

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

March 13, 2007 – 6:30 P.M.

Stockton Springs Elementary School

Present: Bonnie-Jean Brooks Tom Calderwood James Cunningham
Robert Danks Harold Grove Michael Hamilton
Veronica Magnan Twyler Webster

Absent: Nedra Bellows (ex.), Christopher Krause

Visitors: 10

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Bob Danks called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the February 27, 2007 Board minutes as presented.

VOTE: 7-0-1 (Grove)

4. **PRESENTATIONS.**

A. PSATs – SATs. The superintendent explained how administrators move staff into dialogues through the use of the Rune newsletter written by Gregg Palmer. By identifying the issue and all possible avenues, a dialogue began in regards to the SATs and how to prepare students. She also pointed out a newspaper article that shows another district's approach to the SATs and asked members to compare the strategies of both. Then she turned the presentation over to Gregg.

All sophomores take the PSAT. In 2006-07, all sophomores and juniors took the PSAT at no cost. All math and English/language arts teachers do problems with their students as a warm up to the tests. We also signed up for prep work for our students. Bob Bradford, Gregg Palmer, Carol Fuller, and Elaine LaPoint put in extra time to make this happen. During LAB time, we offer one lab per week for preparation for the SATs. Teachers for the junior class give up one half of their prep time to do this with students. All students take mini-prep online prior to the actual SAT administration. We tinkered with curriculum to emphasize key concepts (absolute value) with students. All teachers took an online PSAT item analysis. Gregg also discussed the SOAS (Summary of Answers and Skills) Report, which compares our students PSAT scores to other schools.

PrepME will be done together at school. The Board asked how we entice students to practice for this test. One suggestion is to have a Word of the Day at the local bookstore, at home, etc. We need community support for these events.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

6. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

- A. Monthly enrollment report. No questions.
- B. Administrative Team reports. The superintendent cited Gregg Palmer's high school report saying we have the highest number of students, and highest percentage of students taking advantage of the Access College Early (ACE) grant from the Mitchell Institute. We have 23 students taking college classes including seven sophomores. The larger schools in the grant average about fifteen students, with no sophomores. We are also among the first high schools in the state to be signed up for the free prep course for juniors for the SAT.

The superintendent recognized Janice Toomey for her "Reading to the Principal" and her work of the school's website and Tina Boone for the Frankfort Elementary School Science Fair. The superintendent apologized for not attending due to district issues. She also invited everyone to attend the Frankfort Elementary School school play on March 16 & 17.

The superintendent also shared that she had spent the morning at the Stockton Springs Town Office in celebration of the town's 150th birthday. The students were very excited and proud of their work, and readily shared their knowledge from Fort Powell to interviewing the town's senior citizens to the creation of a virtual map of the town. She congratulated the teachers, the students, the parents group, the community, and the principal on the excellent job. Lastly, she recognized the work of Veronica Magnan, who not only worked on the recreation of a historic room, but told the students all about the history of the times.

- C. Maine Masters Project. The superintendent recognized Joan Petersen for her work in obtaining a complete DVD set of seven Maine Masters artists, including William Thon, Alan Magee, Dahlov Ipcar, Harold Garde, Robert Hamilton, Olive Pierce, and Clark Fitz-Gerald, free of charge.
- D. What is Healthy Boardroom Debate? The superintendent asked if there were any comments or discussion on the article.
- E. The superintendent asked for Board input on whether or not to start up the Ad Hoc Restructuring Schools Committee at this time, or to wait until we hear more regarding the statewide reorganization of schools. Discussion and questions followed. We need to figure out our ideals/values before we join any district. Perhaps we should do it in the summer. Another Board member felt we should gather information, and ask the committee to do this for the Board. Twyler Webster expressed an interest in being on the committee. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to begin meetings of the Ad Hoc Restructuring School Committee now.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- F. Budget updates. The superintendent shared that we have not received our ED 281 and by law (20-A § 15689 B (2) (A & B)), we were supposed to receive them by February 1, 2007. At this time we cannot give actual figures for we are not sure whether or not we have all of the target areas. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Jim Cunningham that the superintendent write a letter to the state, with a copy to our attorneys, regarding the state's lack of notification of our allocation as outlined in state statute.

VOTE: 8-0-0

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.** The Board Chairperson pointed out that we have the committee reports in our backup materials.
- A. Finance Committee.
 - B. Transportation Committee. Twyler Webster reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting tonight. The committee unanimously agreed that we did not need to purchase a bus in 2007-08. They also discussed transportation changes involved in moving Stockton students to the church in Searsport.
 - C. Buildings and Grounds Committee.
 - D. Region Seven meeting cancelled due to snow – next meeting on March 15, 2007.
 - E. Personnel Committee.
 - F. Legislative Report. The superintendent highlighted certain bills in the legislature. She mentioned LD 454, “An Act to Amend Truancy Law and Regarding Parent Involvement” by making it a Class E crime for parents not taking corrective measures for truant children. We have had three cases of truant students where parents immediately put them in home schooling, rather than getting involved in getting them back to school. She also noted LD 470, “An Act to Add Ten Days to the School Year” beginning in the fall of 2007. There is a federal bill pending which will disallow Medicaid funds for government funded units. We need to be aware of this bill. We would need to come up with another way to get money. Bonnie-Jean Brooks will forward information to us. At the state level we could use possibly 1/3 of our money.

8. **OLD BUSINESS.** None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve a field trip to Boston MA on May 25-27 by High School students to hear a Boston Pops Concert. In response to questions, the superintendent said the trip was from Friday through Sunday. Gregg Palmer said it would not affect courses.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- B. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to take the co-curricular nominations as one vote.

VOTE: 1-4-3 (Brooks) (Danks, Grove, Hamilton, Webster) (Calderwood, Cunningham, Magnan)

The motion was defeated.

- 1. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to approve the nomination of Mike Vasiliauskas as the Varsity Track coach.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- 2. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the nomination of David Pepin as the Varsity Baseball coach.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- 3. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the nomination of Thor Gower as the Varsity Softball coach.

VOTE: 7-1-0 (Grove)

- 4. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the nomination of Trent Emery as the Middle School Baseball coach.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- 5. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Mike Hamilton to

approve the nomination of Joshua Toothaker as the Middle School Softball coach. Someone asked how candidates are selected? What if there are reservations about a candidate? The superintendent explained that the co-curricular coordinator evaluates all coaches and co-curricular personnel, and the superintendent needs to sign off on these. She also explained the process used in hiring and that these positions are for one year only, and that a coach can re-apply, but the process is still used.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- C. Consideration of approval of the 2007-08 school calendar. The superintendent reviewed the proposed calendar which includes six additional early release days. She reviewed the work done by staff and at the various schools with standards, formative assessments, Professional Learning Communities, examination of student work, etc. Questions and discussion followed. LD 470 is proposing an additional ten student days in the school year. This is an unfunded mandate. The superintendent reported we would need to “meet and consult” with the Association in order to meet these requirements for it affects both support staff and the teaching staff. There were more questions and discussion. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to approve the calendar as presented.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- D. Consideration of approval of the 2005-06 district audit. Brian MacFarland, business manager, presented the audit in the absence of Craig Costello, our auditor. Brian reviewed various pieces of the audit.
- Revenues exceeded budgeted amounts by \$316,811 due to DHS, interest, and being conservative.
 - We spent less money than budgeted, and have a carry forward of \$654,987 which can be used to balance the budget in 2007-08.
 - The largest variance was in the transportation account, due to an unbudgeted bus. This bus was approved by the Board but a purchase order was not made.
 - We have to make some budgeting changes because of new reporting requirements from the General Accounting Standards Board.
 - We have a \$1,086,494 fund balance.
 - The School Lunch Program is a business, not a fund. This program had \$90,000 in carryover funds, used to purchase needed equipment and to balance the school lunch budget.
 - The Capital Reserve Fund is in a Certificate of Deposit to earn interest.
 - The report includes a breakdown of expenditures on page 15 showing how all the money was spent.
 - Someone asked about Medicare payments. We only received overpayments last year. We would not like to do our own billing.
 - The management letter is for the Board only. Bonnie-Jean Brooks asked a question about entering executive session to discuss the report. The Board could not do this without personnel present.

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Veronica Magnan to accept the auditor’s report for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

VOTE: 8-0-0

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- A. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks 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 7:49 pm and resumed public session at 8:02 pm.

- B. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by James Cunningham to enter executive session for the evaluations of officials and an employee pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A).

VOTE: 8-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 8:03 pm and resumed public session at 8:20 pm.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,