

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56
Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
September 12, 2006 – 6:30 P.M.
High/Middle School Cafetorium - Searsport

Present: Nedra Bellows Tom Calderwood James Cunningham
Robert Danks Harold Grove Christopher Krause
Veronica Magnan Twyler Webster

Absent: Bonnie-Jean Brooks, Michael Hamilton (ex.), Bradley Jones (ex.)

Visitors: 15

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Robert Danks called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.
2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** There was a correction to the agenda: under New Business, G, it should read Elementary PE/Health, not Middle School. There were two additions to the agenda as well, both under New Business: J, field trip to Cow Island on September 26-28 and K, field trip to Pine Tree Camp on October 5-6.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Veronica Magnan to approve the August 22, 2006 minutes as presented.
VOTE: 8-0-0
4. **PRESENTATIONS.**
 - A. The superintendent announced that we have a special recognition of the students on the State Champion Searsport District High School Boys Baseball Team and their coach, David Pepin. She then turned it over to Ruth Fitzpatrick, Co-curricular Coordinator. Team Captain Caleb Ashe presented the state trophy to the Board.
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.
6. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**
 - A. Opening day enrollments. The superintendent reviewed the September 6, 2006 enrollments, and also pointed out the enrollments from one year ago in September 2005.
 - B. Administrative reports. The reports were in the Board packets. Next month the Board will receive reports from all administrators.
 - C. Chem Safe Consulting summary of findings. The results of a site visit were included in the Board packet. The superintendent noted the district's safety profile has improved dramatically since last year, especially in the high school art room. There were some minor issues, but nothing dramatic.
 - D. Possible request for a one day waiver of school for students at the Searsport Elementary School. The superintendent explained that many teachers attended various math trainings this summer. One was on formative assessments with three

follow-up sessions scheduled for after school. We were just notified that these three days were now rolled into one day, causing a hardship for Searsport Elementary School due to a lack of substitutes. Even with Gregg Palmer and the superintendent teaching classes, there are not enough substitutes. The superintendent has requested a waiver from the Commissioner but has not heard back as of yet. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the request for a one day waiver for students attending the Searsport Elementary School in order for all the teachers to attend the Dynamic Classroom Assessment follow-up session.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- E. Letter to selected high schools. The superintendent shared that towns without a high school may send their students to any high school in the state. Some high schools are being very selective in their admitting procedures, thus leaving out certain students. We have mailed a letter to certain high schools inviting students to attend our schools. Questions followed. The superintendent explained the process we use before accepting a student on a superintendent's agreement. The costs for MSAD #56 are always examined before approving any student.
- F. MSMA Fall Conference information. Included in the Board packets was a brochure outlining some of the workshop offerings. The superintendent recommended that Board members consider attending workshops on negotiations, budget items, the role of Board members, etc.
- G. Other:
- The revised policy EEA, Student Transportation Services, now covers four-year-olds.
 - Whenever a member requests an executive session, he/she must identify the citation and reason for going into executive session. These were mailed to the Board members, and are also in their Board folders.
 - We will be able to offer opportunities for our high school students to mentor with two lawyers from Drummond Woodsum, thanks to the work of Gregg Palmer. The firm will hopefully offer a mock trial where students play key roles. This grant is for \$15,000 over a three year period. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Veronica Magnan to accept the \$15,000 grant from Drummond Woodsum.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- The superintendent shared that Searsport Elementary School principal Janice Toomey applied for and won a \$5000 grant from Bob's Discount stores in a contest. This will allow teachers to select art programs for the school. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Veronica Magnan to accept the \$5000 grant from Bob's Discount, with a special thank you to Janice Toomey for obtaining the grant.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- The superintendent shared that she has been interviewed as the Commissioner's top choice to represent the State of Maine and serve as a superintendent on the National Assessment Governing Board Committee in Washington D.C. The superintendent still needs to submit her resume and be approved. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by James Cunningham to approve the superintendent to serve on the National Assessment Governing Board Committee.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- The superintendent reported that Michael Fullan has been contracted by the state to work with the Department of Education to review and make recommendations

regarding the Local Assessment Systems, the Maine Learning Results, and when and what school districts should be focusing on. Fullan's researchers are interviewing fifteen school districts for demonstrating success based on the SAU visitations last year. The superintendent was proud to announce that MSAD #56 was identified as one of the fifteen sites. Our district went through a three hour interview on the process, challenges, and how we were able to meet success.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Finance Committee. The minutes were in the Board packets.
- B. Transportation Committee. Did not meet.
- C. Buildings and Grounds Committee. Tom Calderwood reported that Peter Garcelon has resigned as the Director, effective September 11, 2006. The committee will be meeting with the selectmen to plan the district's long and short term goals as outlined in the Capital Asset Management Report. Twyler Webster reported that she did not attend the last committee meeting since she is now off the committee.
- D. Policy Committee. There are policies on the agenda tonight for a second reading.
- E. Region Seven. Veronica Magnan reported that they did not meet. They are meeting on September 21, 2006.
- F. Personnel Committee. Nedra Bellows reported that the duties of the Director of Transportation/Maintenance have been divided between several people. Larry McKinney will be responsible for all field trips and Alan Kenney will oversee all maintenance orders. The superintendent and the rest of the Central Office staff are each taking other sections of the job. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Harold Grove to approve stipends for the person doing the field trips and the person overseeing maintenance. The superintendent is to come up with an appropriate figure.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- G. Curriculum Steering Committee. Will meet next week.
- H. Legislative Report. The superintendent talked about the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) and the need to be aware of its possible impact if approved by the voters in November. Some supporting material was in the Board members folders.

8. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- A. Second readings of the following policies:
 - 1. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Veronica Magnan to accept EEA, Student Transportation Services with revisions for its second reading.

VOTE: 7-1-0 (Webster)

- 2. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Nedra Bellows to approve GCFB-R, Recruiting and Hiring of Administrative Staff – Procedures, for its second reading with one grammatical revision.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- 3. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Harold Grove to approve JJIE, Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use by School Students in Co-Curricular Activities, for a second reading with the addition of proper page numbering in the policy.

VOTE: 8-0-0

9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. Consideration of approval of the following co-curricular appointments:

1. Doug McFarlin as the Middle School Boys Division I and Division II Basketball Coach.
2. Michael Vasiliauskas as the Middle School Girls Division I basketball coach.
3. Jeff Golder as the Varsity Boys Basketball Coach.

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Nedra Bellows to vote on items 1-3 together.

VOTE: 8-0-0

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Harold Grove to approve the co-curricular appointments in A, 1-3 as listed.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- B. It was noted that Becky Stevenson has been appointed as a cook.
- C. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tom Calderwood to appoint Stockton Springs Regional Health Center as the district's physicians for an annual stipend of \$500.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- D. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Twyler Webster to appoint Janis Hogan as the School Nurse.

VOTE: 6-1-1 (Bellows) (Calderwood)

- E. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Veronica Magnan to appoint Mary Szwec as the Attendance Officer for the district.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- F. The superintendent explained that we now have 21 students in the kindergarten class at the Stockton Springs Elementary School and that in October the class will have 22 students. That is too many, and the superintendent is requesting that the class be split. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Twyler Webster to add a kindergarten teacher at the Stockton Springs Elementary School. Discussion followed.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- G. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Twyler Webster to transfer Michael Garcelon from an elementary physical education teaching position to the kindergarten teaching position at the Stockton Springs Elementary School. Discussion followed.

VOTE: 5-3-0 (Calderwood, Grove, Magnan)

- H. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the elementary school handbooks. Discussion followed.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- I. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the Searsport District Middle School handbook. Discussion followed. A Board member had a question about hat rules. They are prohibited in the Middle School but allowed in the high school halls and cafeteria. The Board member said that tonight students with hats were at the Board meeting, and what kind of message does this send? Ruth Fitzpatrick, Dean of Students, said that the hats were part of the baseball uniform.

VOTE: 7-0-1 (Calderwood)

- J. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Veronica Magnan to approve the JMG field trip to Cow Island on September 26-28 with a letter from the superintendent stating that policy needs to be followed or trips will not be approved in the future.

VOTE: 2-4-2

(Bellows, Calderwood, Cunningham, Krause) (Danks, Grove)

The motion was defeated

- K. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Veronica Magnan to approve the JMG field trip to the Pine Tree Camp in Rome, Maine on October 5-6 with a letter from the superintendent stating that policy needs to be followed or trips will not be approved in the future.

VOTE: 2-4-2

(Bellows, Calderwood, Cunningham, Krause) (Danks, Grove)

The motion was defeated.

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

- A. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Chris Krause to enter executive session for a discussion of litigation, pending or contemplated, pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (E).

VOTE: 8-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 7:40 pm and resumed public session at 7:53 pm. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Harold Grove to proceed with the appeal.

VOTE: 7-0-1 (Cunningham)

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.
Respectfully submitted,