

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
May 4, 2023, 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 May 4, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Library.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (572 present, 374 absent, 53 vacancy):

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

Somerset Career and Technical Center’s Outdoor Leadership Instructor, Soren Siren and Kristie LeBlanc, Assistant Director of Somerset Public Health, presented on the Move More Kids (MMK) Program, funded by New Balance Foundation. Senior students from the Outdoor Leadership Program shared an overview of their partnership with the MMK Program and various activities, including parent engagement nights for students. This year’s senior project includes white water raft guide training. MMK also funded wilderness first aid certification for students. The senior students had the opportunity to be involved in MMK scholarship committee for the process of two awarding two \$500 scholarships.

3. Approval of the Minutes - 4/13/23

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Samantha Delorie, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of 4/13/23 into the record. (572 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Shannon Quint, Transportation Assistant/Dispatcher, effective May 2023.

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Alicia Boulette, Skowhegan School Board Director.

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

There were no committee reports

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 Janet Burrill, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (572 yes)

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Janet Burrill, the Board voted to approve nomination of 2nd Year Probationary and 1st Year Continuing Contract (3rd Year) Teachers. (572 yes)

b. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of May 4, 2023, 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. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared that 26 contractors and sub-contractors walked the new elementary school site. Bids for contractors will be opened on May 18th and bids for sub-contractors on June 10th. We anticipate breaking ground on the project by July.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

In accordance with federal regulations, Superintendent Moody shared and the Board reviewed the MSAD 54's Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service (2020-2023).

e. Review of FY24 Budget and Approval and Signing of Warrants for District Budget Meeting, Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted

Superintendent Moody reviewed the adjusted FY24 budget which includes \$1,532,470 for State anticipated new school debt service interest payment. The total FY24 budget is \$41,840,472 or 7.536% increase, with the local portion being \$15,492,419 or 5.57% increase from FY23. Approximately 3.938% of the overall total increase is a result of state funding for CTE (\$337,208.52) and for the first interest only bond payment for the new elementary school (\$1,532,470). The Superintendent noted that without this state funding the overall budget would be up just 2.731% but that a reduction in state funding would not decrease the local property tax burden, which has increased as a result of increased valuations and decreased state funding for poverty. Superintendent asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Michael Lambke, seconded by Desiree Libby, the Board voted to accept the amended budget as presented. (572 yes)

Superintendent Moody recommended the Board's approval of the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Budget Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted.

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Desiree Libby, the Board voted to approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Budget Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted. (572 yes)

f. Update on Schools

Superintendent Moody shared that the District has been awarded a \$140,000 Pre-K expansion grant by the state.

Superintendent Moody and Jason Bellerose, SAHS Asst. Principal, toured the Bulldog Health Center at Lawrence High School, which is fully funded through Health Reach Community Health Centers, a non-profit organization. The Educational Policy/Program Committee will review a proposal to implement a health center at the high school.

g. Other

Enrollment Report for 5/4/23 was shared – 2,257 (2,262 last report).

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch shared that the hiring process continues with 22 ed tech and 7 teacher open positions for the 2023-2024 school year. Initial interviews for elementary principal and high school principal have taken place. The Personnel Committee will interview finalists on May 15th.

The Support Services Manager shared that projects are going well.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Chair Quinn encouraged Board members to attend their town's upcoming selectboard meetings in which Superintendent Moody will review of the FY24 proposed budget.

9. Introduction of New Business

There was no introduction of new business.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools