

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

May 8, 2007 – 6:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

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

Absent: Nedra Bellows (ex.), Christopher Krause, Veronica Magnan (ex.)

Visitors: 9

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Bob Danks called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He introduced Joseph Altilio, the new Board member from Searsport. Mr. Altilio is still working with college students.
2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** None.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** The superintendent pointed out that there is a revised set of minutes which corrected two errors: Carolyn Mardosa is a third grade teacher, and the word “held” on page 5 of 6. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the April 24, 2007 minutes as revised.

VOTE: 8-0-0

4. **PRESENTATIONS.**
The superintendent shared one way students are being exposed to the vocabulary for the SAT’s. Ann Marshall and Laurie Rule developed the software program. Ann did the sentences and definitions and Laurie did the technology. The program on display tonight runs in the library giving vocabulary words, definitions, and examples of sentences citing how the words are used in daily life. This has been well received by the students and serves as another excellent preparation for the SAT’s.
5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.
6. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**
 - A. May 1 enrollment numbers. The superintendent noted that there are 40 students in the four-year-old program.
 - B. Administrative reports. Joseph Altilio asked if this was a requirement or was the superintendent forced to put in the detail. The superintendent explained that the monthly reports took the place of having each administrator verbally present what happened in their schools on a monthly basis. The superintendent’s report also includes her role as the Curriculum Coordinator and that in fact, she is a detailed person. The written reports allow more time for discussion at the Board meetings. Bonnie-Jean Brooks concurred.
 - C. Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee report. The superintendent shared that in the fall of 2006, the Board requested an ad hoc committee to give input on restructuring our

schools. The committee was comprised of Diane Gilmore, a teacher, Janice Toomey, an administrator, Mike Hamilton and Twyler Webster, Board members, Glenn Baker, Alan Hammond, and Eugene Ellis as community members, and the superintendent. The committee met five times for 2 – 2 ½ hours each meeting. They brainstormed nine options, listing the pros and cons, and any questions. Once all of the brainstorming was completed, the members reflected on each option and then selected the top three options with his/her rationale. The Board of Directors can review the entire report, and this will be on the May 22 agenda for discussion. (Later in the meeting the superintendent passed out the report.)

- D. Consolidation Update. The superintendent reported that the consolidation of 80 districts, each having 2500 students, is on the fast track. A suggested configuration of regional school units will be ready for distribution during the week of May 11, 2007. Communities need to notify the Department of Education of their intent by July 31, 2007.

On Wednesday, May 9, Bob Danks, Tom Calderwood and the superintendent will meet with representatives from MSAD #3 and MSAD #34 to discuss consolidation.

In addition, letters were mailed to all citizens of MSAD #56 inviting them to a hearing on Wednesday, May 16 at the HS/MS Cafetorium at 6:30 pm to get their reflections, reactions, concerns, and questions about the proposed consolidation. The superintendent asked the Board how they wanted the meeting to run. It was decided the Chairperson would open the meeting; the superintendent would give an overview of the proposal, and then lead them through a process similar to the one done by the Board.

The meeting on the 23rd at 6:30 pm at the HS/MS Cafetorium will have both Representative Lance Weddell and Senator Carol Weston, unless the legislature is in session. The superintendent will send them our community issues, concerns, and questions prior to the May 23 meeting.

The superintendent reported that there are no more charter schools, but she has sent the Board's request to both Norm Higgins and Jennifer Pooler, who will forward this to the Commissioner and appropriate agencies. The superintendent is still working on a form to be sent to surrounding districts.

Lastly, there is an electronic petition from the Bar Harbor Board of Directors against the proposed consolidation if one wishes to sign it.

- E. Other.
1. There is a trip report from Leslie Gregory regarding a trip with students.
 2. Roof projects. The superintendent explained the bid price for the MS/HS roofs were under our Revolving Renovation allocation, but the Stockton Springs roof bid was over. With the facts from WBRC and input from the district's Buildings and Grounds Committee, the superintendent requested that monies from the SDHS/SDMS project be carried over to cover the additional costs of the SSES project since the citizens of all three towns passed both roof projects. In her request, she proved that all five alternatives of the SSES project were necessities and safety concerns. All five projects were approved by the State. Since the maximum loan amount for a school building to address Priority One

projects is \$1,000,000 per Rules Chapter 64, the \$870,431 for SSES plus the additional \$129,569 will increase the approved amount to the \$1,000,000 maximum amount allowed. Since the SDMS/SDHS project bids came in under, a portion of these projects had to be reduced. All in all, the project will cost only \$9,062.55 more, which we will pay to complete all projects.

3. Budget Books. Our budget books are complete; however, there is one error we need to report. This year we emailed the project and one photo of Frankfort Elementary School students flying their kites did not come through. Instead of the photo there is a huge red X. The superintendent asked whether the Board wished to reprint the budget books or place an explanation in the newspapers. The Board decided to have the newspapers print a short paragraph explaining what happened with the real photo.
4. The superintendent also shared that the district brought in \$755,545.57 worth of grants which was a tremendous savings for the district.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.** The chairperson reported that all committee reports were sent to Board members.
 - A. Finance Committee.
 - B. Transportation Committee. Met tonight and received updates on transportation to the Northport School.
 - C. Buildings and Grounds Committee. Tom Calderwood reported that the Middle School would like a sign (message board), dedicated to Milaine Plante. Brian Corrigan explained the sign and where it would be. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the erection of a sign at the Middle School, at no cost to the district, with a dedication to Milaine Plante pending it meets the various codes. Tom will talk to the Code Officer. There was discussion about OSHA and the fire Marshall.

VOTE: 8-0-0

The superintendent reported she has received information that the students' behavior and attention span has increased due to the number of windows at the Northport facility. We may want to add windows at the Stockton Springs Elementary School once we see the progress made and our financial status.

- D. Policy Committee.
 - E. Legislative Report.
8. **OLD BUSINESS.** None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. Signing of the warrants for the 2007-08 budget referendum on June 12, 2007. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton that the Warrant and Notice Of Election presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved, and that a district meeting referendum be and is hereby called for June 12, 2007 for the purpose of voting on the annual budget for the district for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

VOTE: 8-0-0

A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Harold Grove that the Notice of Informational Meeting and Public Hearing presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved for the purpose of notifying voters of the informational meeting and public hearing schedule for the 2007-08 budget as provided therein.

VOTE: 8-0-0

The Board signed the warrants and Notices of Public Hearing.

- B. An inhouse transfer of Dan Campbell, Middle School physical education/health teacher to the elementary physical education teacher position, was announced.
- C. The resignation of Barbara Danis, half-time elementary principal and half-time Title I Coordinator, effective June 30, 2007, was announced. Her letter of resignation was in the Board packets.
- D. First reading of policy JJIBC, Relations with Booster Groups. The superintendent shared the revised policy, moving “except those approved by the superintendent” from H to G. The superintendent shared the Policy Committee reviewed all the input from various committees and organizations in their revisions. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Bonnie-Jean Brooks to approve JJIBC for a first reading as revised, and to insert “Superintendent of Schools”, not just superintendent. Discussion followed.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- E. Consideration of allowing the group “Halos and Hammers” to use the Searsport Elementary School for the week of July 14-20, 2007 to sleep and shower. The superintendent reported that this group is similar to “Habitats for Humanity” and they will improve five homes in the Searsport/Frankfort area. Bonnie-Jean Brooks asked about the insurance and if the coverage is there. The superintendent asked the Director of Operations but he was unable to respond. The superintendent directed him to check on the status so we can approve the request if all is in order. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Harold Grove to allow Halos and Hammers to use the facility as requested, provided they meet the insurance requirements of the district. There was more discussion.

VOTE: 8-0-0

In the future, the Board of Directors wants the entire Use of Facilities form prior to making final decisions.

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

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

VOTE: 8-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 7:25 pm and resumed public session at 7:34 pm. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Tom Calderwood to reimburse Jan Austin \$1500 for her additional roles/responsibilities as head teacher at Stockton Springs Elementary School for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.

VOTE: 8-0-0

- B. A motion was made by Bonnie-Jean Brooks and seconded by Harold Grove 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 7:35 pm and resumed public session at 7:45 pm.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,