

REVISED MINUTES PER THE DECEMBER 12, 2006 BOARD MEETING

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

November 28, 2006 – 6:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

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

Absent: Bonnie-Jean Brooks (ex.), Michael Hamilton, Christopher Krause (ex.)

Visitors: 6

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Robert Danks called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** There will be a Science Curriculum Committee presentation.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the November 14, 2006 minutes.

VOTE: 7-0-0

4. **PRESENTATIONS.**

A. The superintendent recognized all members of the Science Curriculum Committee, and introduced Josh Toothaker, Middle School teacher, Maura DiPrete, High School teacher, Janice Toomey, administrator on the committee, and Ellie Farrar, elementary science teacher, who was not present tonight but had presented to the District Curriculum Steering Committee. Based on the MEA results and proposed Learning Results, we need to add more physical science. The old curriculum had repetition of the same concept in three grades. Revisions and essential questions were added. Discussion followed, and staff answered questions and made comments. Twyler Webster congratulated the committee for their hard work and well thought-out format with its transitions K-12. Veronica Magnan said the actual document is usable, and the materials are consumable, and can be replenished every year. Maura DiPrete said the curriculum fits the developmental level of our students. Janice Toomey shared that it gives direction to staff as to where we want to be but it is user friendly and guides any new teacher with the essential questions, content, and skills and processes.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

6. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

A. The superintendent quickly reviewed topic headings from the sessions Board members and the superintendent attended at the MSMA Fall Conference. Board

members express a desire to discuss the topics at length. A schedule was developed as follows:

- Bargaining – First meeting in January
- Special Education – Second meeting in January
- Education – Second meeting in February
- Board issues – Second meeting in March
- Health & sports – Second meeting in April

- B. Answers to enrollment questions were given in the Board's backup materials.
- C. There will be a High School Band and Chorus concert on November 29, 2006 at 7 pm at the High School cafeteria.
- D. A letter in your backup materials states that our audit reports were in order.
- E. The MSAD #63 Board of Directors met on Monday night and will send us a list of questions. We will review those, and then send them our own questions. Again, we are still in the preliminary stages.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Buildings and Grounds Committee. None given at this time.
- B. Policy Committee. Policies sent back to the committee by the Board have been reviewed and will be ready for first readings in December.
- C. Region Seven. Veronica Magnan shared that the Cooperative Board had seen a Horticulture and Landscaping presentation. They should align their program to the Maine Learning Results. She reminded them that there is a dinner on Thursday, November 30 at 6 pm for Board members for accreditation.
- D. Curriculum Steering Committee. They had reviewed the science curriculum presented tonight.
- E. Legislative Report. None.
- F. Superintendent Evaluation Committee. Nedra Bellows reported that the process was moving along. They will meet with the superintendent on December 5th. Please continue to send evaluations to Nedra.

8. **OLD BUSINESS.** None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Veronica Magnan to approve a field trip to Drummond Woodsum in Portland on December 1, 2006 as part of the Sister School Project. Gregg Palmer shared that the trip was originally to go to Augusta.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- B. Students serving on the MSAD #56 Board of Directors. The superintendent reported that after hearing student input on the sportsmanship policy and how mature and valuable their input was, she wanted the Board to consider the value of having them on the Board. They would see government in action from a different perspective. A good discussion followed. The superintendent will meet with students to discuss the Policy Book. They will need parental permission. We will do this as a pilot project. Should the students come from the Governing Board of Council? Some members of the Board might mentor the students. A motion was made by James Cunningham and seconded by Tom Calderwood to have student representatives on the Board as a pilot project.

VOTE: 8-0-0

A sub-committee will be established consisting of Mary Szwec, Gregg Palmer, Bob Danks, and Veronica Magnan to set the criteria and method. The Policy

Committee will develop a policy for students serving on the Board.

- C. MSMA Fall Conference Topic (Maine Board Lead and Governance Best Practices). The superintendent passed out an article on “The Consent Agenda: A Tool for Improving Governance” which places items on a consent agenda which ultimately frees up time to have in-depth discussions on educational issues/topics. The members will read the article and come prepared to discuss it at the December Board meeting. Also included is a consent agenda policy. The superintendent will gather other sample policies from MSMA and the Policy Committee will discuss this.

1. Selection of behaviors/characteristics to focus on to assess Board effectiveness at meetings. The superintendent reviewed the list of behaviors that the Board wanted to reflect on as they critique themselves and the superintendent on how effectively the meeting went. Members chose #'s 1, 6, 7, 9, 17, 19 (including good positive PR), 22, and 25 from the list, which will be included in the Official Minutes Book. Bob Danks suggested looking at these characteristics after the meeting because we are Board members and are expected to behave in a professional manner and we all know what the job entails. Members need to bring this sheet listing the behaviors to each meeting so we can reflect on these as we critique how effectively the meeting went.

Board members would like to have water at future meetings.

- D. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the Science Curriculum and Science Companion Units as presented tonight, with thanks from the Board on the excellent job with the curriculum.

VOTE: 8-0-0

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

- A. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Veronica Magnan to enter executive session for labor contract negotiations pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (D).

VOTE: 8-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 7:18 pm and resumed public session at 7:25 pm. The superintendent will set up upcoming meetings in preparation for contract negotiations.

- B. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tom Calderwood to enter executive session for the employment of officials/appointees/employees pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A).

VOTE: 8-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 7:30 pm and resumed public session at 7:53 pm. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Tom Calderwood to allow the superintendent to continue working on a resolution on the construction projects.

VOTE: 8-0-0

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,