

REVISED PER THE AUGUST 8, 2006 BOARD MEETING.

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

July 11, 2006 – 5:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

Present: Nedra Bellows Bonnie-Jean Brooks Tom Calderwood
Robert Danks Harold Grove (5:37 PM) Bradley Jones
Veronica Magnan Twyler Webster

Absent: Christopher Krause (ex.)

Visitors: 17

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Bonnie-Jean Brooks called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Twyler Webster to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation, pending or contemplated, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (E).

VOTE: 7-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 5:37 P.M. and resumed public session at 6:31 P.M. A motion was made by Bob Danks and seconded by Veronica Magnan to authorized the appeal of a special education due process hearing decision.

VOTE: 8-0-0

1A. **CALL TO ORDER.** The regular Board of Directors meeting began at 6:37 P.M. New Board member Bradley Jones from Searsport was introduced to members of the administrative team and other Board members.

A. Election of Board Officers

1. Chair. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Twyler Webster to nominate Bonnie-Jean Brooks as Chairperson. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Nedra Bellows to nominate Bob Danks as Chairperson. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Harold Grove to cease nominations.

VOTE: 3-3-2 (Brooks, Danks)

A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Nedra Bellows to have a re-vote.

VOTE: 8-0-0

The Board re-voted on the original motions.

VOTE: 3-3-2 (Brooks, Danks)

The superintendent suggested that the next vote be conducted by secret ballot. The Board agreed to a secret ballot.

VOTE: 5-2-1

Bob Danks was elected as Chairperson of the MSAD #56 Board of Directors. The superintendent thanked Bonnie-Jean Brooks for her many years of service as the Chairperson of the Board.

2. Vice Chair. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Nedra Bellows to nominate Harold Grove as Vice-Chairperson.

VOTE: 7-0-1 (Grove)

3. Finance Committee. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Veronica Magnan to elect Nedra Bellows to the Finance Committee.

VOTE: 7-0-1 (Bellows)

4. Standing Committees. Board members gave their preference sheets to Bob Danks.
5. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to elect Veronica Magnan as the representative to the Waldo County Technical Center Board.

VOTE: 8-0-0

6. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Harold Grove to appoint Norris Staples as the at-large representative to the Waldo County Technical Center Board for a three-year term.

VOTE: 8-0-0

2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** The following items were added to the agenda: approval of the June 14, 2006 Board minutes, under New Business, B, 6 – add half-time Gifted and Talented coordinator to Emily Morris’s position, 9,F – Field trip approval.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Veronica Magnan to approve June 14, 2006 Board minutes as corrected for not being on the agenda.

VOTE: 7-0-1 (Jones)

4. **PRESENTATIONS.**

- A. Proposed bus changes. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Harold Grove to have the presentation and then have community members ask questions.

VOTE: 8-0-0

The superintendent reported on the process used for tonight’s presentation. Based on community input and the Board of Directors, the superintendent and the Director of Transportation were asked to identify the most efficient bus runs/routes, to eliminate overlapping of bus runs, and to enforce student behavior and compliance with bus rules and procedures. The issue of contracted bus services was put to rest once and for all. The presentation will address changes in policy EEA, overlapping of bus routes, common stops, and dead-end roads/private roads.

Policy EEA – change to ½ mile for Grades 1-5 and 1 mile for grades 6-12. Hazardous walking conditions shall be defined as those which would place a child of a given age in a situation of greater than normal or average danger. Thus there will be no walking to school at Frankfort. However, there are places at Stockton Springs where students could walk. There may be a grant for sidewalks at Stockton Springs Elementary School.

Peter Garcelon identified specific areas where students may walk in Searsport, from the Mobil gas station, down Trundy and Navy streets, to the other side of the Bayview Boarding home with side streets. It is not safe above the high school on Mortland Road because it is too slippery in winter. The speed limit in town is 25 MPH. Crosswalks are being painted now.

We could use two custodians for crossing guards, one regular, and one backup, both to be trained. They would wear vests and carry signs. In Stockton Springs, Church St. has no sidewalks. They are pursuing grants for these, and could use crossing guards. It is not safe for grades 1 and 2 – the Board must decide. A Board member asked if the sidewalks in Searsport would be kept clean during the winter and snowy weather.

Overlapping routes

The superintendent reported we (the district) need to enforce our own policies. Students who cannot behave and are removed from the bus will not be transported by another bus. The only person who will authorize changes in transportation is the Director of Transportation, not the bus drivers nor the parents going directly to the bus drivers. Anytime the superintendent grants permission for one year for a student to attend another school within the district, transportation must be provided by the parents/guardians.

Peter Garcelon shared some specifics. In the four-year-old program, currently 3 bus drivers do one hour each for a total of 3 hours to pick up and deliver students. In the future, for 2006-07, we are proposing using 2 bus drivers who will deliver students home in the morning and pick up afternoon students on the return trip, doing the complete route once, not twice.

With the Monroe Road in Frankfort, there are families with students in grades 3-5. If the Board changed the lines and sent these students to Frankfort, not Searsport Elementary School, it would eliminate overlapping of busing. The superintendent will not support moving fifth graders to Frankfort at this time. Some options considered are:

1. For 2006-07, drop 5th grade students off at the fire station – we pick up and transport to SES.
2. The 2 fifth graders stay, and keep one 4th grader at SES, other 4th graders to Frankfort.
3. Drop 6 students at the fire station and allow these students to continue to attend SES, but for any new family automatically go to FES.

Common Stops

The superintendent reported that the policy states “Authorized bus stops will be located so as to load and unload students with the most safety allowed by road conditions. The distance between stops may vary according to safety factors. If possible, students will be loaded and unloaded so that it is not necessary for them to cross a main highway to reach their homes.”

The superintendent is looking at common pickups and drop offs, rather than house to house. In Frankfort, there are no safe roads to have common drop-offs and pickups. In Searsport there are places where we can do this safely and be more efficient.

In Frankfort, on the White Orchard Road, students walk to the end of the road in order to be picked up. The parents are willing to continue this.

Peter Garcelon went through a list of roads and where we could have common stops and pickups, depending on safety issues and where children are located. He had several handouts which will be included in the Official Minutes Books at Central Office. Everyone will be picked up on Routes 1 and 1A. No elementary students will cross Route 1.

Community members were invited to express their opinions.

- Darin Hersom expressed concern that families may be separated in different schools. He does not like the walking policy. Changes in bus routes need to be made – use the people here for input. Make no hasty decisions.
- Norma Seekins expressed concern about elementary children walking to school in today's society, especially when parents are working. There is limited daycare in this county. She questioned the safety of Searsport children standing by the road. She has no concerns for grades 6 –12.
- We would save 750 gallons of fuel on both the elementary and middle/high school runs, for a total savings of 1500 gallons.
- Ron Cook said that the policy was changed 23 years ago, after a concern about pedophiles. We need the sidewalks cleaned up. We need equipment, but we need someone to operate the equipment. Over \$300,000 in reimbursements are coming in. This is a poor place to save money. The state does not reimburse for extra trips. We picked up kids right here. When I couldn't find a parent at home, I kept the kids safe at home.
- Carolyn Hersom said it is a safety issue, that there are people out there who could hurt children.
- Mr. Hersom said common stops need a shelter and plenty of parking where the bus may be running 15-20 minutes late.
- Mrs. Greenier talked about slippery roads and fast moving traffic in Stockton Springs. The number of dump trucks on the Muskrat Road is a concern – they go on the sides of the road.
- Mr. Greenier is concerned with the responsibility if a child is hurt and/or taken. The law says there is a protective zone around schools, not with houses. He is concerned with child molesters and other safety issues.
- Peter Garcelon said we cover 27 miles using 4.5 gallons of fuel. We use 810 gallons/year on the elementary runs and 780 gallons/year on the high school runs.
- In response to a question about sex offenders, the superintendent responded that there are sex offenders in all three towns
- There was concern with students being hit or molested or taken.
- Three or more years ago a child was dragged by a truck.
- In response to a question about special education students, the superintendent said that yes, they are handled differently.
- Donald Gallant said we should cut down on overlapping runs, misbehaving students should not be allowed on the bus, and there should be no crossing of Route #1.
- Instead of high school students walking to school, can we have a common stopping area?
- Encourage parents to have students group together in certain areas. Veronica Magnan said she would be willing to watch students at her stop.

A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Bradley Jones that the recent decision on policy EEA be revisited and examined again. Discussion followed.

VOTE: 6-2-0 (Bellows, Danks)

Policy EEA will go back to the Policy Committee for review.

The superintendent stated that after she meets with Bob Danks, the new Chairperson, tomorrow, she would set up a meeting for the Policy and Transportation committees, prior to the next Board meeting in July.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

6. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

- A. The superintendent will ask for all parents to give us both a mailing address and the 911 road name (physical location) so we can best map out drop-offs and pickups for buses.
- B. The superintendent shared that the Maksin Group will provide Student Accident Insurance.
- C. Administrator reports. There were no questions on these.
- D. Updates on curriculum, instruction, and assessments. Due to tonight's input session, all of these updates and the latest information from the state will be presented at the next July Board meeting.
- E. Other

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Finance Committee. Minutes are in the Board folders.
- B. Transportation Committee. Nedra Bellows reported that the committee did a lot of work, as shown tonight.
- C. Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee met yesterday and discussed the roofing project. There may be a possible donation of a bullpen and batting cages for the high school fields.
- D. Policy Committee. The committee met and approved policies for a first reading – they will be on the agenda for the July 25, 2006 meeting. There are two policies on the agenda tonight for second readings.
- E. Region Seven. Veronica Magnan shared that at the last meeting, there were reports of end of year wrap up activities, and talk of budgets. More students need to be sent to the Technical Center. One sending town is discouraging students from attending.
- F. Personnel Committee. Did not meet due to the executive session tonight.
- G. Curriculum Steering Committee. Will meet on July 20, 2006 with a new committee. They will be looking at new textbooks, the social studies curriculum, and the math curriculum.
- H. Legislative Report. The superintendent told Board members to read the latest legislation report in their folders, especially LD 1968, Page 11, section F.

8. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- A. Second readings of the following policies:
 - 1. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to approve IKFBA, Baccalaureate, for its second reading.
VOTE: 8-0-0
 - 2. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Nedra Bellows to approve JL, Student Wellness, for its second reading.
VOTE: 8-0-0

9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. Consideration of increasing the adult lunch price from \$3.00 to \$3.40 and the middle/high school lunch price from \$1.75 to \$2.00. The Board asked why no increase was requested in elementary lunch prices, currently at \$1.50. Agnes

Nelson, Food Service Director, explained that elementary participation is down and she wants to encourage more participation. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Veronica Magnan to increase the adult lunch price from \$3.00 to \$3.40 and the middle/high school lunch price from \$1.75 to \$2.00, with no change in the elementary price.

VOTE: 8-0-0

B. Appointments, nominations, etc.:

1. Resignation of Henry Malo, custodian at Frankfort Elementary School.
2. Resignation of Kim Carey, multiage teacher.
3. Resignation of Kathy Harrison, second grade teacher.
4. Transfer of Ann Marshall, Special Services Educational Technician, to the Library/Media Educational Technician position.
5. Appointment of Donald Richards as a custodian.
6. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to approve the nomination of Emily Morris to a first year probationary contract as a half-time art teacher at the Searsport District Middle School and a half time Gifted and Talented Coordinator.

VOTE: 8-0-0

7. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to approve the nomination of Joshua Toothaker as the Middle School science teacher.

VOTE: 8-0-0

C. Consideration of accepting bids for diesel, propane and snowplowing. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Twyler Webster to accept the bid of R.H. Foster at \$1.659 for propane.

VOTE: 8-0-0

A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to accept a diesel bid at \$.10762 over rack price of \$2.2746 and a gasoline bid of \$.11452 over \$2.206 from R.H. Foster.

VOTE: 8-0-0

The Director of Maintenance was asked to speak with the owner of Kinney's Construction regarding an employee issue. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to accept the bid of Kinney's Construction for a two-year contract for snowplowing at a cost of \$63,585.80.

VOTE: 7-0-1 (Calderwood)

The superintendent said that there will be certain conditions set in each bid's description.

D. Consideration of approval of a lease/purchase of a pickup truck. Peter Garcelon, Director of Transportation discussed the condition of the vehicles, and the prices of a used vehicle vs. a leased new truck over three years. We put on 7000 miles/year. It makes more economical sense to lease/purchase a new vehicle. There was discussion. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to lease/purchase a truck at a cost up to \$20,000.

VOTE: 8-0-0

E. Consideration of approval of photocopier upgrades. Brian MacFarland, Business Manager, explained that we analyze our photocopiers every five years. We used Specialized Purchasing Services to get us the best deal. We are trading in units and replacing them with digital units that are less expensive to run. They will interface and network, thus reducing the number of printers needed. We will be printing handbooks inhouse, rather than going outside the district. We have been swamped by

phone calls and letters with requests to underbid the bid prices. We have refused to do so. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Harold Grove to accept the recommendation of Specialized Purchasing Services to use A-Copi for our photocopier upgrades.

VOTE: 8-0-0

A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks that under and pursuant to the provisions of Title 20-A M.R.S.A. Sections 1001 and 1055, the Superintendent of Schools be and hereby is authorized to execute and deliver a tax-exempt lease purchase agreement with M.S.T. Government Leasing, LLC in the name and on behalf of **Maine School Administrative District No. 56** (the "Issuer"), for the purpose of refunding and refinancing existing lease purchases of photocopier equipment, and lease purchasing additional new and reconditioned photocopier equipment, any service agreements specifically financed in connection with certain equipment, consulting fees, and related costs of issuance, with an aggregate purchase price not exceeding **Seventy-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty-One Dollars and Forty-Five Cents (\$76,751.45)**, at a rate of interest of not more than **4.50%** per year through August 1, 2010, and otherwise in such form as the Superintendent may approve; and that the appropriate officials of the Issuer be and hereby are authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Issuer such other documents and certificates as may be required in connection with such tax-exempt lease purchase agreement; and that no part of the proceeds of said tax-exempt lease purchase agreement shall be used, directly or indirectly, to acquire any securities or obligations, the acquisition of which would cause the tax-exempt lease purchase agreement to be a "private activity bond" or an "arbitrage bond" within the meaning of Sections 141 and 148, respectively, of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"); and that the tax-exempt lease purchase agreement issued pursuant hereto be designated as a qualified tax-exempt organization within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3)(B) of said Code; and that the Superintendent be and hereby is authorized to covenant on behalf of the Issuer to file any information report and pay any rebate due to the United States in connection with the issuance of said tax-exempt lease purchase agreement, and to take all other lawful actions necessary to insure that the interest portion of the rental payments under and pursuant to the tax-exempt lease purchase agreement will be excluded from the gross income of the owners thereof for purposes of federal income taxation and to refrain from taking any action which would cause such interest portion of the rental payments to become includable in the gross income of the owners thereof.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- F. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Harold Grove to authorize a trip to the University of Southern Maine in the Portland campus for a law conference for our students and students from the Sister School on July 27, 2006, with the superintendent and the high school principal finalizing all details.

VOTE: 8-0-0

A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Twyler Webster to extend the meeting up to one-half hour (10 P.M.)

VOTE: 5-3-0 (Calderwood, Danks, Jones)

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

- A. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Twyler Webster to enter executive session for the evaluations of official(s) and an employee pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A).

VOTE: 8-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 9:30 P.M. and resumed public session at 9:55 P.M.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,