

REVISED MINUTES PER THE JANUARY 9, 2008 BOARD MEETING

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

December 11, 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
Twyler Webster

Absent: Veronica Magnan (ex.), Lisa Hudson, Julia Martin

Visitors: 16

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Bob Danks called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** None.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Harold Grove to approve the November 27, 2007 Board minutes as presented.

VOTE: 10-0-0

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. December 3 enrollment report.
- B. Admin Team reports.
- C. Personnel Committee minutes for 11/27/07.
- D. District Curriculum Steering Committee minutes for 11/29/07.
- E. Finance Committee minutes for 12/5/07.
- F. MPA Letter of Recognition for Linda Bowe.
- G. Building Operator Certification Level I for Jim Parsons.

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

5. **PRESENTATIONS.**

A. Boston Conference – PLCs. The superintendent introduced PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) and how we need to collaborate as educators to address what is so important to teach and how to stop doing those ineffective items. This will make a total of 34 people we have for PLC training. Tonight we will hear from the team who went to Boston and how this conference will help us move towards our vision of PLC.

She introduced the team who went to Boston: Chris Goosman, Jeff Shula, Ruth Fitzpatrick, Mary Alden, Martha Conway-Cole, and Brenda Holweger. Tina Boone and Christina Ellis were unable to be here tonight. The team shared their essential learning and the need to identify what it is we want all students to do.

Chris Goosman spoke on the learning: a shift from teaching to learning to lay all of your practices on the table, to observe each other to use the data, and how to use the data to know what to do with those students who are not meeting the standards.

She attended sessions with Bill Daggett and Doug Reeves. Both spoke on what to take off the plate and shared on best practices. Daggett spoke about what we need to do: the core learning, stretch learning, engagement, and the need to take items off the plate, i.e. moving from pen and pencil tests to solving problems, etc. We have focused on systematic interventions when people are not making it. What is the first thing that goes in place, what is second, etc. We need to look at more student work.

SDHS read some of Mike Smoker's writings. Seven percent of low income students earn a college degree. Most teaching is mediocre or worse. There is a lack of explicit teaching in writing. Analytical reading, analytical thinking, and writing are critical in today's schools.

Literacy is the path to gain knowledge. Therefore, students should read 60 minutes a day, and read and write 40 minutes a day in school.

Ruth Fitzpatrick spoke of Pam Robbins on Leadership. She spoke of the elimination of a toxic waste dump, things in a scrapbook, the fix-it bench, the items for sale, and the toughest part is what we are going to keep. We have to have staff input on this.

She shared the many sides of people: paper clips, teddy bear, magnifier glass, and the slinky. We need to recognize the positive sides/the many sides of people. The value of all personalities in a PLC is priceless.

Questions/discussion followed.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

- Alan Hammond spoke on #9 – restructuring schools and the consolidation of students. Having a combined grade takes away from serving as mentors which is a great learning experience.
- Glenn Baker also served on the Ad Hoc Restructuring Schools Committee and wants to follow through on restructuring schools and perhaps not being able to be a part of the discussion. Tonight's presentation talked about PLCs and what is needed to meet their needs and what a child needs to assimilate knowledge. PLC ideas are taking root and we need to look at restructuring our organizational environments for that work. There is a lot of pain in that work but what can it achieve?
- Chris Krause spoke about the Stockton Springs Elementary School experience with his daughter. He remembered Stockton Springs Elementary School as a salt shed but now it looks like a real school and is inviting. He thanked Mrs. Szwec for all of her work with the changes in our district.

7. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.

A. The superintendent shared information about a PLC Vertical Team: the District Math Curriculum Committee. They are participating in a book study on Quality Questioning. Teachers serving on this committee have implemented an instructional practice/strategy

and presented their feedback after a month, reactions of their students, and changes in themselves as teachers: the use of second wait time and its impact on student achievement. Another area was our attitudes and how we respond to students' answers has a direct impact on students and the effect we see in the classroom. Students will participate in classes when they feel respected.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Region Seven. Harold Grove was out of town for the last meeting; thus there is no report.
- B. RPC. Our plan was submitted and the Commissioner will be responding by December 15th to districts. Only one district refused to submit a plan.

9. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- A. Restructuring MSAD #56 Schools. The superintendent was asked to review the proposals. The goal is to address the organizational structure of our district. What will it look like? Which proposal best fits our vision and also decreased the additional local share? She shared the current district policies on class sizes: 20 students in K-3 and 22 in grades 4-8 and course enrollments of less than 10 need to come before the Board of Directors.

Discussion/questions

- Will we vote tonight?
- One Board member said they were ready to vote tonight.
- Another Board member wanted to vote on the proposal to have SES be for K-2 and the 4-year-olds, FES for grades 3-4, SSES for grades 5 & 6, and one 7-12 school.
- Will we combine grade 7-12 students? Mixing the students in all classes? No, but if we have to be flexible, for example, with a G & T student, they could take classes in higher grades, i.e., Core Plus in math.
- What if we leave everything as is? What about the RPC?
- The number of SDHS classes under 10 students. The Board of Directors will decide. Right now two AP classes, Calculus and Physics II, have less than 10 students.
- We need to try to get a structure and look at it.

A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Tom Calderwood to take the proposal on page 3 of 13 as follows: SES be for K-2 and the 4-year-olds, FES for grades 3-4, SSES for grades 5 & 6, and one 7-12 school combined under two administrators as a working proposal. Discussion followed. Does this lock us in? Public input. This is a starting point. We need to start somewhere. We will work on it. This has been leaked to the public. A Board member said they were here to represent the citizens for his/her town.

The superintendent shared the need to vote on what is in the best interests of all students, not individual towns. We are a district. This is very similar to when we become an RSU. We do what is best for students, not representing either individual district – 56 or 34.

Chris Krause shared a quote: “A bad plan is better than no plan.” We need to start with a plan. People are saying we are spending more and more and that group is growing. We have to get involved with something. We have to do something.

Denise, Joe, and Chris were not at the work session. Joe would like to look at the proposals and perhaps come up with another one.

There was a motion on the floor.

VOTE: 2-7-1 (Altilio, Calderwood, Cunningham, Dakin, Grove, Hamilton, Webster) (Krause)

The agenda for the January 8, 2008 Board meeting will include restructuring schools and the outline for budget preparation, etc.

10. **NEW BUSINESS.**

A. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Joe Altilio to approve a new French textbook called Discovering French.

VOTE: 10-0-0

B. Consideration of approval of the following job descriptions:

- Guidance and Counseling Director
- Elementary Guidance Counselor
- Middle School Guidance Counselor
- Searsport District High School Guidance Counselor
- Searsport District Middle and High School Student Assistance Counselor
- Custodian
- Maintenance Lead Person
- Maintenance

A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Joe Altilio to take all the job descriptions as a group.

VOTE: 10-0-0

A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve all of the above revised job descriptions as presented.

VOTE: 10-0-0

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

A. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Mike Hamilton to enter executive session for the consideration of the annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, the term of the Superintendent's contract, and adjustment of salary as required by Title 20-A MRSA § 1051 (2).

VOTE: 10-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 8:40 pm. The superintendent was asked to leave. The Board resumed public session at 9:25 pm. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to extend the superintendent's contract for one year to June 30, 2010. Tom Calderwood left the meeting.

VOTE: 8-1-0 (Dakin)

A motion was made by Joe Altilio and seconded by Chris Krause to increase the superintendent's salary by 3% (to \$95,341) for the year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

VOTE: 6-3-0 (Dakin, Grove, Webster)

B. Evaluations of officials and an employee pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A). Not done.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,