

**MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56**

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

August 8, 2006 – 6:30 pm

Central Office - Searsport

Present: Nedra Bellows Tom Calderwood James Cunningham  
Harold Grove Michael Hamilton Bradley Jones  
Christopher Krause Veronica Magnan Twyler Webster

Absent: Bonnie-Jean Brooks (ex.), Robert Danks (ex.)

Visitors: 6

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Vice-Chairperson Harold Grove called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** None.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the July 11, 2006 minutes with grammatical/language changes in six places. The revised minutes will be placed in the official Minutes Book at the Central Office and posted on the district's web site.

**VOTE: 7-0-2 (Hamilton, Krause)**

4. **PRESENTATIONS.**

A. Math Curriculum. The superintendent shared the work of the district's Math Curriculum Committee who over two years have reviewed and aligned the curriculum, attended conferences on research-based best practices and mathematical instruction, and identified grade level expectations. Our goal was to have a vision for mathematics K-12, a seamless transition, and grade level expectations for each grade K-12, so parents, students, and staff know what all students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

She introduced Bill George, a high school teacher, who has served as a member of the Math Curriculum Committee. We use three standards based programs: Everyday Mathematics in grades K-5, MathThematics in grades 6-8, and Core Plus in grades 9-12. The superintendent shared the grade level expectations noted in the curriculum. Once you get to grades 3-8, you will see the state's grade level expectations. Expectations in bold print are additional expectations our students will be tested on in the 2006-07 school year.

In addition, the Math Curriculum Committee is in the process of developing a K-12 common vocabulary. Parents can access the K-5 vocabulary online. The superintendent demonstrated the program. Bill George shared that the high school's is also online.

It was also shared that all students will know their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts by the time they leave fifth grade. The Board was given a sheet outlining those expectations per grade level.

- B. **Statistics Textbook.** The superintendent shared that in the past we have had six students taking statistics. For the fall of 2006, we have 19 students registered for this course. We can either purchase additional textbooks or look at a current text. Bill George apprised the Board of the process used to select a new textbook. The selected new text is Stats: Modeling the World, AP edition by Bock, Velleman, and DeVaux. Veronica Magnan complimented both Bill George for his work on the textbook selection and the Math Curriculum Committee for their work and the hours they spent to develop such an excellent curriculum and vision.

Discussion followed. Twyler Webster stated that students do not have textbooks and cannot bring them home. The superintendent, as the Curriculum Coordinator, showed the Student Resource Books that are available to each student. In addition, letters go home explaining the unit's focus and the answers. The superintendent reminded everyone that parents with questions need to go directly to the teacher, and if not satisfied, then go to the building principal, and finally to the superintendent. There was more discussion.

#### 5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

The Vice-Chairperson focused on the purpose of Public Participation: to address only agenda items and to limit the discussion to one and ½ minutes.

Darin Hersom asked why transportation was listed under Old Business. The superintendent explained that it was listed there since it was carried over from last month's input meeting. Darin also reported that he received letters for parents with the answers but his daughter Allie didn't know she could bring the book home. The superintendent reiterated the process to be used when a parent has a question or a concern.

#### 6. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

- A. The superintendent noted that there is a list of Board committees in the Board members' folders. In addition, two other committees need Board participation: the Restructuring Committee, which will look at all of our schools, and the Technology Planning Committee. We are in the final year of our Technology Plan and must develop a plan for where we want MSAD #56 to be in regards to technology. This committee will meet 4-5 times and is a requirement of the Federal government. On Tuesday, September 19, former governor Angus King will be our keynote speaker on the role of technology in the world and its' impact on our students. In addition, with the resignation of Michael Housman, we need a Board member to serve on the district's Wellness Committee – this is a state requirement.
- B. The superintendent congratulated Logan Staples, third grade student at the Stockton Springs Elementary School, for once again being published with one of his poems. This is his second honor.
- C. The superintendent passed out insurance forms for the Board members to complete and return.
- D. Changes in the high school curriculum. The Board has devoted time to discussing rigorous and challenging curriculum. Research has consistently shown that all students learn more when they are in more challenging courses. In

2005, only 14% of jobs were unskilled, while 86% were skilled or professional jobs, requiring higher levels of education and training. More than 2/3rds of new jobs created in 2010 (this year's freshman class) will require some education beyond high school, like technical training, or an associate's or bachelor's degree. Well-paying jobs will require strong math skills. Lastly, the superintendent shared redesigning high schools and re-thinking grades 6-12. We will see a core curriculum for all Maine high schools that will include four years of English, four years of math (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and one college ready course), four years of science (three years of lab science in biology, chemistry and physics with Earth science being moved to Middle School), and three years of social studies. The rest of the core subjects were listed in the Board packets.

- E. The Maine Learning Results have been revised. The proposed Learning Results will be approved by the legislature in January 2007. All students in grades 3-8 will be taking the MEA, which will be assessed by Grade Level Expectations starting in the fall of 2006. Grade 11 students will be assessed by the SAT's in May, as well as with additional questions including science.
- F. The superintendent recognized the authors of the book, Up From the Ashes, which explains the journey of the Searsport District High School from losing accreditation to the hard work of the community, staff, administration, Board of Directors, and students to regain the accreditation and move towards a totally standards-based curriculum. She applauded the work of Stephen Allen, our VISTA volunteer, and Gregg Palmer, high school principal, for their excellent job. A round of applause showed the appreciation of the Board.
- G. Chris Krause asked about the status of the new backboards in the parking lot. The hoops and backboards are being replaced at Stockton Springs Elementary School.
- H. Mr. Palmer congratulated Stephen Allen for his commitment and hard work for the district and wished him all the best.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Finance Committee. No meeting.
- B. Transportation Committee. The minutes are in the Board folders.
- C. Buildings and Grounds Committee. The minutes are in the Board folders.
- D. Policy Committee. Policies will be discussed tonight. A reminder that this committee will now meet at 5:30 pm prior to the second regular Board meeting of the month.
- E. Region Seven. Veronica Magnan shared that there will be a meeting on August 17.
- F. Personnel Committee. The committee met prior to the Board meeting and there will be recommendations tonight.
- G. Curriculum Steering Committee. Veronica Magnan applauded the district's Math Curriculum Committee for their work and shared the curriculum and vision for mathematics is excellent. We will be approving it tonight.
- H. Legislative Report. The Board chairperson will be giving updates each month. The superintendent asked Board members to review LD 1968, page 11, "establishes the mill expectation for FY 07 at 7.6," a drop from 8.2.

8. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- A. The Finance Committee needs more members, at least one from each town. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tom Calderwood to elect Harold Grove to the Finance Committee

**VOTE: 8-0-1 (Grove)**

A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Chris Krause to elect Veronica Magnan to the Finance Committee.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Chris Krause to elect Tom Calderwood to the Finance Committee.

**VOTE: 8-0-1 (Calderwood)**

A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Brad Jones to elect Bob Danks to the Finance Committee.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

- B. Transportation 2006-07. The superintendent reviewed the task at hand to identify the most efficient and effective ways of transporting our students and to see if savings could be obtained by following the new policy EEA. The superintendent reviewed each of the following transportation savings:

- Walking. In Searsport this would save \$386.74 (\$265.41 at one mile, \$45.50 at ½ mile, and \$75.83 at the elementary level).
- Common stops. This would be a savings of \$1,675.73 in all three towns together.
- Overlapping. This would be a savings of \$4,615.04 by avoiding the overlapping of various buses over the same routes and behavior issues.
- Four-year-old Program. This would be a savings of \$4,375.00 by using two buses instead of three and by having the bus deliver and pick up children and then go back to school.
- Wear and tear on tires – a savings of \$500.
- These total a savings of \$11,552.51. **This number does not include bus driver hours and benefits.** Gas was estimated at \$2.62/gallon. A conservative estimate of total savings would be \$15,000.

Discussion followed. The superintendent corrected the misconceptions that the Stockton Springs Town Office would be opened to house students. There has been no discussion of this. The Business Manager, the Director of Transportation, and the Superintendent met with the Stockton Springs Selectpeople to discuss any concerns/issues with the new transportation proposals. We discussed four specific roads, the narrowness of the roads, EPS money for transportation, and common stops.

The superintendent shared the recommendations of the Transportation and Policy Committees which are: walking as stated in EEA, changes in the four-year-old program transportation, consolidation of common stops in all three towns as designated, elimination of overlapping bus runs, and reorganization of school lines. Regarding the reorganization, the current families along the Frankfort/Searsport line would be grand fathered, but any new families will need to go to Frankfort Elementary School. On the Harris Road, the area right on the Searsport/Stockton Springs town line will continue to be transported to Stockton Springs rather than Searsport Elementary School.

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the elimination of overlapping bus runs, the changes in the four-year-old program, the reorganization of school lines (i.e., the N. Searsport section to be grand fathered for those current students to attend Searsport Elementary School, but any new families to attend

Frankfort Elementary School and the Harris Road situation with the families having the right to attend the closest school with transportation range). Discussion followed.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

Chris Krause stated that buses are backing up out of driveways. The superintendent will look into this.

A motion was made by Mike Hamilton to send policy EEA back to the Policy Committee. There was no second to the motion.

A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Mike Hamilton to send policy EEA back to the Policy Committee with a recommended change of ½ mile for students in grades 1-12.

**VOTE: 5-4-0 (Calderwood, Grove, Jones, Webster)**

The recommendation is to make it one half mile for all students. The Board directed the superintendent to go with one half mile and set schedules for the upcoming start of school, rather than follow the current policy EEA.

The superintendent also reported that the district is working with both the Stockton Springs and Searsport town managers to write a grant for sidewalks. Both grants are being submitted to the state on August 11, 2006. Searsport plans to have all existing sidewalks repaired and filled and be accessible to handicapped persons. In addition, sidewalks will be constructed from Prospect St. to the Harbor Lights apartments.

## 9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

A. First readings of the following policies:

1. GAB, Job Descriptions. The superintendent read the policy and the new additions to it. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Chris Krause to approve this policy for its first reading.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

2. IHBEA, LAU Plan. Board members wanted LAU to be spelled out first, as with each of the acronyms throughout the policy. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve this policy for its first reading, with the suggested changes.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

3. JICK, Bullying. The superintendent shared that this is a required policy by the state. A motion was made by Brad Jones and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve this policy for its first reading. Twyler Webster said it was needed. Harold Grove pointed out the many cross-references.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

B. Revised job descriptions:

1. Curriculum Coordinator. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Nedra Bellows to accept this job description as read.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

2. NCLB Coordinator. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Veronica Magnan to accept this job description as read.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

3. School Nurse. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Veronica Magnan to accept this job description as read.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

- C. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Veronica Magnan to add the following three sentences/paragraphs to every job description as they are revised/reviewed by the Personnel Committee:
1. The “position title” shall perform other related duties as directed by the supervisor listed and/or the Superintendent of Schools.
  2. This job description is not intended to limit or modify the right of any supervisor to assign, direct, and control the work of employees under his/her supervision. The use of a particular expression or illustrations describing duties shall not be held to exclude other duties not mentioned that are of a similar kind or level of difficulty.
  3. Develops and maintains positive working relationships.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

At this point a motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Brad Jones to take D-G as one item rather than individually.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

D-G A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Brad Jones to approve the nomination of Carrie Thomas to a first year probationary contract as the multiage teacher at Searsport Elementary School, approve the nomination of Daniel Switzer to a first year probationary contract as a French teacher, approve the nomination of Bridget Morse to a first year probationary contract as a kindergarten teacher and approve the nomination of Brian Merrill as the Middle School girls soccer coach.

**VOTE: 8-0-1 (Hamilton)**

H. Transfer of Julie Vinson from a kindergarten to second grade teaching position at the Stockton Springs Elementary School.

I. Appointment of Ricky Lanphier as a custodian.

J. Resignations:

1. Raymond Tucker – maintenance worker
2. Madeleine Cameron – prep cook

K. Searsport District High School Handbook. The superintendent suggested that we look at condensing the policies into short descriptions with a note stating the full policy is available on our website, and in policy books throughout the district. We need to get the opinion of legal counsel before we do this. Discussion followed. Gregg Palmer was available to answer questions. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the Searsport District High School handbook.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

L. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Twyler Webster to accept the bid for #2 fuel oil from R.H. Foster at \$2.299 per gallon fixed price.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

M. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Twyler Webster to elect Chris Krause as the MSAD #56 delegate to the MSBA Delegate Assembly.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

N. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the Math Curriculum, including the use of texts for MathThematics and CorePlus, and the Vision. She stated that an outstanding job was done on both.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

O. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the purchase of the statistics textbook Stats: Modeling the World by Bock, Velleman, and DeVaux for the high school statistics class.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

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

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

The Board entered executive session at 9:12 pm and resumed public session at 9:29 pm.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,