

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

September 25, 2007 – 6:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

Present: Joseph Altilio Nedra Bellows Tom Calderwood
James Cunningham Denise Dakin Robert Danks
Harold Grove Veronica Magnan Twyler Webster (6:38)

Absent: Mike Hamilton (ex.), Chris Krause (ex.)

Visitors: 6

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 Harold Grove and seconded by Joseph Altilio to approve the September 11, 2007 minutes as presented.

VOTE: 8-0-0

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 Nancy Benner Gifford, Middle School art teacher, effective September 21, 2007.
- B. Appointment of the Stockton Springs Health Center as the 2007-08 school physicians.
- C. Notice of Intent approved by the Commissioner of Education for consolidation with MSAD #34.

Hearing no objections, the Chairperson declared the Consent Agenda accepted as is.

5. **PRESENTATIONS.**

- A. MASL Grant. The superintendent introduced Trent Emery, elementary art teacher, Barbara Rehmeyer, Technology Integration Specialist K-5, and Roxanna Morse, elementary librarian, who collaborated on a project, entitled “We Are Poets” which generated a love of poetry. The superintendent also informed the Board of the number of grants Roxanna has written, and been awarded, for our district. With the money from the MASL grant, they purchased books by Douglas Flourin, poet. Trent Emery spoke about the art work of the poet and how he interwove it through his art classes. The rest of the money was used to make and publish a poetry book with the grade 5 students. Students did the scanning and publishing. Barbara Rehmeyer made a DVD for each student – students saw how the books were put together. In the grade 5 library classes, students studied how to do research, and then use the resources, i.e., rhyming dictionaries, etc. Trent Emery continued his work on the principles of design in art. Each student chose an animal and researched it. The Board watched the Stockton Springs Elementary School DVD entitled Animania. The Frankfort

Elementary School book is entitled Maine-imals and the Searsport Elementary School book is entitled Animalls. Production of the books involved classroom teachers, students, Barbara Rehmeyer, Roxanna Morse, and Trent Emery. Barbara Rehmeyer also shared the Maine Student Book Award where students critique books.

7. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** None.

8. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.** None.

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

A. Region Seven. Harold Grove reported that the Board saw a presentation on Early Childhood Development which was excellent. Former students returned to share how the program prepared them for college and the real world.

B. Curriculum Steering Committee. Veronica Magnan reported on changes from the state regarding standards and what role should the Board play, and at what levels, with revisions in the curriculum. Keep the standards in place. If there are small changes in the curriculum, the committee recommends that they not be brought before the full Board of Directors, but instead, be approved by the District Curriculum Steering Committee. She also updated the Board on curriculum approvals. She acknowledged the superintendent, who gives 110%, for her hard work and guidance. When we go to the reorganization, teachers, the superintendent, and Board members on committees will have worked very hard.

Veronica also stated that the committee had reviewed a psychology textbook for possible purchase and had agreed to recommend it to the full Board. A motion was made by Joe Altilio and seconded by Denise Dakin to approve the purchase of the textbook Understanding Psychology for use at the Searsport District High School.

VOTE: 9-0-0

C. Consolidation Sub-Committee. Jim Cunningham reported on the committee's work. Jim, Veronica Magnan, and Harold Grove met and reviewed the work of Skip Greenlaw to repeal the consolidation legislation. The petition still needs work, and then it will go to the lawyers, and then to the legislature. Greenlaw has been approached by many people who are interested in signing the petition.

The superintendent shared that she and Brian MacFarland, Business Manager, attended an all day training session with Drummond Woodsum today on reorganization. It was detailed, but we have many templates that will be helpful as we move through the process. The superintendent reiterated this is going to be a time consuming process.

10. **OLD BUSINESS.**

A. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Veronica Magnan to approve the second reading of policy IKB, Homework.

VOTE: 9-0-0

11. **NEW BUSINESS.**

A. MSBA resolutions. The superintendent reviewed the material in Chris Krause's absence. Chris was receiving an award tonight. It is imperative that the Board read the material and provide feedback to Chris and Tom Calderwood so they can best represent the district at the MSBA meeting in October. One resolution would create a task force to objectively and independently examine the role, responsibilities, and

functions of the Maine Department of Education. This task force should examine the capacity of the DOE to fulfill its responsibilities, the administrative organization of the department, the adequacy of the DOE's budget, and analysis of its' expenditures, and the impact the DOE has on improving education for all Maine students.

The superintendent shared that in her short return from the conference today, she received two letters from the Commissioner requiring a new district plan for engaging Maine youth regarding successful school completion and another on mandatory reporting of incidents of prohibited behavior in MEDMS. These are keeping us from doing our job which is the education of our district's children. The expectations and amount of work on reports is consuming the job of educating our students.

- B. Discussion/action on a request for additional drawdown against the HS/MS Revolving Renovation Project. The superintendent shared the situation regarding the draft stop walls which were in the original drawings; however, the Penobscot Company did not see this. The company had to do this because it was their oversight. Tom Calderwood spoke on the company's oversight. Now we need to decide do we wish to pay \$4,344 additional for the construction of the walls. Tom and Jim Cunningham recommend no – it is our money. We gave him extra time to complete the job (20 days were granted) without the payment of penalties.

There were questions and answers. Did the company realize it was their error? Yes, the company was satisfied. In the end they saw there was extra money. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Tom Calderwood not to pay beyond the conditions of the contract. Discussion followed.

VOTE: 9-0-0

Tom thanked Jim for attending all the meetings.

Twyler Webster said that the Board has two scheduled meetings a month. She thought a meeting should be cancelled if not used. Bob Danks, Board Chairperson, and Mrs. Szwec shared that in the future we have reorganization, re-structuring, and the budget all facing us, and these two meetings will be used. Other members shared their thoughts.

Denise Dakin brought up the air quality tests done at the Stockton Springs Elementary School. The superintendent shared that we do not do every test requested by a parent, but this one was done. We have already scheduled another test to be done at the end of the project. Denise asked if the superintendent would write a letter to the parents discussing the findings. The superintendent agreed, once the tests were completed and the results are reported to the district. We promised that it will be fulfilled. Not one wants students to be placed in an unsafe building.

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** None.
11. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,