

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

April 24, 2007 – 6:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

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

Absent: Christopher Krause

Visitors: 6

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Bob Danks called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** Two items were added as New Business: B1 – consideration of approval of a field trip to Warren Island, and B2 – consideration of approval of a field trip to Boston.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the Board minutes of April 10 and April 11, 2007.
VOTE: 9-0-0
4. **PRESENTATIONS.** None.
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.
6. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**
 - The superintendent asked Sharon Goguen to sit at the center table. She then announced that we are honoring two people from our district. The Maine Administrators for Services for Children with Disabilities (MADSEC) has announced that their Special Education Director of the Year is Sharon Goguen. Sharon is well deserving of this award which will be presented to her at the Special Education Conference in June in Bar Harbor. Sharon received a round of applause. In addition, Jessica Hall from Searsport received the Parent of the Year Award from the same organization, and we congratulate her also.
 - Three positions have been filled: Kristyon Spiegel for maintenance, Michael Gallant for custodian, and Terrie Seekins for custodian.
 - The superintendent reminded the Board about the Region 7 meeting on Thursday with dinner starting at 6 pm. Tom, Harold, Veronica, Mike, Nedra, Bob and Mary will attend the dinner. Bonnie will attend the meeting which begins at 7 pm. We need to have a quorum and will be voting on the Region 7 budget. Our assessment is \$317,739.
 - The superintendent notified the Board that Trent Emery has decided not to coach Middle School baseball. Bret Perryman will be the sole coach of the team.
7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Policy Committee. Harold Grove reported that the committee met tonight and policies will be forthcoming. The superintendent reminded the Board that a sub-committee composed of Gregg Palmer, Bob Danks, Veronica Magnan and herself need to meet to develop the criteria for selecting a student representative for the Board of Directors.
- B. Region 7. No report.
- C. Legislative Report. The superintendent pointed out the latest proposed bill LD 499 regarding the consolidation of school districts. The sub-committee's plan is mandating 80 Regional School Units (RSU) averaging 2500 students, the dissolving of MSADs, CSDs, etc., and the time frame. The Board will discuss this later in the meeting. The superintendent has also included lists of proposed bills in the Board folders.

8. **OLD BUSINESS.** None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. The resignation of Justin Thomas, elementary physical education teacher, effective June 30, 2007, was announced.
- B. Consideration of approval of a field trip to Prince Edward Island by special education students on June 11 – 15, 2007. The Board had several questions. New passport rules go into effect in 2008. Students will need a letter from their parent/guardian giving permission for the trip on certain dates. They will need insurance coverage in case of any medical emergency occurring there. We also need doctor orders concerning any medications. Mrs. Szwec will write a letter on letterhead stating this is an officially sanctioned trip of the district. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Harold Grove to approve the field trip to Prince Edward Island by special education students on June 11 – 15, 2007.

VOTE: 9-0-0

B1. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Harold Grove to approve a trip to Warren Island on June 18-20, 2007 by Day Treatment students and staff. A concern was expressed regarding the lack of meeting a two month period deadline for Board approval.

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

B2. The superintendent shared that there was an opportunity (presented today) for six Project Success students with exemplary achievement to attend a Red Sox game in Boston on May 17, 2007. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to approve the trip. Someone asked what were the criteria for selecting the six students. Gregg Palmer said it would be based on performance, achievement, attendance and courses at the Technical Center.

VOTE: 9-0-0

- C. Nominations of teachers to continuing contracts for 2007-08:
 1. Carol Fuller, high school guidance counselor.
 2. Kelly Gatcomb, grade 1 teacher at Frankfort Elementary School.
 3. Jean Lawlis, high school math teacher.
 4. Carolyn Mardosa, grade 3 teacher at Frankfort Elementary School.
 5. Barbara Rehmeyer, Technology Integration Specialist K-5.
 6. Laurie Rule, Technology Integration Specialist 6-8.

The superintendent shared that these six teachers were moving from a second year probationary contract to a continuing contract. She also announced that she had

asked the teachers not to attend tonight's meeting in case they were not approved by the Board, which could be embarrassing. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the nominations of Carol Fuller, Kelly Gatcomb, Jean Lawlis, Carolyn Mardosa, Barbara Rehmeyer, and Laurie Rule to continuing contracts in 2007-08.

VOTE: 9-0-0

- D. Nominations of teachers to second year probationary contracts for 2007-08:
1. Ashley Bryant, kindergarten teacher at Stockton Springs Elementary School.
 2. Rebecca Dean, elementary guidance counselor.
 3. Trent Emery, elementary art teacher.
 4. Emily Morris, half-time middle school art teacher.
 5. Dan Switzer, French teacher.
 6. Carrie Thomas, multiage teacher at Searsport Elementary School.
 7. Joshua Toothaker, middle school science teacher.
 8. Jessica Whitworth, high school health teacher

A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the nominations of Ashley Bryant, Rebecca Dean, Trent Emery, Emily Morris, Dan Switzer, Carrie Thomas, Joshua Toothaker, and Jessica Whitworth to second year probationary contracts for 2007-08.

VOTE: 8-1-0 (Webster)

- E. Consideration of approval of one-year contract extensions (until June 30, 2008) for the following employees:
1. Andree Bella, Adult Education Director
 2. Agnes Nelson, Food Service Director
 3. Jim Parsons, Director of Maintenance and Transportation
 4. Robert Bradford, Computer Technology Coordinator
 5. Harold Grove, Technology Technician
 6. Brian MacFarland, Business Manager
 7. Marilyn Stumpff, Administrative Assistant
 8. Diane Libby, Accounting Clerk
 9. Suanne Larrabee, Curriculum Secretary

A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve one year contract extensions (until June 30, 2008) for Andree Bella, Agnes Nelson, Jim Parsons, Robert Bradford, Harold Grove, Brian MacFarland, Marilyn Stumpff, Diane Libby, and Suanne Larrabee.

VOTE: 8-0-1 (Grove)

- F. Reorganization of school districts. The superintendent shared that she wanted the Board's reflections, reactions, concerns, and questions regarding LD 499 on consolidation.

Questions

1. Do we take a stand in opposition?
2. Since we have no vote (communities), should we have a well-advertised forum to get input from our communities?
3. What will become of our four-year-old programs with consolidation?
4. Looking at the demographics, how many districts K-12 would cover the criteria of 2500 students? The superintendent shared some possibilities.
 - Bucksport, Orland, Prospect, & Verona = 1200-1400 students
 - Bucksport, Orland, Prospect, & Verona plus Castine are still less than 2500. Should MSAD #56 go there?
 - MSAD 34 (1900 students) & 56 (800 students) = 2700

- MSAD 34 (1900 students), MSAD 3 (1500 students) & 56 (800 students) = 4200 students
 - MSAD 3 has 1500 students and wishes to stand alone.
5. Is there any tool/instrument/benchmark to measure other districts so we can get the highest value of education? Budgets? Performance results? MEA results? Staff? Philosophy? Vision? Achievements? Working with alternative funding sources? Community successes?
 6. How will diplomas be given out at graduation with a variety of high schools?
 7. Would it be beneficial for our district to advertise our specialties? Charter school?

Concerns

1. Inability to understand that this is a well-thought out plan and analyzed whether we are saving or losing money (economics only). Based on previous decisions we have seen this year thus far, six months is not enough proof for us.
2. Administration's (Governor's) unwillingness to at least listen to the voices of the towns and cities of the state on how they feel about consolidation.
3. Ordinary citizens have no say at all. "Stuck down" our throats.
4. Is there a legal way that we as citizens can come up with to stop this steam rolling process?
5. What will happen to the various grants we have received?
6. Would/should we petition against this movement?
7. MSMA legal analysis of the various steps if this plan is implemented, and will it still be in compliance with the law? The superintendent reported that Dick Spencer of Drummond Woodsum was advising the legislature; however, he has washed his hands of the process.
8. Why not allow a group of districts to pilot the consolidation in a few areas of the state first? Then see how it works. The superintendent reminded the Board that the Governor has stated he is not willing to have any studies or task forces.
9. Concern with the waste of monies and what you/how do you manage a 2500 student district effectively and efficiently?
10. Maybe we should spend all of our money?
11. If standards-based high schools are a future goal, why don't we consider becoming a Charter School? Why not move in this direction to guide others including elementary and middle schools?

Next Steps

Look at what is out there for our district to join and also contact our legislators about the process and the speed this process is moving at.

Four Separate Actions

1. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Harold Grove that MSAD #56 join with the Maine School Board Association Board of Directors and the Maine Superintendent's Executive Committee in opposition of the Sub-Committee's Plan of School Consolidation LD 499. Discussion followed. Recent administrations have had two failed consolidations already.

VOTE: 9-0-0

2. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Twyler Webster to contact our legislative delegation (Waldo County) and request a public hearing on the Sub-Committee's Plan of School Consolidation LD 499 within thirty days

at the MSAD #56 Cafetorium. Discussion/questions followed.

VOTE: 9-0-0

3. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Veronica Magnan to have the entire MSAD #56 Board of Directors hold a public meeting for the citizens of our district to discuss this school consolidation proposal, to ask for their input, and share our reaction to the legislation.

VOTE: 9-0-0

4. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Harold Grove to recommend that the superintendent do due diligence and risk assessment about other school entities that we may ask to join us such as statistics on liability claims, the number of grievances, toxic waste issues, finances, audit statements for the past three years, drop out rates, curriculum, accreditation, number of special education program reviews, placement of students, educational philosophy, home school statistics, salary schedules, and the number of contracts, etc.

VOTE: 9-0-0

A discussion was held regarding looking into becoming a Charter School regarding our standards-based movement and the work we have done in technology.

A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Veronica Magnan to have the superintendent look into the requirements for becoming a Charter School so we can continue the progress we have made with standards and technology.

VOTE: 9-0-0

There was further discussion. Why doesn't the State look into a state-wide curriculum?

There was also a conversation on the number of states who have experienced such consolidations. At one of the hearings in Augusta, a representative from Virginia shared the affects of a similar situation and the number of assistant superintendent positions that were created.

Bonnie-Jean Brooks pointed out that one component of LD 499 was that "The RSUs are then required to elect a new Board of Directors, hire a superintendent and Central Office, and prepare a budget for FY 2008-09, and have the budget approved by voters" all by June 2008, before the new superintendent is hired. How to manage a budget that someone else has created could be a major issue.

Other

- Veronica suggested that the superintendent write a thank you letter to Bank of America and will get the list to the superintendent.
- The Board offered congratulations to the superintendent for a well laid out plan on the roofing project, and for answering all of the parents' questions. The superintendent was well-prepared, concise, and very detailed.
- The superintendent recognized the staff, the custodians, Jim Parsons, Bob Bradford, Rusty Grove, and the bus drivers for their packing up and delivering all the supplies, furniture, and making the move and Open House such a huge success. Students were amazed with the new facilities. "We can do anything we set our mind to."

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
 - A. Evaluations of officials and an employee pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A). Did not have.
11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,