

REVISED PER THE APRIL 10, 2007 BOARD MEETING

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

March 27, 2007 – 6:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

Present: Nedra Bellows Tom Calderwood James Cunningham
Robert Danks Michael Hamilton Veronica Magnan
Tw Tyler Webster

Absent: Bonnie-Jean Brooks (ex.), Harold Grove (ex.), Christopher Krause

Visitors: 15

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Bob Danks called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** None.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Tw Tyler Webster to approve the March 13, 2007 Board minutes as presented.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Bellows)

4. **PRESENTATIONS.**

- A. The Superintendent introduced a series of presentations by Tina Boone, principal of the Frankfort Elementary School. In order to give teachers common planning time, the school has a series of exploratories for all students: 1) *Starbase*, a rigorous, highly interactive curriculum for grades K-12, funded by the Department of Defense. This was researched by Mark Quigley and other teachers. A photograph done by Alice Redimen, student, was displayed. This program is aligned to the Maine Learning Results and all 4th and 5th graders attend every other year. 2) *Science Fair* – first year. Students in grades 1-5 work in multiage groups. Each grade focused on a specific science content area. Nancy & Ed Tang helped with the entire program. 3) *With foreign language*, students rotate through five stations via laptop which houses a variety of programs. The program was facilitated by high school students, Christian Koelbl, educational technician, and parents who led a country-related arts and crafts center. Grades K and 1 did Germany, grades 2 & 3 did France, and grades 4 & 5 did french stained windows.
- B. The Superintendent shared the work of the Technology Ad Hoc Committee in formulating a technology plan for 2007 – 2010. Without it, we would not be able to apply for E-Rate money or receive certain federal and state money. She introduced Laurie Rule, Technology Integration Specialist 6-12, who facilitated the committee. The Key Question was: *What should students know and be able to do to learn effectively and live productively in an increasingly digital world?*

Laurie shared various components of the grant, the results of the enGauge Survey, and the six essential conditions for effective technology use. We are in “exploration”

to systemically align curriculum, instruction, and assessment. In order to reach “transformation” we need to be/have: systemic change K-12, be consistent, have common understandings and language, and clear expectations. The new *Vision* is “*Learners, education, and technology woven together as a single strand.*” Veronica Magnan, chairperson of the committee, spoke of how impressed she was with the committee and their work. Other Board members also congratulated the committee for their work.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

6. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

A. The Superintendent recognized the following seniors who have been accepted to post-secondary institutions:

Caleb Ashley: Husson College, nursing

Katie Cook: UMF, elementary education

Brittany Frisbee: UMO, animal veterinary science

Kristin Kronholm: UMO, biology, USM

Andy Hall: Baran Institute of Technology, auto body plus

Breanne Kingsbury: USM, biology

Jessica Libby: USM, biology

Hannah Moore: University of Maine, Machias, Farmington

Sam Peach: USM, fine arts

Stephanie Peak: UMF, secondary education

Sarah Rackliff: Husson College, business

Nick Ward: Husson College, business

Adam Littlefield: Thomas College, marketing and the University of Maine

Ben Morris: University of Maine, chemical engineering

B. MSMA discussions. The superintendent asked if the Board of Directors wished to pursue their discussions from the MSMA Fall Conference, which have been tabled the last several meetings. Some Board members have already shared this information in their various committees. Consensus was to pull these discussions, and the one scheduled for April also.

C. Correspondence. The Superintendent shared the letter sent to the Commissioner of Education regarding the late 281's and the lack of not following the law which states “each school board will be notified of the estimated amounts prior to February 1.” The Superintendent also read an email received by our Business Manager when he inquired about our 281. It stated that the Governor told the Commissioner to hold off on the publication of subsidy numbers and had no idea when we would be receiving this report.

We also received a letter from Senator Carol Weston “applauding us on the Board of Directors standing up in one voice against the Governor’s School Consolidation Plan.”

Board members received an updated letter on the lice situation at Searsport Elementary School.

The district was also congratulated by the Commissioner for the follow-up work Sharon Goguen and her staff did to the Cycle VI Special Education Program Review.

This work continues the status of full-program approval within our district.
Congratulations to Sharon and her staff for work well done.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Transportation Committee. Done at previous Board meeting.
- B. Buildings and Grounds Committee. Will be done in executive session tonight.
- C. Region Seven. Veronica Magnan reported about an automotive presentation done by students of the Region.
- D. Curriculum Steering Committee. Covered in the Technology presentation earlier in the meeting.
- E. Legislative Report. The Superintendent spoke about the importance of reviewing proposed legislation and contacting our legislators regarding the impact of these on our school district.
 - LD 1292: “An Act to Ensure the Provision of Necessary Conditions for Effective Educational Reform.” This is a mandate for all teachers to receive an additional hour/day within the school day for teaching learning communities. Schools must provide coverage for these teachers. We believe in the concept and find it is valuable; however, we approached it in a different manner. We added six early release days to the 2007-08 school calendar as well as looking at programs as we heard tonight which frees up teachers at a more reasonable cost to the district. If passed as stated, this will be very costly to this district, approximately \$500,000.
 - LD 293: “An Act to Address the Evaluation of Certain School Employees.” We already have many of these procedures. But if we have to have Board approval on every hire, not only will it be time consuming, but it means we cannot hire necessary staff (bus drivers, custodians) when we need them.
 - LD 465: “An Act to Prohibit SAUs from Advocating in Political Activity.” This will inhibit SAUs from informing citizens of the potential impact of referendum questions, i.e., TABOR. It will allow us to inform citizens on the annual school budgets.
 - Consolidation updates change regularly and currently they are looking at 2500 students in each new district. It is important to follow these as they appear. The Superintendent shared it is going to be a “sticky” issue. Chairperson Bob Danks supported contacting our legislators about the impact of these issues on our district.

8. **OLD BUSINESS.** None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. Donation of miscellaneous items from Sprague Energy. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Veronica Magnan to accept the donation of two chemical exhaust hoods and one chemical sink, complete with hardware, etc. Questions followed. Are these OSHA compliant? Yes. We will do the installation ourselves.

VOTE: 7-0-0

- B. Resignation of Paul Bradshaw, maintenance, effective April 6, 2007. The Superintendent has already conducted an exit interview.
- C. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the district’s 2007-10 Technology Plan as written.

VOTE: 7-0-0

- D. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Mike Hamilton to accept a bid for the high/middle school roof project from Penobscot Company in the amount of \$890,308.

VOTE: 7-0-0

- E. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Jim Cunningham to accept a bid for the Stockton Springs Elementary School roof project from Dunbar and Brawn in the amount of \$907,000. Questions followed.

VOTE: 7-0-0

- F. Consideration of a change in substitute pay rates effective September 1, 2007. The Superintendent explained that in most cases these rates have not been revised since 2001 or 2002. The new minimum wage will be \$7/hour. She recommended the following:

- \$10/hour for secretaries, Ed Tech IIs, Ed Tech IIIs, custodians, kitchen subs, and maintenance workers.
- \$12/hour for substitute bus drivers.
- \$75/day for substitute teachers with a \$50 bonus paid after 25, 50, & 75 days of service per school year.
- \$75/day for long term substitute teachers for the first 20 days; starting with the 21st day paid at a daily rate of 1/182 of the base salary for a Bachelor's Degree in the Comprehensive Contract. No bonus payments.

A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Veronica Magnan to approve the above substitute pay rate changes, effective September 1, 2007. Discussion and questions followed. People in the audience shared concerns. The Chairperson asked the Superintendent to look at the amount of time of service within the district when these pay changes are reconsidered.

VOTE: 7-0-0

- G. 2007-08 Draft Budget #1. The Superintendent stated again that we do not have our revenue page, but the increases reflect only increases in expenditures. The process of having each administrator/supervisor present their budget to the business manager, superintendent, and Finance Committee members prior to this draft went well. Cuts have already been made.

1. Overview of draft expenses. Explanations were given for increases in the budget over \$3000. K-8 budgets were processed quickly. The Superintendent asked the Board to decide on when they wish to hold meetings to discuss the budget. The Board decided to include this on the agenda for the April 10 regular Board meeting, and to meet on Wednesday April 11. The Superintendent reminded the Board that they will need to plan on staying beyond 9:30 pm, and to hold April 12th in case that night is needed for another meeting to finalize the budget.

2. Hiring Decisions:

- a. REACH Program
- b. Project Success
- c. Technology Integration Specialist K-5
- d. Technology Technician
- e. Ed Tech II for Stockton Springs Elementary School and Frankfort Elementary School
- f. Maintenance person

The Superintendent requested that this item be tabled so that she could meet with the Admin Team to prioritize which positions are vital. She will report back to the Board of Directors in time for the April 10 meeting.

3. Number of public hearings. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Mike Hamilton to hold one public budget hearing this year at the Searsport District High/Middle School Cafeteria on Wednesday, May 30 at 6:30 pm.

VOTE: 6-1-0 (Webster)

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

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

VOTE: 7-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 7:50 pm and resumed public session at 8:18 pm.

- B. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Tom Calderwood to enter executive session for the evaluations of officials and an employee pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A).

VOTE: 6-1-0 (Webster)

The Board entered executive session at 8:19 pm and resumed public session at 8:53 pm.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm;

Respectfully submitted,