

**MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 56**

Frankfort • Searsport • Stockton Springs

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

April 22, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.

Union Hall - Searsport

Present: Joseph Altilio            Tony Bagley            Nedra Bellows  
Tom Calderwood           James Cunningham    Denise Dakin  
Harold Grove            Michael Hamilton      Raymond Hart  
Christopher Krause      Twyler Webster

Absent: Lisa Hudson, Julia Martin

Visitors: 17

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Nedra Bellows at 6:33 pm. She welcomed Tony Bagley as the new Board member from Searsport, who thanked everyone who voted for him.
  - A. Election of a Board Chairperson. A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Mike Hamilton to nominate Ray Hart as Board Chairperson. There was discussion.

**VOTE: 10-0-1 (Hart)**

Mr. Hart thanked his fellow Board members.

2. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA.** None.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Harold Grove to approve the April 8 and April 15 minutes together.

**VOTE: 10-0-1 (Krause)**

There was discussion. A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the April 8 and April 15 minutes as presented. There was discussion. Ray Hart asked to step down as Chairperson and Nedra Bellows took his place. He stated that on page 6 of 7 of the April 15 minutes, he recommended the hiring of a superintendent for three days per week, and to reduce the superintendent's secretary position. He said that he had misspoken, and that it was not his intention to reduce Central Office staff except for the superintendent position. This has caused concern and he apologized. He then resumed the Chair.

**VOTE: 10-0-1 (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. None.

5. **PRESENTATIONS.** None.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** The Chairperson shared that this is a meeting held in public, not a public meeting. Public participation is a part. We want to hear from the public but in a cordial way.

- Denise Harriman from Stockton Springs asked if there was any other way to cut money than to cut Middle School sports. We see great growth in students as a result of the middle school athletic program. This is important for students to be ready for the high school athletic program.

7. **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT.**

- A. The Superintendent notified the Board that she has instituted the Book Reconsideration Committee in order to deal with a complaint. This may come to the Board of Directors at some point.
- B. The Superintendent recognized Christina Ellis for earning her Masters Degree in Science with an education major. She said it is important to recognize staff who continue their education towards a degree.
- C. RPC Committee. This committee will meet on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. She said that LD 2323 was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. It affects how consolidation will happen. It gives the Commissioner of Education more power and mentions a core curriculum, makes all SADs use the 11 cost centers, and also includes high schools as well as elementary schools in any closing that may occur. She urged everyone to read the new law. We will discuss its implications at the next Board meeting.
- D. The Superintendent reminded the Board that at their last meeting they voted to have all meetings at the Union Hall. Our policy states we will rotate the Board meetings as outlined. If the Board wishes to meet here, we need to change the policy. We are scheduled to be at Stockton Springs Elementary School in May. She will ask at the end of the meeting for a decision so we can be prepared. Mike Hamilton recommended that everyone read the Superintendent's monthly report to see what she does day to day. It will give a clear picture of what the job entails.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- A. Policy Committee. Harold Grove reported that the committee met this evening to look at three policies, two of which will be coming to the Board for approval. One is a state mandated policy.
- B. Region Seven. Harold Grove reported on the annual joint Board meeting where the Technical Center budget was passed unanimously. The dinner was excellent.

9. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- A. 2008-09 District Budget. The Superintendent reported on items discussed at the last Board meeting:
  - Transportation: One bus run K-12. This was dealt with in detail, and in the Board's backup material was the February 7, 2006 report which shows that we would need to hire four bus drivers and purchase four more buses to make this work.
  - There is a report from Ruth Fitzpatrick regarding her investigation of Middle School athletic programs. Other Middle Schools are moving away from an interscholastic program to an intramural program. We would be on a waiting list for the Penobscot Middle League. Bucksport has said they are at a big disadvantage with some of the teams they play.
  - The Superintendent included the latest high school class sizes, as requested.
  - FAME. There was a comment that students in FAME were there as a result of double grades. This is not so. The Superintendent reported in detail that 9 of 13 freshmen (69%) from Frankfort are reading below grade level. 20 out of 30 (67%) freshmen from Searsport are reading below grade level, and 9 out of 20 (45%)

freshmen from Stockton Springs are reading below grade level. We are not pleased with these results and need to have more interventions in place.

Whenever a student is not meeting the standards, we need to do an intervention.

- ❑ With regard to the incentive program the Board discussed, four teachers would be eligible. There have been no discussions with any of these people.
- ❑ We need to decide whether or not to make cuts and whether you wish the Superintendent to send a letter to all probationary staff stating they will not be nominated due to budget decisions. We are getting close to the legal deadline.
- ❑ The Board has copies of the latest EPS figures showing the number of staff over and under EPS.

There was discussion around several proposed cuts/positions, including a half-time science teacher at the high school, the ELA position at the Middle School, etc. The Chairperson said that the consumer price index is up 4%, and that our budget should not increase more than that. There was further discussion about setting a 4% increase and what that would mean.

- ❑ The number of teachers does not mean a good education.
- ❑ 45% below grade level.
- ❑ False assumption that having them there does not mean good teaching.
- ❑ Concerns about classroom space with 25 desks, etc.
- ❑ We would follow regulations.

The Chairperson asked if the Board was willing to support a 4% increase. The Board would need to cut an additional \$113,000 to reach 4%. There was further discussion on various items including:

- ❑ Having one principal for Frankfort and Stockton Springs – should this be revisited? There was consensus to keep two part-time administrators.
- ❑ What is the difference between multiage classes and double grades? Multiage is for children who need extra care/time. The Superintendent stated that she has never hired staff because of money, and has always tried to hire the best of the best.
- ❑ In the past, have we had a half-time principal with head teachers or one full-time principal covering two schools with a head teacher?
- ❑ Increase health/PE at the Middle School.
- ❑ Reduce Middle School guidance to half time.
- ❑ Eliminate the multiage program. Sharon Goguen was concerned with this.
- ❑ Class sizes of 20-22 should have an Ed Tech.

A motion was made by Denise Dakin and seconded by Mike Hamilton to keep the budget with a 4% increase over last year's budget. Discussion: could it be 4.1%? 4% is 4%.

**VOTE: 9-2-0 (Altilio, Webster)**

There was discussion on how much more needed to be cut from the proposed budget. The Board looked again at the Technology Integration Specialist position, the purchase of two buses, leasing buses, the half-time science teacher, the foreign language teacher, the Middle School ELA position, etc.

The budget now includes these cuts as done last week: speech therapist, social worker, Project Success Ed Tech, Middle School athletics, one administrator, and a reduction in the Superintendent's work days.

A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Joe Altilio to reduce one elementary teaching position for a savings of \$33,930, add a half-time science

teacher for \$25,804, and reduce a foreign language teacher for a savings of \$39,985. The Superintendent stated any reduction in force would follow the negotiated contract. This motion would produce a savings of \$14,181. There was further discussion.

**VOTE: 10-1-0 (Dakin)**

A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Mike Hamilton to reduce the Middle School guidance position to half-time.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Harold Grove to not replace the leaving speech therapist, increase the other speech therapist to full-time, restructure Project Success by eliminating one ed tech position and moving a teacher there half-time, and reducing one social worker from full-time to half-time. There was discussion. There was concern expressed about the social worker cuts. Sharon Goguen concurred with the recommendation to make the cut.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Harold Grove to increase the Health/PE position at the Middle School to full-time. There was discussion.

**VOTE: 9-1-1 (Calderwood) (Cunningham)**

A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Mike Hamilton to reduce the transition money to \$25,000. Discussion followed. Harold Grove suggested \$30,000 instead. Tom Calderwood withdrew his motion and Mike Hamilton withdrew his second. The Superintendent re-stated that this was an agreed upon commitment to the RSU and would need to be voted on there. Harold Grove agreed to bring it up again at the meeting on Wednesday night.

A motion was made by Nedra Bellows and seconded by Harold Grove to eliminate a Searsport District Middle School ELA position. There was discussion. The Superintendent said that some people are certified to teach more than one subject.

**VOTE: 9-2-0 (Dakin, Webster)**

This motion brought the budget to a 3.75% increase.

A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Chris Krause to retain the Middle School Interscholastic program (Busline League) for a cost of \$32,323.

**VOTE: 7-4-0 (Altilio, Calderwood, Cunningham, Grove)**

A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Denise Dakin to eliminate one administrator position for a savings of \$74,843. There was discussion.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

A motion was made by Denise Dakin and seconded by Mike Hamilton to replace the superintendent with a part-time interim superintendent for one year for 3 days/week for 52 weeks (156 days) for a savings of \$61,261.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

There was discussion around if this was enough money. Contingency funds could be used. The Superintendent stated that she currently does NCLB, Title I, assessment, and curriculum. These all need to be overseen.

A motion was made by Tony Bagley and seconded by Twyler Webster to eliminate the Intramural Coordinator and supplies for a savings of \$5,000.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

There was further discussion on getting to the 4% increase level.

A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Twyler Webster to reduce the contingency fund by \$2,500.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

This brings the budget to a 3.99% increase. This budget will be at the next Board meeting.

A motion was made by Denise Dakin and seconded by Harold Grove to separate the Athletic Director from the Dean of Students for a savings of \$8,776. There was discussion.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

10. **NEW BUSINESS.**

A. A motion was made by Harold Grove and seconded by Mike Hamilton to approve the 2008-09 District calendar as presented. Someone asked why Early Release days were reduced from 13 to 8. We can accomplish what we need with the 8 days. Graduation day has also been moved back one week.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

B. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to approve the nomination of Thomas Ordelt as a volunteer coach for Track.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

Mike Hamilton brought up the location of future Board meetings. He felt we needed to stay with our current policy where meetings are rotated through all three towns. A motion was made by Mike Hamilton and seconded by Twyler Webster to follow current policy as to the locations of Board meetings.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

Harold Grove announced that he was resigning from the Board of Directors effective May 1, 2008 and submitted his letter of resignation. A motion was made by Tom Calderwood and seconded by Joe Altilio to accept the letter with regret.

**VOTE: 8-2-1 (Hamilton, Hart) (Grove)**

The Board will need to assign a representative to Region Seven at their next meeting.

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

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

12. **ADJOURNMENT.** A motion was made by Twyler Webster and seconded by Denise Dakin to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.

**VOTE: 11-0-0**

Respectfully submitted,