

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

June 24, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.

Central Office - Searsport

Present: Joseph Altilio Tony Bagley Nedra Bellows
Tom Calderwood Denise Dakin Michael Hamilton
Alan Hammond Raymond Hart Christopher Krause
Twylar Webster

Absent: James Cunningham (ex.)

Visitors: 37

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Ray Hart called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** Omit 8A for it is in the Consent Agenda. Change the name in New Business, C, 6 to Maureen Ferriter.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Tony Bagley to approve the June 11 and June 17, 2008 minutes together.

VOTE: 9-0-1 (Krause)

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 June 12, 2008.
 - B. Buildings and Grounds Committee minutes for June 16, 2008.
 - C. Resignation of Ashley Bryant, kindergarten teacher at Stockton Springs Elementary School.

There was a request to move Buildings and Grounds to the regular agenda. This was withdrawn when it was noted that the item was already on the agenda. Hearing no objections, the Chairperson declared the Consent Agenda accepted as is.

5. **PRESENTATIONS.**
 - A. Tina Boone, Frankfort Elementary School principal, shared the Foreign Language Fair, the Science Fair, and Book Talks. She showed a video of the activities of the different languages, arts and craft activities, and the foods from various countries. A poster portrayed each of the topics of the Science Fair project. In their packets, the Board had examples of the SMART Goals for two teachers which was their PLC goal. The results of their work showed the progress of the students. The Board also had a copy of the DRA results. Alan Hammond thanked Mrs. Boone for her work with these programs.
6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**
 - Christian Koelbl stated that he had recently learned that Ashley Bryant has resigned and that her position will not be filled. He stated that Superintendent

Szwec has plans to combine the kindergarten and first grade and not rehire for this position. He has called parents, and passed out a petition. He read the petition to the Board of Directors and then gave it to the Superintendent.

- ❑ Amanda Snow said that she had heard there is going to be a multi-age class at Stockton Springs Elementary School. She also heard there would only be one office for both the Middle School and the High School. She did not want her son be with 200 high school students in the office. She also asked that all decisions on where students attend school should be frozen – she felt the Superintendent’s decisions were not fair.
- ❑ Gabriel Baker was concerned with sending students to other towns. We need to give professional courtesy to staff for their children to attend other schools. He also understands that we need to have the seats filled. We should provide options for our professional educators.

7. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

- A. The Superintendent announced a \$1400 award from Efficiency Maine for an energy efficient project. We were one of nine school districts who received this award and the Superintendent recognized Jim Parsons for his work on the project.
- B. Tom Calderwood presented the Eastern Maine title plaque to the district on behalf of the 2008 varsity baseball team. The state trophy was also presented to the district. RC introduced the players and managers through a cheer. Coach Pepin also recognized the team and their efforts. There was a round of applause for the team.
- C. The Superintendent announced that Devin O’Brien, grade 6, has won a \$1000 scholarship at the 2008 MLTI Student Technology Day. This is for a student who enters UMO’s College of Engineering. Devin is one of ten students to receive the award. UMO will “mentor” these ten students with frequent contacts throughout their school career.
- D. The Superintendent encouraged Board members to read the article “Focus on Boardmanship”. She read four lines of the poem.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Buildings and Grounds Committee. Deleted from agenda.
- B. Personnel Committee. The committee discussed sharing the Business Manager with MSAD #34 and voted to recommend this to the Board. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tom Calderwood that the MSAD #56 Business Manager Brian MacFarland serve as the MSAD #34 Business Manager two days a week and as the MSAD #56 Business Manager three days a week, where MSAD #34 pays 40% of his salary and benefits and MSAD #56 pays 60% of salary/benefits on a trial basis from July 1 – August 31, 2008. A contract will be drawn up and reviewed by our lawyers, and if extra hours are required by MSAD #34, they will pay him a stipend. Discussion followed.

VOTE: 10-0-0

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Mike Hamilton to consolidate our Adult Education Program with MSAD #34 with a contract that runs for one year. Discussion followed.

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

- C. Curriculum Steering Committee. Ray Hart reported on the meeting and discussed how schools were going to improve their scores. This resulted in a

discussion. A motion was made by Joe Altilio and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the restructuring of the curriculum committees. Alan Hammond spoke about the “low scores” and the MEA scores and wants to have a representative from the Department of Education. He does not see a problem here, especially in the elementary schools. Mr. Hart said we may do this in the future. The Superintendent clarified that the meeting on the 19th did not deal with low scores. She reviewed the ten curriculum committees, what these committees accomplished during the 2007-08 school year, and their focus for the 2008-09 school year. She then spoke about the proposal to have co-chairs for the curriculum committees next year to facilitate the committee’s work. There was more discussion.

VOTE: 10-0-0

9. **OLD BUSINESS.**

10. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- A. A motion was made by Alan Hammond and seconded by Nedra Bellows to submit a revised consolidation plan to the Commissioner of Education as required by law (20-A, Chapter 103A).

VOTE: 9-0-1 (Hamilton)

- B. Consideration of approval of the following job descriptions:
1. Director of Special Services.
2. 21st Century Grant Director.

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Joe Altilio to approve the two job descriptions as presented above. It was clarified that the 21st Century Grant Director is a new position for the duration of the grant and the only change in the Director of Special Services is the number of days worked.

VOTE: 10-0-0

- C. Consideration of approval of the following nominations/appointments:
1. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tony Bagley to approve the nomination of Amanda Pullen as the Middle School Girls Soccer Coach.

VOTE: 10-0-0

2. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tony Bagley to approve the nomination of Teresa Higgins as the Middle School Yearbook Advisor and Middle School Newsletter Advisor.

VOTE: 10-0-0

3. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Tom Calderwood to approve the nomination of Jennifer Jackson as the Middle School Cross Country Coach.

VOTE: 10-0-0

4. A motion was made by Alan Hammond and seconded by Tom Calderwood to table the nomination of David Pepin as the Varsity Baseball Coach until January 2009. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Tom Calderwood to enter executive session for the employment of officials/appointees/employees pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6 (A)).

VOTE: 7-3-0 (Bagley, Dakin, Hammond)

The Board entered executive session at 7:38 pm and resumed public session at 7:55 pm. They then voted on the original motion.

VOTE: 7-3-0 (Bellows, Hamilton, Krause)

5. A motion was made by Alan Hammond and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the nomination of Karl Becker, high school math teacher, to a first year probationary contract.

VOTE: 10-0-0

6. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Joe Altilio to approve the nomination of Maureen Ferriter, half-time social worker/half-time Middle School guidance counselor, to a first year probationary contract.

VOTE: 10-0-0

7. Half-time science teacher to a first year probationary contract. This item was passed over.
8. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Joe Altilio to approve the nomination of Rosalie Shaw, Food Service Director.

VOTE: 10-0-0

- D. A motion was made by Alan Hammond and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the planting of a tree to honor Priscilla King. Discussion followed. The Buildings and Grounds Committee's concerns were: Should there be a criteria/protocol for this? Will we be setting a precedent? This had nothing to do with the honoring of Priscilla King.

VOTE: 9-1-0 (Calderwood)

- E. Update on the 2007-08 work of the Curriculum Committees. Already done.
- F. Draft of a curriculum committees restructuring plan. Already done.
- G. Discussion item: Should students go to school in their town of residence? What exceptions can be made? Class size issues? The Superintendent shared the law and the policy. We have many requests. Some Board members feel babysitting is not a hardship case. Denise Dakin shared her experience. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Denise Dakin to continue to follow the policy for students to go to the school in the town in which they reside. The Superintendent can in extreme hardship permit students to attend another school.

VOTE: 10-0-0

- H. Discussion of operations of the Searsport District Middle School and the Searsport District High School for the coming school year. The Superintendent said that when the Board cut one administrator at the HS/MS, we need to organize the school's operations. We will still have two schools but one principal and one Dean of Students. However, when the district's accreditation comes up, the academic programming will be accredited grades 6-12. Gregg Palmer and Ruth Fitzpatrick were present to discuss the operational needs. Gregg spoke about the facilities and safety issues. Currently, if there were ever an emergency where we had to evacuate the building, Gregg would need to make an announcement in the high school and then run to the middle school and announce it then. Changes in the intercom system need to be made to accommodate the need to make announcements through one system.

There are two separate phone systems which are inconvenient. This will need to be changed.

There are concerns about the entrance of the school. People don't like change. There will be one office. A map of the school shows 19 entrances to the complex. We need to do the safest thing. Over 50% of the high school is moving.

Gregg discussed the options in detail. Safety departments recommend one office as a safety measure. There was more discussion. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Tom Calderwood to let the administrators manage the building and that the Board not micro-manage.

VOTE: 5-5-0 (Altilio, Bagley, Dakin, Hammond, Webster) Motion defeated

There was further discussion and questions. There was a request to have a report from the administration to the Board. A motion was made by Alan Hammond to have the administrator and his staff bring a plan to the full Board of Directors. There was no second to the motion, and the motion was withdrawn. There was more discussion.

A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to enter executive session for a discussion of the duties of officials/appointees pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6) (A0).

VOTE: 9-0-1 (Calderwood)

The Board entered executive session at 9:02 pm and resumed public session 9:38 pm. A motion was made by Joe Altilio and seconded by Denise Dakin to extend the meeting past 9:30 pm.

VOTE: 9-1-0 (Calderwood)

A motion was made by Alan Hammond and seconded by Nedra Bellows to reconsider 10 H.

VOTE: 7-3-0 (Altilio, Bagley, Dakin)

A motion was made by Alan Hammond and seconded by Chris Krause to approve the concept of the Middle School and High School as presented by the principal. Clarification of the motion discussed. The SDMS door will be kept open in the morning, locked during the day, and open for dismissal. The office of the secretary will be moved to the high school. They will report back to the Board on the implementation of their plan.

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

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

A. A motion was made by Joe Altilio 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: 10-0-0

The Board entered executive session at 9:47 pm and resumed public session at 10:02 pm. A motion was made by Alan Hammond and seconded by Tony Bagley to give the Board Chairperson the authority to negotiate a contract as Interim Superintendent to Raymond Freve.

VOTE: 8-1-1 (Hamilton) (Hart)

12. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm.
Respectfully submitted,