

**MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56**

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

February 26, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

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

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

Visitors: 14

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Bob Danks called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** Omit “C” under Committee Reports because it is under the Consent Agenda.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Joe Altilio to approve the revised minutes for the February 12, 2008 Board meeting as presented. There was discussion on the National Honor Society field trip. Does it need to come back to the Board? Yes, the Board requested to see the request again to be sure all necessary components were covered.

**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. A. Personnel Committee minutes for February 12, 2008.  
Hearing no objections, the Chairperson declared the Consent Agenda accepted as is.
5. **PRESENTATIONS.** None.
6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**
  - Alan Hammond requested to speak on Public Participation. He has been to many Board meetings where no one else was present. He recognized the frustration of the Board and has shared his own concerns with Mary and other members of the Board. He discussed the difficulty of discussing agenda items without the backup materials and cited several past instances where this happened, such as Maine Learning Results updates, job descriptions, presentations on PLCs, restructuring, etc. He asked the Board to revise the Public Participation policy and submitted a proposal. The Chairperson referred the proposal to the Policy Committee for review and reminded all present that policies need to be within Federal and state guidelines.
  - Another individual talked about the difficulty in commenting on items and receiving no answers to questions raised.

- Mike Hamilton said that our agenda structure is not unique. He reviewed other district's agendas online and said this is common to districts across the state. The public needs to trust the Board to do their job.
- Joe Altilio said that other organizations use the same format as our agenda.
- Mr. Baker liked Harold Grove's quote about maybe splitting public participation into two sections. Having an opportunity at the end of the meeting gives time to comment again.
- Another individual said she was taping the meeting tonight. Regarding an agenda item, the consideration of pay adjustments, she asked if those were decreases? She hoped it was not an increase in the light of what is going on.

7. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

- A. Indices for Assessing School Academic Performance. The Superintendent explained the six indices for assessing school academic performance, including the average score, the percentages of students achieving specific levels of proficiency, the average score by socioeconomic status and the average score relative to what may be predicted on the basis of the student body and community characteristics. She shared examples and then showed the results from each of our schools.

This report covers the MEA results from 2003-05 in math, reading, writing, and science. After the March 2008 MEAs are done, there will be a new report covering 2006-08. As a district, we are not pleased with our results and have been working to improve them.

We need to find ways for teachers of the same grade level to discuss student work and provide immediate interventions when students are not meeting the standards.

The Superintendent mentioned that recent PSAT results show us closing the gap between our scores and national scores.

Discussion and questions followed regarding special education students, PAAPs, who takes the tests, etc. Chris Krause would like to see a scatter plot graph of the PSATs and the SATs. The PSATs will be done at the March Board meeting.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Policy Committee. The committee met tonight and will have policies ready for a first reading next month.
- B. Region Seven. Harold Grove spoke about meeting one student in the EMT program. It was surprising to see what the students are able to do as a result of the class.
- C. Personnel Committee. Under the Consent Agenda.
- D. Legislative Report – none.
- E. RPC Committee. The Superintendent announced that tomorrow night's meeting has been changed to March 5 at the Belfast Area High School at 6:30 pm. This was done to accommodate the holding of the Public Hearing in MSAD #56.

9. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- A. Consideration of approval of a Program of Studies for Searsport District High School. Gregg Palmer was present to answer questions.

- Page 28 – what is English Wide Open? This is a different pathway for kinesthetic students. They study English every day, but also go outside and take trips.
- Is it a Basic English class? It is a senior class that follows the curriculum. All of our programs allow students to go to college. There are 16 students in the class. Other offerings are English 12, Core English 4, and English Wide Open.
- Do you track the number of students taking a particular course and see whether it should be offered again? Yes, we do and we have reshaped the curriculum.
- Calculus? Is it offered at nearby colleges? Currently seniors have three years of math. Our current sophomore class will be required to have four years of math.
- Gregg stated we have replaced certain electives with skills. Students need more skills and interventions. All freshmen take English 9 and FAME.
- Is the point of calculus to meet the needs of students? Yes. We are also pushing for all students to take chemistry. Former students say college chemistry was easier.
- A Board member shared there are different levels of the same course, calculus. The topics are the same but from a different perspective, i.e. engineering.
- During the SOS timeframe, the high school got updated science labs. Are they being used? Yes, students are expected to take three years of science (lab science, physical science, and environmental science). All students take college biology.
- We are heading towards all students taking chemistry.
- We had 6 students in AP Physics and all passed the AP exam.
- Statistically, 60% of Maine's high school graduates are accepted to college, 50% actually go, and half of that 50% drop out. For 2007, 73% of SDHS seniors were accepted in college and 71% actually went to college. We track our graduates and we are currently above the national average. Our SAT scores are down. Our recent PSAT scores show we are doing better.
- 25 students went to college classes at the Hutchinson Center, many of them sophomores.
- Funding? We have the Gates Grant and the ACE Grant. This also assisted in helping students get into college. Course cost \$750 at the Hutchinson Center. We had five students recently registered for college courses. The district paid \$500, the Co-Foundation paid \$1500, and the Hutchinson Center paid \$800.
- How do students get into the Hutchinson Center? The younger they are, the higher their test scores need to be. We do not waive college English for a high school course. They still need to take two English courses.
- A Board member brought up his concern with class sizes and teacher load, particularly music. This is a problem! Gregg stated the music class changed because of a change in the Middle School schedule. We made use of this time. These numbers should go up next year. More students need these experiences.
- We now have 7 core subjects and 1 elective. We will build a space in for students to take music, band, etc.

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the Searsport District High School Course of Studies.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

10. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. Discussion of the district's Public Participation policy – File BEDH. Done earlier in the meeting.
- B. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve a field trip to Warren Island on June 13 – 16 by the Special Education Department (students and staff). There was discussion. Twyler Webster wanted to know who was the person responsible for the trip. Keith Dunson explained that this was the 11<sup>th</sup> year of doing this trip. Keith, Jim McGinn, and Liz Becker chaperone the trip and are familiar with the area. Students do community service, chores, fishing, etc. It is sponsored by the Golden Rule Foundation. Twyler wanted to see a corrected form in the future.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

- C. A motion was made by Chris Krause and seconded by Harold Grove to approve a field trip to Boston by the Humanities Class on either May 9-10 or May 16-17. There was discussion about cost. The Superintendent said this trip is paid for by a grant. Gregg Palmer said there are always both a female and male chaperone.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

- D. A motion was made by Chris Krause and seconded by Joe Altilio to approve a field trip to Portland by 7<sup>th</sup> graders for Project X-Fish on April 14, 2008. Brian Corrigan discussed the trip and answered questions.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

- E. The Superintendent shared that we have used six snow days so far. She would like to use March 26 as both an Early Release Day and a parent/teacher conference day, and have March 27 be a K-12 school day with students. A motion was made by Denise Dakin and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the proposed change as outlined above in the 2007-08 school calendar in March to make up one snow day.

**VOTE: 9-0-0**

- F. Consideration of pay adjustments for administrators and Central Office staff for 2008-09:
  - 1. Director of Special Services
  - 2. High School Principal.
  - 3. Middle School Principal
  - 4. Searsport Elementary School Principal.
  - 5. Frankfort Elementary School Principal.
  - 6. Stockton Springs Elementary School Principal.
  - 7. Dean of Students/Co-Curricular Coordinator.
  - 8. Adult Education Director.
  - 9. Food Services Director.
  - 10. Director of Maintenance and Transportation.
  - 11. Business Manager.
  - 12. Administrative Assistant.
  - 13. Accounting Assistant.
  - 14. Computer/Technology Coordinator.
  - 15. Technology Technician.
  - 16. Technology Technician.
  - 17. Curriculum Secretary.

A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve a 3% pay raise across the board for administrators and Central Office

staff listed above with two exceptions: a 5% increase for the Accounting Assistant, and a 5% increase for the Administrative Assistant (a 2.5% raise and an additional 5 days of vacation). The additional vacation time is for one year only. There was discussion. Twyler Webster said, with no disrespect to administrators, she has a problem with giving raises to people. Another Board member said that not everyone gets raises each year. The Superintendent pointed out the pay increases already approved for teachers and support staff.

**VOTE: 5-2-2 (Dakin, Webster) (Danks, Grove)**

Bob Danks explained that we need to look at cuts in the budget and that is why he abstained for this vote. It was nothing personal against the administrators. Tom Calderwood noted that most people in the Central Office will be unemployed come June 2009 and he regrets that necessity.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

11. **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: 9-0-0**

The Board entered executive session at 8:07 pm and resumed public session at 8:42 pm.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,