

**MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56**

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting  
August 14, 2007 – 6:30 P.M.  
Central Office - Searsport

Present: Joseph Altilio            Nedra Bellows            Tom Calderwood  
          James Cunningham        Denise Dakin            Robert Danks  
          Harold Grove            Michael Hamilton        Christopher Krause (6:40)  
          Veronica Magnan        Twyler Webster (6:53)

Absent:        None.

Visitors:     17+

1.    **CALL TO ORDER.**        Chairperson Robert Danks called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2.    **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** Two items were added under New Business: E, Consideration of approval of a loan from the Municipal Bond Bank in the amount of \$129,569, and F, Consideration of approval of a loan from the Municipal Bond Bank in the amount of \$1,960,932.
3.    **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the July 24, 2007 Board minutes as revised to include an “a” on page 2, 7, C. A revised copy of the minutes will be placed in the Official Minutes Book at Central Office, and on the district’s website.  

**VOTE: 9-0-0**
4.    **CONSENT AGENDA. Any Board member may request that any item be removed from this consent agenda and moved to the regular agenda.” – Policy File BEDBA, Consent Agenda, approved July 10, 2007.**
  - A. Resignation of George Spencer, custodian, effective July 27, 2007.
  - B. Resignation of Emily Morris, Searsport District Middle School art teacher, effective July 23, 2007.
  - C. Resignation of Megan Oliver, Educational Technician II, Special Services.
  - D. Policy Committee minutes for July 24, 2007.
  - E. Finance Committee minutes for August 8, 2007.
  - F. Personnel Committee minutes for August 8, 2007
  - G. Appointment of Teresa Downing as the Adult Education Program Assistant.  
The Chairperson stated, with no objections, “Accepted as written.”
5.    **PRESENTATIONS.** None.
6.    **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.
7.    **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

The superintendent shared that her July report was in the Board mailing. In the future, it will be placed under the Consent Agenda.

- A. The Board reviewed the MSMA insurance information that needed to be filled out. This coverage applies to accidents that occur while on official business for the district. It is self-explanatory. The superintendent asked that the forms be returned tonight.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Buildings and Grounds Committee. Tom Calderwood reported that the committee reached consensus on closing the ELA wing and relocating those classrooms elsewhere in the high school in June 2008.
- B. Personnel Committee. In the absence of Twyler Webster, the superintendent reported that the committee supported issuing continuing contracts to Judy Cohen and Judy Staples, rather than probationary contracts. This came up in the last negotiation sessions when social workers were added to the contract. The Board needs to take action on this later in the meeting.

9. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- A. The superintendent shared a request to change the meeting dates for the Transportation Committee and the Personnel Committee. The Transportation Committee would meet on the Wednesday prior to the first Board meeting of the month at 4:30 pm. The Personnel Committee would meet on the Tuesday of the first Board meeting of the month at 5:30 pm. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Denise Dakin to accept the new meeting dates and times for the two committees.

**VOTE: 6-2-2 (Bellows, Grove) (Cunningham, Krause)**

The superintendent will issue the revised committee list showing the changes in meeting dates and times.

- B. Reorganization. The superintendent clarified the confusion with the Notice of Intent. She explained the differences between an SAU, a CSD, and unions, and explained the process to be followed. She explained each of the backup items from the minutes of the Drummond Woodsum workshops, the comparison chart of various districts, to the financial templates and our next steps. Discussion followed.
  - Veronica felt that we did not have all the information. Neither Frankfort nor Stockton Springs were represented on the committee.
  - Meetings with other Board members from mill towns have advised us not to go with mill towns. What will happen if the mills close? Can we afford the costs then?
  - Belfast cares about kids and programming.

A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Harold Grove to file a Notice of Intent to join with MSAD #34. Discussion followed on programs, the special education program, and various concerns. Members of the public, as well as the Leadership Team, were invited to join the discussion. Harold Grove reminded members to read Sharon Goguen's letter and to take her advice under consideration. Someone asked how many votes Verona and Prospect currently get in Bucksport. The answer is none. There was more discussion. The superintendent reported that it is the duty and responsibility of each Board member to read, attend, and participate in opportunities that give them the background information required to make a decision that best meets the needs of our students. She asked by a show of hands how many people attended the Governor's presentation on consolidation, the Region 7 forum

with Norm Higgins, or the two forums held at the High/Middle School cafetorium on consolidation, etc. Tom Calderwood moved the question.

**VOTE: 8-2-1 (Dakin, Magnan) (Webster)**

The Board then voted on the original motion to join with MSAD #34.

**VOTE: 8-2-1 (Dakin, Magnan) (Webster)**

10. **NEW BUSINESS.**

A. Consideration of approving the following nominations/appointments:

1. Judy Cohen, social worker, to a continuing contract.
2. Judy Staples, social worker, to a continuing contract.
3. Paul Bradshaw as a volunteer soccer coach.
4. Dwight Pitcairn as a volunteer soccer coach.
5. Matthew Thomas as a Technology Technician.
6. Tina Grivois as a half-time Gifted & Talented Coordinator at a salary of \$23,559, pending certification from the State.

The Chairperson asked to consider items 1-6 together as listed. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to take items 1-6 together as listed.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the six nominations/appointments as listed above.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

B. First reading of BEDB, Agenda Format. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve this policy for a first reading. Discussion followed. Someone asked why the Board was doing this? Due to the addition of the Consent Agenda, this policy needed to be revised.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

C. The superintendent shared that our request to use Revolving Renovation Fund money was denied. Upon learning this, the superintendent submitted a letter to the Commissioner of Education hoping to overturn the decision. The letter was included in the Board packets. We have not yet received a reply. A motion was made by Veronica Magnan and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the purchase/installation of windows at the Stockton Springs Elementary School for a sum not to exceed \$65,317.96, the money to be taken out of the Capital Reserve Account. Discussion followed. Chris Krause thanked the superintendent for all her work and effort to get the windows for the school, and for going the extra mile.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

D. Consideration of approval of the following 2007-08 Handbooks:

1. Searsport Elementary School
2. Stockton Springs Elementary School
3. Searsport District Middle School
4. Searsport District High School

A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Veronica Magnan to vote on all four handbooks at once.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

A motion was made by Jim Cunningham and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the four handbooks listed above.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

E. The superintendent took the Board through the process and the reason for the official vote. The Stockton Springs Elementary School costs \$870,431, the high school costs

\$445,838, and the middle school costs \$644,663, for a total of \$1,960,932. We are authorized to spend \$1.9 million, but the voters only approved \$870,430 for the Stockton Springs Elementary School. Voters approved a larger sum for the High School and the Middle School than needed, thus the transfer of \$129,569. We can use the forgiven part to prepay our debt. This was done before in the district and has been approved by the Bond Bank and the State.

A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Mike Hamilton that in connection with the School Revolving Renovation Fund minor capital project previously approved by Maine School Administrative District No. 56 (the "Governmental Unit") in accordance with applicable law, the Governmental Unit be and it hereby is authorized to execute and deliver a Loan Agreement between the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (the "Bond Bank") and the Governmental Unit to effect a loan from the Bond Bank in the principal amount of up to \$129,569, of which amount \$77,016 of principal is forgiven by the Bond Bank, and which Loan Agreement shall be substantially in the form presented at this meeting, and such Loan Agreement hereby is approved in all respects, for the purpose of financing the costs of a School Revolving Renovation Fund minor capital project, (the "Project"), provided, however, that the unforgiven portion of the Loan Agreement shall be rebated by the Treasurer of the Governmental Unit to the Bond Bank from the loan proceeds.

**VOTE: 9-0-0** (Two Board members were absent for the vote.)

A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Mike Hamilton that under and pursuant to the provisions of 20-A M.R.S.A. Section 1311, and Title 30-A M.R.S.A. § 5953-E and § 6006(F), the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer of the Governmental Unit be, and hereby are authorized to borrow in the name and on behalf of the Governmental Unit the sum of up to Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three Dollars (\$52,553) from the Bond Bank and, in connection therewith, the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized to issue general obligation securities (bonds or notes) of the Governmental Unit in an original principal amount of up to Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three Dollars (\$52,553), payable WITH NO INTEREST in 10 equal annual installments of principal, and to execute and deliver such general obligation bonds or notes (as so executed and delivered, the "Bond") in registered form under the seal of the Governmental Unit and as attested by the Secretary, which Bond shall be dated on or about August 17, 2007, and be in substantially the form presented to this meeting, with such changes therein not contrary to the general tenor thereof as the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer may approve, the execution and delivery thereof to be conclusive evidence of such approval, provided, however, that the Treasurer shall prepay the Bond upon delivery thereof by rebating the proceeds to the Bond Bank, and such payment and satisfaction shall be indicated on the Bond by the Bond Bank.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Mike Hamilton that the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer be, and each of them acting singly hereby is authorized in the name and on behalf of the Governmental Unit to execute and deliver the Loan Agreement, an Assignment of monies transferred by

the State of Maine to pay for Project costs, and such other instruments, documents, certificates and agreements, and to take or cause to be taken such further actions for and on behalf of the Governmental Unit as may be necessary, convenient or appropriate to effect the transactions contemplated by the foregoing votes and the documents referenced therein, and that the Secretary of the Governmental Unit be and hereby is authorized to attest to the foregoing and attach the Governmental Unit's seal to any of the foregoing.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

- F. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Twyler Webster that in connection with the School Revolving Renovation Fund minor capital projects previously approved by Maine School Administrative District No. 56 (the "Governmental Unit") in accordance with applicable law, the Governmental Unit be and it hereby is authorized to execute and deliver a Loan Agreement between the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (the "Bond Bank") and the Governmental Unit to effect a loan from the Bond Bank in the principal amount of up to \$1,960,932, of which amount up to \$949,550 of principal is forgiven by the Bond Bank, and which Loan Agreement shall be substantially in the form presented at this meeting, and such Loan Agreement hereby is approved in all respects, for the purpose of financing the School Revolving Renovation Fund minor capital projects, as previously approved by the voters of the Governmental Unit by referendum elections held on June 14, 2005, June 13, 2006 and November 7, 2006 (the "Project").

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Twyler Webster that under and pursuant to the provisions of Title 20-A M.R.S.A. Sections 1311 and 1351, and Title 30-A M.R.S.A. § 5953-E and § 6006(F), the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer of the Governmental Unit be, and hereby are authorized to borrow in the name and on behalf of the Governmental Unit the sum of up to One Million Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Two Dollars (\$1,011,382) from the Bond Bank and, in connection therewith, the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized to issue general obligation securities (bonds or notes) of the Governmental Unit in an original principal amount of up to One Million Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Two Dollars (\$1,011,382), payable WITH NO INTEREST in 10 equal annual installments of principal, and to execute and deliver such general obligation bonds or notes (as so executed and delivered, the "Bond") in registered form under the seal of the Governmental Unit and as attested by the Secretary, which Bond shall be dated on or about August 17, 2007, and be in substantially the form presented to this meeting, with such changes therein not contrary to the general tenor thereof as the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer may approve, the execution and delivery thereof to be conclusive evidence of such approval.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Twyler Webster that the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer be, and each of them acting singly hereby is authorized in the name and on behalf of the Governmental Unit to execute and deliver the Loan Agreement, an Assignment of monies transferred by the State of Maine to pay for Project costs, and such other instruments, documents, certificates and agreements, and to take or cause to be taken such further actions for and on behalf of the Governmental Unit as may be necessary, convenient or appropriate to effect the transactions contemplated by the foregoing votes and the documents referenced therein,

and that the Secretary of the Governmental Unit be and hereby is authorized to attest to the foregoing and attach the Governmental Unit's seal to any of the foregoing.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** None.
12. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,