

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

April 8, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

Present: Joseph Altilio Nedra Bellows James Cunningham
Denise Dakin Robert Danks Harold Grove
Michael Hamilton Raymond Hart Twyler Webster

Absent: Tom Calderwood (ex.), Christopher Krause, Lisa Hudson, Julia Martin

Visitors: 20+

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Bob Danks called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.
2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** None.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Jim Cunningham to approve the March 25, 2008 Board minutes.
VOTE: 7-0-2 (Danks, Hamilton)
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. April 1, 2008 enrollment numbers.
 - B. Administrative Reports.
 - C. Finance Committee minutes for 4/2/08.
 - D. Transportation Committee minutes for 4/2/08.
 - E. Resignation of Tina Grivois, half-time Gifted and Talented Coordinator.

A Board member asked about the drop in attendance – do we know why they are leaving? The Superintendent explained that some students move out of state, some within the state. We are notified if they go to home schooling. The Superintendent will check to see what information we have. Hearing no objections, the Chairperson declared the Consent Agenda accepted as is.

5. **PRESENTATIONS.** None.
6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**
 - ❑ Amber Snow spoke about declining enrollments and that our administrative base is just under \$1,000,000. She understands that Wayne Suomi is leaving and that administrators may be reshuffled. Her concern is that her 4th grader will see his 4th principal.
 - ❑ Alan Hammond spoke about the Summary of Public Hearing. We need to watch technology. There are 700 laptops, 1 for every student K-12. This is excessive.

- ❑ Gabe Baker spoke on the Flow Chart and his concern with the decision making process. Legislation now is going towards consolidation. This agenda focuses on the number of students per classroom, administrative costs, etc.
- ❑ Denise Harriman said that her daughter at the Stockton Springs Elementary School is on her 5th principal.

7. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

- A. Resignation/recognition of Agnes Nelson, Food Service Director and Priscilla King, high school math teacher. The Superintendent recognized Agnes Nelson for her years of service in MSAD #56 and read a letter accepting her resignation. The Superintendent noted that Agnes had almost single-handedly brought the program into the computer age, had a well-trained and efficient staff, and was noted for her adaptability. The Superintendent also noted that she had never worried about the content or direction of the Hot Lunch Program; Agnes was trusted implicitly to do the job. Agnes received a standing ovation.

The Superintendent then recognized Priscilla King for 39 years of service to education. She read her letter accepting Priscilla's resignation and noted the various roles that Priscilla has filled, which speaks to her skills and adaptability. Priscilla has also been active on the Math Committee. Priscilla received a standing ovation.

- B. RPC updates. Our revised plan was re-submitted. In addition, the two superintendents and both business managers met to do the cost sharing, cost savings, and cost shifting. The RPC will meet again on April 23, 2008.
- C. Use of the Searsport Union Hall. The Superintendent shared that she had received a letter from Aaron Fethke, Chairperson, inviting MSAD #56 to use the Union Hall for meetings, and to have those meetings televised. A motion was made by Denise Dakin and seconded by Twyler Webster to accept the Selectpeople's invitation to use the Union Hall for Board meetings. There was discussion and questions about handicap accessibility.

VOTE: 9-0-0

The Board Chairperson will see Mr. Fethke in regards to the use of Union Hall.

- D. The Superintendent reminded the Board of the April 17 Joint Board meeting at the Waldo County Technical Center. We need a quorum of 6 members to attend. Bob Danks and Denise Dakin said they would attend, as well as Twyler Webster if needed. Dinner is at 6 pm and the meeting begins at 7 pm. Glen Baker said he would like to attend as well.
- E. Other. The Superintendent shared that the Board had copies of an article written by a former Board member and what he learned from his years on a Board. They also had an article written by the president of the Maine School Superintendents Association concerning the Stephen Bowen article on cost-shifting at the state level.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Finance Committee. Tonight we will review and approve the 2006-07 audit.
- B. Transportation Committee. Mike Hamilton shared the committee's recommendation to place an order for a full-service bus and a mini-bus, pending budget approval.
- C. Buildings and Grounds Committee. Mike Hamilton reported on the Efficiency Maine's new program and our plan to replace lights now, thus receiving double

rebates. We also are “Going Green” by using environmentally sound products. We have started at the Frankfort and Stockton Springs schools and will continue in the Searsport schools as older supplies are used. The committee also discussed replacing a single-axle trailer with a double-axle trailer which would greatly increase the efficiency in mowing, etc. by cutting back on necessary trips, and on mileage. It is estimated we would save \$2,821 in one year. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Jim Cunningham to give permission to Jim Parsons to find and purchase the best deal on a double-axle trailer.

VOTE: 9-0-0

- D. Personnel Committee. They met in executive session tonight and have nothing to report.
- E. Legislative Report. Backup materials will be placed in the Board folders for their next meeting.

9. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- A. February 27, 2008 Public Hearing Update. Mike Hamilton hoped everyone had received the newsletter. Four Board members researched the information. The paperwork came from the facilitator. The Superintendent never saw it or touched it. The Board members asked questions of the Superintendent and the Business Manager when necessary. The media never printed his articles in the paper regarding the sub-committee’s work. They seem to only put in the negative. Some of the options are in the Flow Chart that we will discuss tonight. We hope this answers the community questions.

10. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. Election of a Board member to the Finance Committee. The Board Chairperson said the committee needed representation from Stockton Springs. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Joe Altilio to elect Ray Hart as a member of the Finance Committee.

VOTE: 8-0-1 (Hart)

- B. Consideration of approval of the 2006-07 District Audit Report. Brian MacFarland presented the Audit Report to the Board and discussed various components. There is an undesignated fund balance of \$329,625. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the Audit Report as presented.

VOTE: 9-0-0

- C. A motion was made by Jim Cunningham and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve ordering two school buses, one full sized and one mini-bus, pending budget approval. There was discussion. The Superintendent shared that she has requested additional state funds if any district cancels its bus order.

VOTE: 9-0-0

- D. Co-curricular nominations:
 - 1. Matt Thomas as the Searsport District Middle School Softball Coach.
 - 2. Carrie Thomas a volunteer coach for Middle School Softball.
 - 3. Amanda Pullen as a volunteer coach for Middle School Softball.
 - 4. Rudy Carroll as a volunteer coach for Middle School Baseball.
 - 5. Caleb Ashley as a volunteer coach for Varsity Baseball.
 - 6. Nick Gonzales as a volunteer coach for Varsity Baseball.
- F. Denise Dakin had some questions regarding the process of obtaining volunteers. Ruth Fitzpatrick said these positions were not advertised and explained how we

obtain volunteers. Denise asked if one person had been left out. Ruth Fitzpatrick said we have had some people who are interested in volunteering and they had to fill out an application and be fingerprinted. A motion was made by Denise Dakin and seconded by Twyler Webster to enter executive session for the employment of officials and an employee pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A).

VOTE: 9-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 7:28 pm and resumed public session at 7:32 pm. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Denise Dakin to vote on all six nominees at one time.

VOTE: 9-0-0

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Denise Dakin to approve the nominations of the six co-curricular positions as listed above.

VOTE: 9-0-0

E. 2008-09 Budget Decision Flow Chart. The Superintendent explained the purpose of the Flow Chart was to aid in the discussion and decisions the Board wanted to take when formulating the budget. Does the MSAD #56 Board of Directors want the 2008-09 budget closely aligned with the EPS allocation? If yes, then we discuss cuts. If no, then we present this budget to the public hearing and budget validation process. Discussion followed. A wide variety of suggestions were offered. Board members decided to see if there was consensus on any items.

- There was consensus to make cuts and go towards the EPS allocation.
- Do not hire a principal for SES. Reshuffle administrators around to cover this position. There was discussion on the role of the principal as an educational leader, as long as we have a principal in each building.
- More discussion followed.
- Ray Hart asked for a point of order. We should not be letting people speak. We were hired as Board members to do the job.
- Areas where we can cut are transportation (overlapping bus runs, etc.), technology, class size.
- There was unanimous consensus to reshuffle administrators.
- There was consensus to retain the two part-time administrators at the Frankfort Elementary School and the Stockton Springs Elementary School.
- The Board discussed class sizes. Do we need the multiage program? A motion was made by Joe Altilio and seconded by Mike Hamilton to enforce the current Board class size policy. Discussion followed.

VOTE: 3-5-1 (Bellows, Dakin, Grove, Hart, Webster) (Danks)

- There was more discussion. A suggestion was made to have the Finance Committee re-examine the budget with administration and to present 5% in cuts to the overall budget. The Superintendent asked if they also wanted suggestions from the Admin Team for cuts. It was suggested that the Superintendent make the cuts.
- How much are grants going to cost us? The Superintendent will look into this.
- Ray Hart noted that the budget was up 6% over last year's budget. A motion was made by Ray Hart and seconded by Denise Dakin to accept budget draft #1 and to go to public hearing on the budget (public to speak on the budget). There was discussion. It was noted that the budget is up 6% and assessments would be up 10%.

**VOTE: 4-5-0 (Altilio, Bellows, Cunningham,
Danks, Hamilton)**

- ❑ A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Harold Grove to 1) get clarification of grants and what is in the budget, 2) for the Superintendent to put in consent items to see the effect on the budget, 3) for the Superintendent to meet with the Association President to see if we can put in a wage freeze across the board, and 4) for the Superintendent to examine the ramifications of offering an incentive for leaving a position. There was discussion on other items.

VOTE: 8-1-0 (Bellows)

- ❑ There was a request that the Superintendent brings items from meetings with the Finance Committee plus administrative recommendations.
- ❑ A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Denise Dakin to have a Board meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 to discuss the 2008-09 budget. There was discussion as to whether this would be the Finance Committee or the entire Board. It would be a Board budget meeting at 6:30 pm, location to be determined.

VOTE: 9-0-0

- F. First draft of the 2008-09 Budget. Already done.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- A. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Mike Hamilton to enter executive session for the employment of officials and an employee pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A).

VOTE: 9-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 9:30 pm and resumed public session at 9:38 pm. A motion was made by Jim Cunningham and seconded by Mike Hamilton to accept the resignation of Mrs. Szwec effective June 30, 2008, for retirement.

VOTE: 8-1-0 (Hamilton)

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

12. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,