

**MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56**

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

March 25, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

Present: Joseph Altilio                      Nedra Bellows                      Denise Dakin  
             Harold Grove                         Ray Hart                              Twyler Webster

Absent: Tom Calderwood (ex.), James Cunningham (ex.), Robert Danks (ex.), Michael Hamilton (ex.), Christopher Krause (ex.), Lisa Hudson, Julia Martin

Visitors: 15

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Vice-Chairperson Nedra Bellows called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.
2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** The Board welcomed Ray Hart as the new Board member from Stockton Springs. Under 8, B, the Board added consideration of submitting the updated RPC report to the Commissioner of Education on where we currently stand in the process.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Joe Altilio to approve the March 11, 2008 Board minutes as presented. Twyler Webster commented on the excellence of Gregg Palmer's PSAT report. It proves that the standards are working. She asked that this presentation be given to the freshmen and sophomore parents.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

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. Personnel Committee minutes for March 11, 2008.
  - B. Resignation of Wayne Suomi, Searsport Elementary School principal, effective June 30, 2008.
  - C. Region Seven minutes for February 14, 2008.Hearing no objections, the Vice-Chairperson declared the Consent Agenda accepted as is.
5. **PRESENTATIONS.** None.
6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**
  - A parent spoke of how sorry she was to see Mr. Suomi leave. She asked if there would be a Search Committee. The superintendent responded that knowing we are over EPS in administration, we will probably move our administrators around rather than have a Search Committee, but this is not definite. If we do have a Search Committee, the superintendent will ask for parents, teachers, etc. to serve on the committee.

- Denise Dakin congratulated Wayne Suomi on his work at the Searsport Elementary School. She had him as a teacher, and thanked him for what he has done.

7. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

- A. The superintendent reminded the Board of the Joint Board meeting on April 17, 2008 at the Waldo County Technical Center with MSAD #3 and MSAD #34. The dinner is at 6 pm and the meeting begins at 7 pm. Joe Altilio, Ray Hart, Nedra Bellows, and Harold Grove said they would attend the meeting.
- B. The Hidden LD 1 Cost-Shift by Stephen Bowen. The superintendent stated that this article is the clearest she has read for understanding the cost shift from the state to the taxpayers. She pointed out “in the three years since the passage of LD 1, the local share of the “adjustments” category rose from \$26.8 million to \$35 million. To date, property taxpayers have paid more than \$88 million to fund programs that are either new or were 100% state funded prior to the passage of LD 1.” *Jobs for Maine Graduates, the Maine School of Science and Mathematics Magnet School, and the Baxter School for the Deaf* were all shifted from GPA to the local districts including 11 staff positions. These were once paid 100% by the state. This article, plus the work of the Public Hearing Subcommittee will go out to all district residents. Discussion followed.
- C. The Commissioner issued a letter regarding the waiver of school days. She will not waive any school days for schools due to the inclement weather, except for the seniors if graduation dates, facility reservations, and family plans have been made. We had 7 snow days. We are making one day up on Thursday, March 27, and the seniors have made up 2 days. Therefore, the superintendent sent a letter to the Commissioner requesting the waiver of 4 school days for seniors. Grades K-11 will make up the 6 snow days at the end of the year.
- D. The superintendent announced that Hillary Hoyt was elected the secretary to the Executive Board of the State National Honor Society. She recognized Hillary and has sent a letter to that effect.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Policy Committee. This meeting was cancelled.
- B. RPC Committee. The superintendent shared that the RPC has to submit their updated plan to the Commissioner by March 28, 2008. This is just an update and the RPC will continue to work on the plan. It needs Board approval. A motion was made by Ray Hart and seconded by Harold Grove to accept the RPC updated plan and recommend its submission to the Commissioner of Education. Some changes made included apportionment of Board votes using updated census numbers and changes in cost savings.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

9. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- A. Second readings of the following policies:
  - 1. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Joe Altilio to approve DJH, Purchasing and Contracting: Procurement Staff Code of Conduct, for a second reading.  
**VOTE: 6-0-0**
  - 2. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Denise Dakin to approve JEA, Compulsory Attendance Ages, for a second reading.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

3. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Ray Hart to approve JHB, Truancy, for a second reading.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

4. A motion was made by Joe Altilio and seconded by Ray Hart to approve JLF, Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect, for a second reading.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

- B. Update from the Public Hearing Sub-Committee. Denise Dakin shared that the four committee members met for 7 hours to get answers and will meet one more time to go over the draft before the Board Chairman and/or the Board sees it. It will be coming out very shortly. The public can decide whether they want another meeting after reading it.

10. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. Consideration of approving the following field trips:

1. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Joe Altilio to approve a field trip to Boston by the High School Band on May 9/10, 2008. Discussion/questions followed.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

2. A motion was made by Ray Hart and seconded by Harold Grove to approve the Senior Class trip to Canobie Lake in Salem, NH on June 8/9, 2008. Denise Dakin was impressed with how much money they have raised for the trip already. Ray Hart asked if they would still be covered under our insurance. The superintendent thought they would be, but would confirm that. Another Board member wanted to hold diplomas until after the trip. The superintendent stated that diplomas are issued because students have met the requirements under the law to graduate. It has nothing to do with the trip.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

- B. Consideration of approval of writing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant. The superintendent stated that Board approval was needed to pursue this grant. She turned the meeting over to Linda Bowe and Tina Boone who are writing the grant. Linda spoke about the grant. It will involve partnering with BroadReach who will provide programming for parents and with the Penobscot Marine Museum who will provide a 6 week program around the Penobscot Bay and beyond.

Stockton Springs Elementary School and Frankfort Elementary School are both offering after school activities that are well-received by students. Students are seeing another side of their teachers.

Denise Dakin complimented the after-school program and how students K-5 are interacting. Older students are working with younger students. Both Mrs. Boone and Mrs. Bowe spoke about various offerings at the schools. This includes hip-hop and how everyone worked together. The superintendent shared that transportation for the after school programs is covered by a federal grant she wrote so they could pilot this program.

A motion was made by Ray Hart and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the writing of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant.

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

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

**VOTE: 6-0-0**

The Board entered executive session at 7:15 pm and resumed public session at 7:35 pm.

12. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,