

# REVISED PER THE OCTOBER 10, 2006 BOARD MEETING

## MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

### Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting  
September 26, 2006 – 5:00 P.M.  
Central Office - Searsport

Present: Nedra Bellows Bonnie-Jean Brooks (6:30) Tom Calderwood  
James Cunningham (6:33) Robert Danks Michael Hamilton (6:35)  
Bradley Jones Christopher Krause (6:40) Veronica Magnan  
Twyler Webster

Absent: Harold Grove (ex.)

Visitors: 10

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order at 5:25 pm.

1a. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tom Calderwood to enter executive session to interview a finalist for the Director of Transportation/Maintenance position pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A).

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

The Board entered executive session at 5:35 pm and resumed public session at 6:23 pm. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Twyler Webster to appoint James Parsons, Jr., as the Director of Transportation/Maintenance at a salary of \$43,000/year (pro-rated) with benefits as outlined in the comprehensive contract for the 2006-07 school year.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

Chairperson Bob Danks re-called the regular meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** Two items were added to the agenda: New Business, E, field trip request, and New Business, F, leave of absence request.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the September 12, 2006 Board minutes as presented.

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

4. **PRESENTATIONS.** None.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

6. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

A. Update on tuition students. The superintendent refreshed the Board of Directors about the letter from the high school principal and herself to area K-8 schools with no high schools within the district to consider sending their students to

Searsport District High School. Superintendent Louise Regan of MSAD #63 has requested that Gregg Palmer and the superintendent make a presentation to her Board of Directors and to the Dedham Board of Directors about our district high school on Monday, October 23, 2006. They are interested in hearing about our academic programs specifically, how we are student centered, and being on the cutting edge. They are also interested in assistance with transportation. Mrs. Szwec said the two Boards were very impressed with our letter. We plan on having six months of dialogue pursuing the concept with a final decision late in the spring. Mrs. Szwec passed out projected enrollment numbers showing the growth of the high school and that the 2005-06 tuition cost for high schools is \$7,205, giving us \$720,500 to look at transportation, laptops, technical center assessments, etc. Both superintendents will have the best interests of their respective districts and we are pursuing this endeavor. The superintendent asked for questions and comments. Questions were raised about costs, athletics, and co-curricular activities. There was a Board consensus to have the superintendent pursue this with the other districts.

- B. MEA updates. The superintendent shared that 2005-06 was the first time the MEAs were given to all students in grades 3-8 in order to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind. Due to those changes, it was necessary to set new standards this year. These standards begin our baseline to which future scores can be compared. Because of the new cut scores, the 2005-06 scores cannot be compared to the 2004-05 scores. There was a question about the number of "Exceeds the standards". This rise in numbers is because the standards have been lowered.
- C. AYP. The superintendent reported on the latest report of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). All of our elementary schools met AYP in both reading and math. Our middle school met AYP in reading, but not in math. We are a Continuous Improving Priority School 3 (CIPS3). The question is, is it the students? The superintendent commented that when you see it occurring year after year, we need to hold the mirror to us. We have a strategic plan in place – the training of all math teachers and special education teachers, a comprehensive plan, pacing of the curriculum/instruction, supplemental services, and additional assistance. Questions of school choice – if we had another middle school within the district, we would have to offer school choice. Because we only have one middle school, there is no choice.
- D. Late school start. The superintendents on the Region 7 Advisory Board (SADs 3, 34, and 56) are pursuing the possibility of having a late start for students in grades 6-12, middle and high school and/or just the high school. This was initiated by SAD 3 and we will be holding further discussions on this topic.

Mrs. Szwec has requested that Block Scheduling be added to the Region 7 agenda. If SAD 34 went to block scheduling like SAD 3 and 56, all three districts could cut their transportation cost to Region 7 in half.

- E. Regional Transportation Feasibility Study. The superintendent summarized that this past year SADS 3, 34, 56 and Region 7 did discuss regionalization, such as a regional bus garage. We have submitted a grant for \$30,000 to look at the feasibility of building and operating a regional garage/maintenance facility on land currently owned by Region 7. The study would also look at ways that local transportation systems could operate more efficiently (regionally) through economics of scale. Norris Staples, our community member on the Region 7

Board, assisted with the budget section of the grant proposal. The superintendent will keep the Board apprised of the grant.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Transportation Committee. The committee minutes are in the Board packets. The superintendent shared that if our buses are used for the Bridge Celebration, our insurance is in effect.
- B. Buildings and Grounds Committee. Mrs. Szwec and Tom Calderwood went to a meeting with WBRC on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, regarding the Stockton Springs Elementary School roof project. Designs were reviewed and the results were presented to the Buildings and Grounds Committee on September 25. These will be presented to the full Board of Directors and the Stockton Springs community at the October 10 Board meeting which will be held in Stockton Springs. A Board member asked about replacing two basketball hoops. Barbara Danis will do a work order, and the superintendent will check into this.
- C. Region Seven. Veronica Magnan shared that the Board had a presentation by the Culinary Arts class. They are now serving lunch to the public. There are three new faculty members. The Five Year Review is coming up.

8. **OLD BUSINESS.** None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. The resignation of Michael Garcelon as the Kindergarten teacher at Stockton Springs Elementary School was accepted, effective September 18, 2006.
- B. Nominations:
  - 1. Cindy Zito as the Middle School Yearbook Advisor.
  - 2. Michelle Wakeman as the Middle School Student Council Advisor.
  - 3. Donna Parks as the Middle School Newsletter editor.
  - 4. Consideration of approving the nomination of Justin Thomas to a first year probationary contract as the elementary physical education teacher.A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Tom Calderwood to vote on items 1-4 together.

**VOTE: 9-1-0 (Webster)**

A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the nominations of Cindy Zito, Michelle Wakeman, and Donna Parks as shown above, and to approve the nomination of Justin Thomas to a first year probationary contract as an elementary physical education teacher.

**VOTE: 9-1-0 (Webster)**

- C. The superintendent shared that a framed oil painting has been donated to the Stockton Springs Elementary School by Barbara Kozak, a resident of Stockton Springs from June – September. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by James Cunningham to accept the oil painting for the Stockton Springs Elementary School.

**VOTE: 10-0-0**

The superintendent will do a work order so the painting can be hung. The superintendent also shared that Ms. Kozak is a retired teacher who is available for tutoring in ELA, social studies, Latin, and the humanities. In addition, she will organize Box Tops for Education and/or Hood milk tops for the Stockton Springs Elementary School.

D. Consideration of adopting a resolution in opposition to the passage of the TABOR initiative on November 7, 2006. The superintendent reviewed the TABOR proposal. If passed, MSAD #56's growth would be 3.15%. On our \$9 million budget, the growth could only be \$283,500 of which salary increases are estimated at \$170,000, leaving \$113,000 for everything else. She also pointed out that this is a rough estimate. It is everyone's duty to listen and make informed decisions. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Mike Hamilton to take a stand in opposition to TABOR. Much discussion followed. The motion is as follows: The MSAD #56 Board of Directors resolves that 1. The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) will hurt local schools. TABOR's local revenue and expenditure limitations are too rigid and restrictive and will hurt Maine's school children and local schools. TABOR's revenue limitation makes no allowance for inflation, changes in population or student enrollment, new construction, or other changing conditions without going through a very cumbersome, complex, and costly process. TABOR's bureaucratic approach disregards local needs and takes away local control. 2. TABOR will reduce state funding for local schools. TABOR will have the effect of overriding the vote of the people in 2003 to require the State to fund 55% of the cost of education; it will reduce State subsidy to local schools below projected need and will put greater pressure on the local property tax to fund local education. 3. TABOR won't work. TABOR's formulas are poorly drafted and cannot be implemented as written; TABOR's extra voting procedures are cumbersome and expensive; and TABOR's budget adoption timelines are not workable. 4. TABOR's local voting procedures are unfair. TABOR's requirement of a 2/3 favorable vote at a town meeting, school budget meeting, or school budget referendum is undemocratic. TABOR hands control over school budgets to a minority of voters. It will take two people voting in favor of a school budget to equal one vote that is opposed to the school budget. This unfair allocation of voting power will prevent adequate funding for local schools. The damage to local schools from this method of voting will be compounded each year, as one year's under funded school budget becomes next year's TABOR base. Because TABOR will hurt our local schools and the State of Maine, the MSAD #56 Board of Directors resolves to oppose TABOR and to ask the voters of MSAD #56 to vote no on Question 1 on November 7, 2006.

**VOTE: 8-1-1 (Cunningham) (Webster)**

E. Consideration of a field trip to Baxter State Park by the Outdoor Education Program. Is this field trip request a one time opportunity that was offered by the Park to our students? Gregg Palmer said yes, it was. If it becomes an annual event, he will schedule it in enough time. Questions followed. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to approve the field trip Baxter State Park on October 14-15, 2006. It was noted that because the trip was on a weekend, there was no loss of school time.

**VOTE: 10-0-0**

F. The superintendent updated the Board on a request for a leave of absence. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Mike Hamilton to grant John Balzer's request for an unpaid leave of absence from October 3, 2006 to March 1, 2007.

**VOTE: 10-0-0**

## 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- A. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Mike Hamilton to enter executive session for consideration of allowing an expelled student to re-enroll in school pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (B).

**VOTE: 10-0-0**

The Board entered executive session at 7:28 pm and resumed public session at 7:34 pm. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to decline the student's request for re-admission to MSAD #56.

**VOTE: 10-0-0**

- B. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Mike Hamilton to enter executive session to hear a complaint against a person or persons pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A).

**VOTE: 10-0-0**

The Board entered executive session at 7:57 pm and resumed public session at 9:18 pm. A motion was made by Chris Krause and seconded by Mike Hamilton to not hold the parents accountable for the damage to the laptop.

**VOTE: 2-5-2 (Krause, Jones) (Bellows, Brooks, Calderwood, Cunningham, Magnan) (Danks, Hamilton) Twyler Webster did not vote.**

A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Mike Hamilton to assess the parents for \$500 for repairs of the laptop. Arrangements will be made with the superintendent for payment.

**VOTE: 5-3-1 (Hamilton, Jones, Krause) (Danks)**

**Twyler Webster did not vote.**

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,