

RSU 54/MSAD 54

**Meeting of Board of Directors
November 16, 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 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (790 present, 209 absent):

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

The Chair stated for the record on behalf of MSAD 54 School Board stands in support of Lewiston.

2. Good News and Recognitions

The Education Association wished Superintendent Moody a happy birthday and shared cupcakes with the Board.

North Elementary School Assistant Principal, Erin Madore, and Teacher Caryl Estabrook shared information on Fire Prevention Week and introduced “Firefighter Rick” to the Board. Captain Rick Caldwell, a/k/a Firefighter Rick, who was a former teacher, left teaching to pursue his passion of being a firefighter and has been with the Skowhegan Fire Department for over 28 years. Firefighter Rick has been visiting our schools for 26 years teaching students fire safety and prevention.

3. Approval of the Minutes – 11/2/23

ON A MOTION BY Samantha Delorie, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors’ meeting of 11/2/23 into the record. (790 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter resignation from Melanie Crouse, Enrichment Resources Teacher.

Superintendent Moody acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Reagan Gourley, Title I Ed Tech II at North Elementary School.

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. Building Committee – 11/1/23

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Karyn Curran, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Building Committee meeting of 11/1/23 into the public record. (790 yes)

Superintendent Moody reviewed the minutes. The next meeting of the Building Committee is scheduled for January 3rd.

b. Support Services Committee – 11/2/23

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Michelle Taylor, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Support Services Committee meeting of 11/2/23 into the public record. (790 yes)

Jean Franklin, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Janet Burrill, the Board voted to approve the donations listed in the Support Services Committee meeting minutes of 11/2/23. (790 yes)

c. Educational Policy/Program Committee – 11/14/23

ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Educational Policy/Program Committee meeting of 11/14/23 into the public record. (790 yes)

Karyn Curran, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes and asked the Board to vote on the following recommendation:

ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to support the District Emergency Operations Plan as presented. (790 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 Michael Lambke, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (790 yes)

d. Report on Assessments Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of November 16, 2023, Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current on their

monthly assessments. Skowhegan w outstanding for October and November. Assessments are due on the 20th of each month.

e. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Greg Bouchard, Clerk of the Works, has done an outstanding job and is involved in all aspects of the construction project. Color pallets and color schemes are expected to be reviewed at the next Building Committee on January 3rd.

d. Review/Update of Federal Projects/Federal Funds

Revisions have been made to ESSER II grants to meet federal compliance rules, which were interpreted differently, and the resubmission has been approved. ARP finances are being reviewed and will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

In regard to the Recreation Department's baseball field project, it was voted at the recent Skowhegan Selectboard meeting, to move forward with a grass baseball field. Superintendent Moody has spoken with Rec Dept. Director Denise LeBlanc about access to the high School parking lot to the baseball field.

e. SRO Update

Superintendent Moody updated the Board on the status of the School Resource Officer. Following discussions with various individuals and review of options, the only option seems to be to move forward with the Sheriff's Department. Additional information will be shared at a future Board meeting.

f. Other

Superintendent Moody provided the updated MSAD 54's Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (2020-2024) and asked the Board to approve the plan as presented with amendment.

ON A MOTION BY Julian Payne, seconded by Michelle Taylor, the Board voted to approve the presented MSAD 54's Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (2020-2024) as amended. (790 yes)

Superintendent Moody acknowledged a letter that was received from Deputy Commissioner of Education approving a waiver of two instructional days due to school closure following the October 25th Lewiston mass shooting.

Superintendent Moody referred to the ASPIRE River Hawks newsletter shared with the Board.

Board members were reminded to complete the Superintendent's Professional Assessment Survey. A Board member suggested the possibility to review options of a 360 Evaluation process for next year's review.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch shared that teacher workshop days are scheduled for next week. Focus will be on various mandatory trainings, including mandatory reporting training on how to identify neglect and abuse, as well as suicide prevention training.

The Crisis Plan has been reviewed at the building administrator level and by the local police department.

Support Services Manager David Leavitt shared that Board site tours will be scheduled for noon time on November 27, 28 or 30. Board members should let Tina know which day they will attend to insure we have enough safety gear for all.

The Canaan project is wrapping up with generator start up training and hood training next week.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Board member Michelle Kelso asked how the REACH Open House went. Those that attended gave positive feedback about the event. Michelle also commented on the use of gender pronouns in closing of emails/letters.

9. Introduction of New Business

Board member Jeannie Conley asked about negotiations and Superintendent Moody shared that a tentative agreement has been reached and following

adjustments to language proposals, an executive session will be held to review the contract proposal with the Board.

Chair Quinn shared that the weekend performances of the High School Play Lucky Stiff is playing this weekend.

Board member Julian Payne wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

10. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools