

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

July 10, 2007 – 6:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

Present: Joseph Altilio Nedra Bellows Tom Calderwood
James Cunningham Denise Dakin Robert Danks
Harold Grove (6:34) Michael Hamilton Christopher Krause (6:33)
Veronica Magnan (6:35) Twyler Webster

Absent: None.

Visitors: 9

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Bob Danks called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He introduced Denise Dakin, the new Board representative from Stockton Springs.

A. Election of Board Officers

1. Chair. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Mike Hamilton to elect Robert Danks as Chairperson.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Danks)

2. Vice Chair. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Chris Krause to nominate Harold Grove as the Vice-Chairperson. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Denise Dakin to nominate Twyler Webster as the Vice-Chairperson. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Mike Hamilton to nominate Nedra Bellows as the Vice-Chairperson. The Board then discussed the method of voting to be used. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Harold Grove to use a secret ballot.

VOTE: 11-0-0 to have a secret ballot

The Board then cast their votes for the Vice-Chairperson. The superintendent tallied the votes: 4 for Nedra Bellows, 4 for Harold Grove, and 3 for Twyler Webster. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Joe Altilio to have another secret ballot to break the tie.

VOTE: 11-0-0 to have another secret ballot

The Board then voted in secret again. The superintendent tallied the votes as follows: **7 for Nedra Bellows, 4 for Harold Grove.** Nedra Bellows was elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

3. Finance Committee. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Jim Cunningham to nominate Nedra Bellows, Tom Calderwood, Bob Danks, Harold Grove, and Veronica Magnan as members of the Finance Committee.

VOTE: 11-0-0

4. Standing Committees. Board members gave their committee choices to Chairperson Bob Danks. These will be compiled and committees will be formed.

5. Representative to the Waldo County Technical Center Board. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Joe Altilio to nominate Harold Grove as the district's representative to the Waldo County Technical Center Board of Directors. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Mike Hamilton to nominate Veronica Magnan as the district's representative to

the Waldo County Technical Center Board of Directors. There was a secret ballot. The results were: **7 votes for Harold Grove and 4 votes for Veronica Magnan**. Harold Grove will serve as the representative to the Waldo County Technical Center Board of Directors.

2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** One item was added to the agenda: Under New Business, F, consideration of approval of a field trip to Baxter State Park.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the minutes of June 26 (revised), June 27, and June 29, 2007. Harold Grove pointed out that a comma was needed on page 3 of 4 of the June 26 minutes under Old Business, B, and paragraph 3 after the word “state” because this is a compound sentence.

VOTE: 10-0-1 (Krause)

The correction to the June 26 minutes will be made in the Official Minutes Book, and a corrected copy will be posted on the district’s website.

4. **PRESENTATIONS.** None.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

6. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

A. The Superintendent shared that the Board had received copies of the administrative reports. Unless anyone had questions, she did not have anything else, for it was covered later on the agenda.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

A. Legislative Report. There has been no report from the Commissioner as promised. As soon as the summaries are received, the superintendent will share them with the Board.

8. **OLD BUSINESS.**

A. Second readings of the following policies:

1. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve BBBAB, Student Representation of the Board of Directors, for a second reading. Chris Krause expressed a concern as to where the student representatives would sit. We need to be sure there is room at the table, and that the setup is appropriate in all schools so that no one is left to the side.

VOTE: 11-0-0

2. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Jim Cunningham to approve BEDBA, Consent Agenda, for a second reading.

VOTE: 11-0-0

The superintendent reported that there will be a change in future agendas with the Consent Agenda at the top. It is the responsibility of all Board members to read all materials. If there is a topic on the Consent Agenda that someone wants to discuss, he/she must notify the superintendent in advance so that this can be done. This means no verbal reports will be presented. Also, the Policy Committee will need to change policy BEDB, Agenda Format, to fit the Consent Agenda.

B. Nomination of Elaine LaPoint as Senior Class Advisor and Yearbook Advisor –

executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A). The superintendent asked if there was a need to go into executive session as the backup material was in the Board folders. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the nomination of Elaine LaPoint as Senior Class Advisor and Yearbook Advisor.

VOTE: 9-1-1 (Grove) (Webster)

- C. Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee – discussion of results. The superintendent reviewed the options again. Discussion followed.
- Twyler asked that with consolidation, do we wish to look at Option 3 or wait until the movement with reorganization?
 - Veronica applauded the committee for its work, but with the restructuring, we don't have answers yet on reorganization.
 - Somewhere along the line, we need to do something and address these options. We need to keep this as an open issue.
 - Table it for now.
 - We need to tell others what we have to offer, things that are important to students (a reference to reorganization).
 - We need to address the Ad Hoc Committee. We placed it on the agenda so let's discuss the issue.

A motion was made by Jim Cunningham and seconded by Tom Calderwood to send the entire proposal to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and to receive a complete report back from them within six months. Discussion and suggestions followed. It was suggested that other groups could meet with the committee to provide feedback, including professional groups, an advisory committee, members of the Ad Hoc Committee, and community members. The superintendent addressed transportation costs. She wanted to know when the 5% cuts in transportation, buildings and operations, and special education go into effect. We do not want to make major cuts/revisions only to then be told, according to the reorganization law, that we need to now cut all areas by 5%. The Board agreed.

VOTE: 10-1-0 (Hamilton)

- D. Reorganization/consolidation updates. The superintendent shared the results of the visit with Bucksport. On July 11, we will be meeting with MSAD #3 and #34. We need to investigate more than just finances, such as Gifted and Talented programs, special education programs, Vocational programs, curriculum, other methods of operation, etc.

We will be asking the state to do data sheets on several possible combinations: MSAD #56 with Bucksport, MSAD #56 with MSAD #3, MSAD #56 with MSAD #34, and MSAD #56 with MSAD's #3 and #34.

She again suggested we devote the next meeting to reorganization and include the Admin Team and others, such as the Director of Food Services, to be sure we have input from all aspects.

The superintendent reviewed the latest information from the state and the new timeline. She thanked members of the Board for the large MSAD #56 turnout at the state's regional meeting.

Jim Parsons shared that McCormick shared that if 2% was dedicated to

buildings, it could not be touched by others. The superintendent could not verify this, for Bucksport shared they will spend all their monies on the high school rather than turn it over to the new RSU. The superintendent understood that concept.

The 281's will be a part of our discussions and requests as we discuss more about reorganization.

9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Jim Cunningham to approve the town assessments for the 2007-08 school year as presented.

VOTE: 11-0-0

The Board then signed the assessments.

- B. First readings of the following policies:

1. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Jim Cunningham to approve IKB, Homework, for a first reading. There was discussion on this policy. Joseph Altilio spoke against the policy. He feels there should be homework every day. Learning happens at home. Homework is a common goal and a time to work together. We should not be arranging the time for parents. The time schedule appears to serve as a maximum/minimum schedule. We are setting students up for learned helplessness, i.e., "I studied for X minutes and I couldn't do it, but I failed the test. It is someone else's fault I failed." It is not the place of a parent to say you have studied enough. Children's first job is school, school, school. Anything else is gravy. It is their responsibility to do the homework. The most important thing is to learn how to learn.

Why was there a change in this policy? Discussion continued.

Chris Krause would like to eliminate the second sentence entirely in the third paragraph. He liked the part about all homework being treated as a formative assessment.

Veronica Magnan said that "drill and kill" has its place, like multiplication skills. Projects are another type of homework. With math problems, and reading problems, the teacher needs to put it up on the blackboard the next day and go over it. All needs to be valued.

Nedra Bellows said that parents should sign off so it isn't a conflict between the teacher and the parent.

The Board Chairperson asked that each Board member present their written opinions to the Central Office, which will then forward them on to the Policy Committee. Harold Grove withdrew his original motion. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Mike Hamilton to send this policy back to the Policy Committee.

VOTE: 11-0-0

2. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Twyler Webster to delete IKFBA, Baccalaureate, from the Policy Manual. A lively discussion followed. The superintendent explained the legal issue and that we need to follow the law. Many Board members spoke. Mike Hamilton asked to call the

question.

VOTE: 9-2-0 (Dakin, Krause)

- C. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Jim Cunningham to approve extending contracts for one year (to June 30, 2009) for the following administrators, according to the job descriptions:

1. Sharon Goguen, Director of Special Services
2. Gregg Palmer, Principal, Searsport District High School
3. Brian Corrigan, Principal, Searsport District Middle School
4. Tina Boone, Principal, Frankfort Elementary School
5. Ruth Fitzpatrick, Dean of Students/Co-Curricular Coordinator

VOTE: 11-0-0

- D. Ratification of the following contracts:

1. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Harold Grove to approve the nomination of Wayne Suomi as Principal, Searsport Elementary School, for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009 with a salary of \$60,000 for the 2007-08 school year.

VOTE: 11-0-0

2. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the nomination of Linda Bowe as a half-time Principal, Stockton Springs Elementary School, for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009 with a salary of \$27,000 for the 2007-08 school year.

VOTE: 11-0-0

- E. The superintendent shared that John Stauffer, eMINTS Trainer, has officially retired, effective July 31, 2007. He left MSAD #56 to fill a grant position we wrote and we were the fiscal agent. With his retirement, Article 20, on page 23 of 25, becomes effective, and he should receive his retirement benefit. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Mike Hamilton that John Stauffer receive the retirement benefit as outlined in the comprehensive contract, benefits to be calculated with data prior to his eMINTS position.

VOTE: 11-0-0

- F. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Veronica Magnan to approve a field trip to Baxter State Park on September 24/25, 2007. There were comments on the timeliness of the form.

VOTE: 11-0-0

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

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

VOTE: 11-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 8:08 pm and resumed public session at 8:32 pm.

11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,