

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting
February 12, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.
Frankfort Elementary School

Present: Joseph Altilio Tom Calderwood
James Cunningham Denise Dakin Robert Danks
Harold Grove Michael Hamilton Christopher Krause
Veronica Magnan Twyler Webster

Absent: Nedra Bellows, Lisa Hudson, Julia Martin (all excused)

Visitors: 9

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order by the Superintendent at 6:35 pm, in the absence of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson. The Superintendent asked for nominations for someone to serve as Chairperson. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Denise Dakin to have Harold Grove serve as Chairperson.

VOTE: 7-0-1 (Grove)

Just then, Robert Danks entered (6:37 pm).

2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** The Superintendent asked that B, 5 under New Business be eliminated as the candidate has taken another position.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Twyler Webster explained the comments of Joseph DuBois on page 3 of the January 22, 2008 minutes. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the January 22, 2008 Board minutes corrected as follows: *Joe DuBois said there are budget items you need to live with, more than the bussing. K-2 in one school, 3-4 in another (the Ames School). Everyone comes out at 3 pm and the bell rings out at 3:05 pm. Some children are at school until 3:45, then are dismissed to wait for busses. A 6-8 year old watches the clock. One minute for him is a week for us. Be careful if a student gets on the bus at 3 pm and off at 3:45. He will get home later.* Discussion followed. Twyler Webster and Denise Dakin felt that the motion made under Old Business did not reflect what they were saying. They felt the public hearing was on restructuring; others felt it was on ways to decrease the budget. The Chairperson asked the Superintendent to read the motion, which was done. More discussion followed. A Board member began to comment on an employee and the Superintendent stated the Board needed to go into executive session. A motion was made by Bob Danks and seconded by Mike Hamilton to enter executive session to discuss the employment of officials/appointees/employees pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A).

VOTE: 7-3-0

The Board entered executive session at 6:50 pm and resumed public session at 7:14 pm. There was more discussion on the minutes. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Mike Hamilton to call the question.

VOTE: 10-0-0

There was more discussion. Tom Calderwood called the question. The Board voted on the January 22, 2008 minutes as revised.

VOTE: 8-2-0 (Dakin, Magnan)

A revised copy of the minutes will be posted on the district's website, and placed in the Official Minutes Book at Central Office.

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. February 1, 2008 enrollment report.
 - B. Admin Team monthly reports.
 - C. Lisa Robinson, Cook.
 - D. Return of excess contributions from MSMA Insurance Programs - \$8,869.

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

5. **PRESENTATIONS.**

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

- Alan Hammond commented on why the public cannot discuss anything discussed prior in the meeting. He was concerned with the minutes. The Chairperson stopped further discussion and stated comments could only be made on agenda items.
- Gabriel Baker commented on the RPC meeting which he attended. He commented on Veronica Magnan's role and the many issues facing the RPC. He was concerned with the discussions on cost savings the RPC needed to address and on the new RSU. He recommended that the RPC have a sub-committee of various stakeholders examine the two merging districts (MSAD #34 and MSAD #56) for any cost savings, programs, etc. The Superintendent stated that MSAD #56 cannot set up a sub-committee. The RPC is following the guidelines set up by the Commissioner and the law. Veronica Magnan will discuss this with Ray Freve regarding the establishment of a sub-committee because she is on the RPC Committee. She also serves on RPC Sub-Committee #12 which is discussing cost savings for the new RSU.
- Melissa Brown said that public participation should be friendlier. She encouraged the Board to record the minutes.

7. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

The Superintendent announced that the two student Board members were not present tonight because they were being inducted into the National Honor Society.

- A. Changes in the EPS formula – Budget Validation Process. The Superintendent pointed out items from the Legislative Bulletin where the state is redefining definitions and adding programs that were not part of the picture in the past. For 2008-09, there could be 20 state employees' salaries and benefits covered under General Purpose Aid (GPA), in addition to all the funding for the Baxter School for the Deaf, the Limestone School of Mathematics, and Jobs for Maine's Graduates Program. It appears there will be a recalibration of EPS from 55% funding to 53.5% funding. This figure was emailed to the superintendent today. It appears we will lose \$100,000 due to the reduction in Medicaid. The Superintendent reviewed the list of potential cuts affecting education by the new GPA. The Superintendent shared what other school districts are cutting and have cut as they see reduced money from the state to fund education.

The Superintendent also reviewed the Budget Validation Referendum that we will need to follow this year. Each time the budget fails, we need to go to a referendum which costs the district.

- B. Staff Wellness Day. On a good note, the Board has copies of the evaluations for the Technology/Wellness Day held on January 28. These results will go to two committees who will be planning for 2008-09.
- C. Title I Dinner and Program. This was held on February 7 with over 120 people in attendance. Title I students and their parents/guardians attended various trainings. Denise Dakin commented on how well the evening went.
- D. Indices for Assessing School Academic Performance. The Superintendent asked to postpone this item until the next Board meeting. The Board agreed by consensus.
- E. Budget process update. Starting February 25, each administrator/supervisor will meet with four members of the Finance Committee, the Business Manager, and the Superintendent to review their proposed budgets. The schedule is in your packets.
- F. Other.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Finance Committee. Robert Danks, Chairperson, said that it has been stated that the Superintendent is getting an additional \$25,000 for curriculum work. This is not true. The \$25,000 in the Curriculum Coordinator's budget lines pays for those teachers who serve on various curriculum committees. Thus far, \$5,646.50 has been expended. The Superintendent is not paid for her role, nor does she receive a stipend for this work.
- B. Buildings and Grounds Committee. The minutes were included in the Board packets. Tom Calderwood reported that a fourth grade student presented a proposal to raise money for a playground for the Searsport Elementary School. She received concept approval from the committee. They also discussed the use of facilities for non-profit organizations. The rental fee is waived. If people wish to use our buildings for a wedding, etc., they will be charged a rental fee.
- C. RPC Committee.

9. **OLD BUSINESS.**

10. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. Consideration of approval of a Program of Studies for Searsport District High School. The Superintendent shared that the Board must approve the Program of Studies. She pointed out the introduction which outlines the standards and interventions in place. We should also look at what is required by all students (core classes and electives). Gregg Palmer was present to answer questions.
 - On pages 5/6, will students attend four years of high school? Gregg said that some students can graduate in four years, some will take more, and some may try to graduate in less time. Regardless, they all must meet the district's policies and all graduation requirements.
 - Clarification on page 8 in English/Language Arts: Students will be "critical readers, listeners, and viewers of a variety of sources and texts, including fiction and nonfiction books, print and non-print media, and

speakers.” This will appear in the freshman year with one framework and differently in the junior year in a different framework. He clarified “seat work” vs. “meeting the standards”.

The Board Chairperson suggested we allow the Board to prepare questions and to spend time discussing this at the February 26, 2008 Board meeting.

B. Consideration of approval of the following co-curricular nominations:

A motion was made by Denise Dakin and seconded by Mike Hamilton to take the four nominations together as a group. Discussion and questions followed. Denise Dakin and Mike Hamilton withdrew their motion.

1. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Denise Dakin to approve Mike Vasiliauskas as the Varsity Track coach.

VOTE: 10-0-0

2. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve David Pepin as the Varsity Baseball coach.

VOTE: 10-0-0

3. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Chris Krause to approve Thor Gower as the Varsity Softball coach. A question was asked if any other candidates were interviewed? Gregg said that they were not for the first three positions. They were not advertised/opened. The Co-Curricular Coordinator felt these people performed well last year and were nominated for this year.

VOTE: 7-3-0 (Calderwood, Grove, Webster)

4. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve Joshua Toothaker as the Middle School Baseball coach.

VOTE: 10-0-0

5. ~~Jennifer Jackson as the Middle School Softball coach.~~

C. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve a leave request for Christian Koelbl, Educational Technician III, to do his student teaching next fall. This leave request will be with no pay and no benefits.

VOTE: 10-0-0

D. Consideration of approval of a field trip to Orono on March 13/14 by the National Honor Society. There were several questions concerning the maximum number of students allowed to attend and the student/chaperone ratio, as well as the male and female chaperones. This information should be included on the request. Twyler Webster also pointed out that this request is late and not within our policy guidelines. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve Marti Stamp’s request with concept approval. The request needs to come in completed with the correct number of chaperones, etc.

VOTE: 9-1-0 (Webster)

The Board is requesting a follow-up from this request. The Superintendent proposed that Gregg Palmer bring a list of regularly taken field trips (National Honor Society, Senior trips, etc.) to the Board in the fall for concept approval. As the trip dates come closer, the specifics can be announced.

E. Tri-District Bus Garage. The Superintendent reviewed the projected cost savings. These are too low to support the construction of a regional bus garage located at Region 7. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Tom Calderwood that MSAD #56 stand alone with its bus garage.

VOTE: 8-2-0 (Cunningham, Grove)

F. At this point in the meeting, Twyler Webster addressed her concerns on restructuring which was the issue at hand. What do we propose to do? February

27th is the evening devoted to this. Restructuring and budget costs are closely related. The superintendent shared that we do not have to do restructuring – it is a Board decision. But we do need to look at the whole financial picture. Discussion followed. Chris Krause said the two (restructuring and the financial crunch) are tied together. From the comments made at the last meeting, we wanted public input, and this February 27 meeting is the opportunity. There was more discussion. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Denise Dakin to publicize the meeting on the 27th to discuss restructuring as well as ways to cut the budget.

VOTE: 7-3-0 (Altilio, Danks, Hamilton)

The Superintendent asked that Twyler meet with her to develop a new letter/note.

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

- A. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Mike Hamilton to enter executive session for labor contract proposal discussions pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (D).

VOTE: 10-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 8:50 pm and resumed public session at 9:02 pm. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Chris Krause to ratify the Support Staff Contract as presented.

VOTE: 10-0-0

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

VOTE: 10-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 9:03 pm and resumed public session at 9:15 pm.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,