshmen will participate in a community service day; Sophomores will be job shadowing local businesses; Juniors will be on college tours; and Seniors will be working on graduation art exhibits.

Support Services Manager David Leavitt shared that he has locked in on heating oil and diesel. The grant is on hold for two new buses.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old and unfinished business.

9. Introduction of New Business not listed on the Agenda

There was no introduction of new business listed on the agenda.

10. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools