

RSU 54/MSAD 54
Meeting of Board of Directors
May 1, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Skowhegan Area High School

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 54 was held on May 1, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area High School Library.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (777 present, 222 absent):

Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Mark Bedard* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Jean Franklin* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Valerie Coulombe (Norr-46) PRESENT	Daniel Frey* (Smith-27)
Karyn Curran (Skow-53) PRESENT	Samantha Hilton* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Becky Eldridge (Norr-46) PRESENT	Timothy Williams* (Skow-53) PRESENT
Lauren Fox (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Olivia Huff* (Student Rep) ABSENT
Tanya Groce (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Theresa Howard (Corn-30) PRESENT	
Michelle Kelso (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michael Lambke (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Desiree Libby (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Peggy Lovejoy (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Lisa Sironen (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
Sara Smith (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Michelle Taylor (Smith-27) PRESENT	
Wayne Wofford (Corn-30) PRESENT	

1. Call to Order

- a. Flag Salute – 7:00pm

2. Good News and Recognitions

Alyssa Leanord, 6th Grade Teacher at Skowhegan Area Middle School, along with students, presented to the Board on various science projects and the upcoming Science Fair, which is being held on May 22nd at Mill Stream Elementary School.

3. Approval of Minutes – 4/17/25

ON A MOTION BY Michelle Taylor, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of 4/17/25 into the public record. (777 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted the following letters of resignation:

- Kendra Bentley, School Nurse
- Cynthia Chillington, Special Ed Teacher at Skowhegan Area Middle

b. School Personnel

There were no school personnel who wished to speak.

c. Visitors

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

5. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee – 4/17/25

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting of 4/17/25 into the public record. (777 yes)

Theresa Howard, Committee Chair, reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

b. Building Committee – 4/30/25

ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Jeannie Conley, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Building Committee meeting of 4/30/25 into the public record. (777 yes)

Superintendent Moody reviewed the minutes. There were no recommendations.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (777 yes)

b. Report on Assessment Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody reported that as of May 1, 2025, Skowhegan was outstanding for April and May. Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock and Smithfield were current were current on their monthly assessment payments, with May due on the 20th.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody reported that the on April 30th, the Building Committee toured the new Margaret Chase Smith Community School, at the direction of Greg Bouchard and Doug Breer from Stephen Blatt Architects. Committee members shared various highlights of the building, including the lighting, colors, various details of the tiles and library nooks. Peggy Lovejoy shared pictures of the special tour arranged with the contractors for her 99-year-old neighbor.

Support Services Manager, David Leavitt, reported they continue to review punch list items on the 153,000 sq. foot building.

Principal, Myla Kreider, is coordinating student tours for the last week of May.

Superintendent Moody recommended the Board's approval of the Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of the New Bus Garage Site:

ON A MOTION BU Tanya Groce, seconded by Jeannie Conley, the Board voted to authorize the Purchase of the New Bus Garage Site be adopted on form presented to this meeting and that an attested copy of this Vote be filed with the minutes of this meeting (attached). (777 yes)

d. Update on FY26 Budget

- i. Approval and Signing of Warrants for District Budget Meeting, Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted

ON A MOTION BY Sarah Bunker, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Budget Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted," be approved in form presented to

this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting (attached). (777 yes)

e. Other

Superintendent Moody reviewed and recommended approval of the following overnight trips:

- Music student Evelyn LaCroix was selected to participate in the Treble Choir at the National Association of Music Education Honors Assembly in Hartford, CT. Music Teacher Jennifer Fortin will be accompanying Evelyn to the festival.
- Outdoor Leadership Instructor Soren Siren will chaperone his students in June on the annual Spring Outdoor Leadership Trip.
- If selected, SAHS student would attend the Gear Up Youth Leadership Summit in San Francisco in July. Gear Up will cover all costs other than the student's spending money.

ON A MOTION BY Karyn Curran, seconded by Sarah Bunker, the Board voted to approve the above overnight trips. (777 yes)

As part of Teacher Appreciation Week, all MSAD 54 staff received a River Hawks ceramic mugs, which were funded by the Aspire grant the district received from the MELMAC Foundation. Superintendent Moody distributed mugs to Board members in appreciation of their time and dedication to our students.

Superintendent Moody reminded the Board of the District Budget Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st at 7pm at the Skowhegan Area High School Gymnasium.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

The Assistant Superintendent reported the State of Maine received notification yesterday of non-continuation of EASE Grant funding, which is a national grant that focuses on providing an increased support of mental health professionals for students in schools. Funds will end on 12/31/25.

Principal Jason Bellerose updated the Board on yesterday's events, which included the 3rd Annual Community Service Day, where Freshmen students worked on 42 various community service projects throughout the District. Waste Management provided lunch for the students. Sophomores visited 30 different businesses based on interests and job shadowed. Juniors went on various college visits.

The Annual Random Acts of Kindness Day began today with students and staff writing messages to form a paper chain.

The Support Services Manager reported that plans continue for coordinating the schools to the new school.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

Board member, Wayne Wofford requested that the District's Lawyer meet with the Board in regard to federal and state compliance of Title IX. The Superintendent shared and reviewed a FAQ sheet that was sent out from Maine School Management (MSMA) Title IX, Federal Funding and Maine Schools. The Superintendent shared that MSMA's information was consistent with the information shared by the State in their update to school superintendents earlier in the week. The Maine Attorney General's update was also consistent with these updates. The Superintendent indicated that his guidance, based on information from the State, MSMA, the AG's Office, and the District's school attorney, is that the District's policies are lawful and compliant with both federal Title IX and Maine's Human Rights Act. His recommendation to the Board is that they consider to monitor the situation as it moves through the courts but that the Board take no action at this time on the issue raised. The Chair reminded the Board that EPPC would receive an update on the issue at their next meeting (June 16th).

9. Introduction of New Business not listed on the Agenda

There was no introduction of new business listed on the agenda.

10. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools