

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

April 10, 2007 – 6:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

Present: Nedra Bellows Bonnie-Jean Brooks Tom Calderwood
James Cunningham Robert Danks Harold Grove
Michael Hamilton (6:40) Christopher Krause (6:35)
Twyler Webster

Absent: Veronica Magnan

Visitors: 19

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 Twyler Webster and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the March 27, 2007 Board minutes with one correction: On page 4 of 5, New Business, F, a vote of 7-0-0 needs to be added after the motion. A corrected copy of the minutes will be posted on the website, and placed in the Official Minutes Book at the Central Office.

VOTE: 5-0-2 (Brooks, Grove)

4. **PRESENTATIONS.** None.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

The Board chairperson explained that the public participation must address an agenda item and the time allowed is limited to one minute per person.

Denise Dakin who has two students at the Stockton Springs Elementary School spoke of her concern with the move to the Northport School. She is requesting an Open Forum on the last minute change, to be held on Wednesday or Thursday.

Rob Claiber spoke about the elimination of the REACH program, an agenda item. They have had a high level of programming at the Middle School and data from that program shows the efforts of Bret Perryman and his work. The elimination of the program will present a void to the school district.

6. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

A. Monthly enrollment numbers. The superintendent asked if there were any questions.

B. Administrative reports. The superintendent asked if there were any questions.

Harold Grove will ask Gregg Palmer his question directly.

C. Update on roof projects. Materials are in the Board packets, as is the letter sent home to parents regarding the relocation to the Northport School.

Bonnie-Jean Brooks mentioned that she had heard that two of our students had been selected for the One-Act play competition. Has the Board been notified?

- D. Disposal of Instructional Materials. The superintendent shared that we have old textbooks dating back to the 1970's. We will offer these to students and then dispose of them.
- E. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The superintendent shared that earlier in the fall she was asked to serve on the National Assessment Committee in Washington D.C. However, there were not enough votes to give Maine a representative. The Commission sent John Kennedy to meet with her regarding chairing the state TAC Committee, working with experts in the field of assessments. The Committee meets three times a year and the position comes with a stipend of \$1500 for each meeting, to prepare and facilitate the meetings. The work is to advise the Commissioner on the technical aspects of the MEA and Pilot Action Research with grades 6-12 math teachers using the Survey of Enacted Curriculum and its alignment to the Maine Learning Results "guiding their instruction." The superintendent reminded the Board that a full time superintendent cannot accept any stipend position without Board approval.

Discussion and questions followed. The superintendent was asked if this would interfere with her present job and/or it benefit to the district. The superintendent responded that first she wanted to attend the June 8 meeting to see what it entailed. If the job was more than she wished to accept or if it interfered with her current job, she would resign her position on the TAC. Her first priority was her job as superintendent to the district.

She also assured the Board that this would give us a voice as they designed the MEA. Also, the action research would definitely focus our math instruction.

A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Harold Grove to support the superintendent to serve as the chairperson of TAC.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- F. The superintendent reported that the Stockton Springs Elementary School was granted a waiver of attendance for April 23, 2007. Teachers will prepare for the Northport School and hold an Open House for parents and students on April 23rd from 4 – 6 pm. Students will start school at the new location on Tuesday, April 24, 2007.

- 7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.** The Chairperson shared that reports were in the Board packets. He asked the superintendent to give a legislative update.
 - A. Finance Committee
 - B. Transportation Committee
 - C. Buildings and Grounds Committee
 - D. Personnel Committee
 - E. Legislative Report. The superintendent reported that the latest report has the formation of Regional School Units that must have 2500 students or more, and they may be subject to re-consolidation again if they fall below 2500 students in the future. The newest 2008-09 plan must cut costs by 5% in transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance. Budgets will be proposed by a Regional Board and go to referendum. If a budget is not approved by July 1, the Regional Board's final proposal becomes law and its taxes are levied on the

municipalities and the voters. The Regional Board may issue bonds up to 1% (in MSAD #56 that is \$4,000,000) without voter approval, unless 10% of the voters in the region sign a petition within 35 days of the proposal. It is imperative that people read about this legislation and contact their state representatives and senators.

8. **OLD BUSINESS.** None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

A. Co-curricular nominations:

1. Bret Perryman, co-coach for Middle School baseball.
2. Shannon Gray, volunteer coach for high school softball.
3. Nick Gonzalas, volunteer coach for high school baseball.

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to take # 1-3 as a group.

VOTE: 8-1-0 (Hamilton)

A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Chris Krause to approve Bret Perryman as a co-coach for Middle School baseball, Shannon Gray as a volunteer coach for high school softball, and Nick Gonzalas as a volunteer coach for high school baseball. Backup materials on each nominee were in the Board folders.

VOTE: 9-0-0

Discussion followed.

- B. Resignation of Emily Morris as the Gifted and Talented Coordinator effective June 30, 2007. The superintendent shared that she will remain as the half-time Middle School art teacher.
- C. Resignation of Natalie Merrill, 6th grade Math Teacher. Letter in Board packet.
- D. Consideration of accepting a bid for a surplus bus. The superintendent reviewed the bids. A motion was made by Jim Cunningham and seconded by Harold Grove to accept the bid from Luce Transportation of \$2,105 for the 1995 DT 5-speed manual transmission surplus bus, as is, where is. The superintendent shared that this was the highest bid ever received on a surplus bus.

VOTE: 9-0-0

- E. Consideration of increasing the hourly rate for tutors and therapeutic tutors. The superintendent shared information on the requested hourly rates increases. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to increase the pay of regular tutors to \$20/hour, therapeutic tutors to \$25/hour, and to pay ed techs the higher of \$12/hour or their regular hourly rate, effective July 1, 2007.

VOTE: 9-0-0

- F. Consideration of pay adjustments for administrators and Central Office staff.
1. High School Principal.
 2. Middle School Principal
 3. Searsport Elementary School Principal.
 4. Frankfort Elementary School Principal.
 5. Stockton Springs Elementary School Principal.
 6. Dean of Students/Co-Curricular Coordinator.
 7. Director of Special Services
 8. Adult Education Director.
 9. Food Services Director.

10. Director of Maintenance and Transportation.
11. Business Manager.
12. Computer/Technology Coordinator.
13. Administrative Assistant.
14. Accounting Clerk.
15. Curriculum Secretary.
16. Technology Technician.

The superintendent distributed a chart of proposed salary increases for the 16 positions listed above. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A) for the compensation of employees.

VOTE: 5-3-1 (Bellows, Brooks, Grove) (Danks)

The Board entered executive session at 7:01 pm and resumed public session at 7:13 pm. There was discussion on the role of SATs and MEAs with raises. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the range of raises as presented by the superintendent, and not to go into each separate one until the individuals are notified what their raises will be.

VOTE: 7-0-2 (Grove, Webster)

G. Position adjustments/additions/changes for 2007-08:

1. Additional positions needing approval. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the following six positions for inclusion in the 2007-08 budget. There was no discussion.
 - a. Ed Tech III – Frankfort Elementary School (3 hours/week)
 - b. Ed Tech III – Stockton Springs Elementary School (3 hours/week)
 - c. Part-time secretary for the Co-Curricular Coordinator (2 hours/day)
 - d. Ed Tech III for Project Success – full-time position, 260 days.
 - e. Technology Technician – full-time position, 260 days.
 - f. Technology Integration Specialist K-5 – increase to full time from ¼ time.

VOTE: 7-1-1 (Webster) (Cunningham)

2. Position eliminations/reductions needing approval. The superintendent shared information about the drop in enrollment for the kindergarten class at the Stockton Springs Elementary School and the increase in numbers at the Frankfort Elementary School. These changes result in the recommendation to eliminate one grade 1 position for Stockton Springs Elementary School for the 2007-08 school year. The superintendent is also recommending the reduction of the health/PE teaching position at the middle school to half-time, and the elimination of the REACH program. The superintendent shared that there are changes in the Middle School schedule and the focus is on academics. This year we were assessing the health/PE position which was approved last year. One Board member had concerns about cutting some positions and then requesting additional new positions. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Harold Grove to eliminate and/or reduce the three positions/programs listed below as recommended by the superintendent.
 - a. Grade 1 teaching position at Stockton Springs Elementary School.
 - b. Health/PE position at the Searsport District Middle School reduced to half-time.
 - c. Elimination of the Project Reach program.

VOTE: 8-1-0 (Webster)

Another comment was made that historically the Board made decisions on programs and then re-examined and assessed them at a later time. This person's vote is based on what we know now, not based on what may happen in the future.

H. 2007-08 Draft Budget #2. The Board discussed several items in this draft of the 2007-08 budget.

- Student transportation has \$15,000 for a new truck. There was consensus to remove this item from the budget.
- Operations & Plant Maintenance has \$4,050 for a plow and sander. There was consensus to remove this item from the budget.
- The increase in bus purchases is because truck lease payments are included for the first time.
- Technology increases are due in part to a requirement that we track Incidents of Prohibited Behavior (ICB) on the MEDMS system. This means increased work for personnel, and a great need to keep all computers up and running.
- Health insurance has an 8.66% increase for next year.
- Secretary account at the high school shows a \$60,000 increase. This includes a ¼ time secretary for the Co-Curricular Coordinator, the addition of an Ed Tech III for Project Success, and the pay increase for the high school secretary.
- Postage account. It was explained that postage this year will be spent by the end of the fiscal year. Postage is purchased at the end of the year in bulk.
- The elementary librarian's salary is spread over the three elementary schools and is based on student population on October 1/April 1.
- Library accounts show a decrease in the purchase of audio and video materials. The superintendent shared that we used grants from MBNA to purchase these materials, before the grants were eliminated.
- We are using \$850,000 in carryover to decrease the budget.
- There was a question concerning budget comparisons of each town's percentage share of the budget.
- Nedra Bellows commented that the \$850,000 increase is a compliment to the district on their management of our funds and the results of the auditor's report.

A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Mike Hamilton to table the 2007-08 budget approval until the April 11, 2007 Board meeting

VOTE: 9-0-0

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

VOTE: 9-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 7:55 pm and resumed public session at 8:05 pm. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Harold Grove to direct the superintendent to write a letter expressing the Board's dismay over the findings of the Hearing Officer and the lack of objectivity on the case, and that this letter be sent to the Secretary of State and other appropriate state officials.

VOTE: 9-0-0

- B. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to enter executive session for the evaluations of officials and an employee pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A).

VOTE: 9-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 8:08 pm and resumed public session at 8:50 pm.

A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Mike Hamilton that a small group of Board representatives and the superintendent meet with interested citizens of Stockton Springs at the Stockton Springs Elementary School for the purpose on answering questions and explaining contractual agreements already in place.

VOTE: 8-1-0 (Calderwood)

The committee will consist of Mike Hamilton, Jim Cunningham (Buildings & Grounds), Harold Grove (Chairperson), Bonnie-Jean Brooks, Veronica Magnan, and Mary Szwec. The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 12 from 7 -8 pm at the Stockton Springs Elementary School. The superintendent will explain the situation and how we got to this point. There may be a PowerPoint presentation.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,