

**Meeting of Board of Directors
January 9, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Skowhegan Area Middle School**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Maine School Administrative District No. 54 was held on January 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Skowhegan Area Middle School Cafeteria.

ATTENDANCE BOARD MEMBERS (803 present, 196 absent):

Mark Bedard (Skow-53) PRESENT	Janet Burrill* (Canaan-43) ABSENT
Sarah Bunker (Mercer-16) PRESENT	Daniel Frey (Smith-27) ABSENT
Jeannie Conley (Skow-53) PRESENT	Janice Malek* (Norr-46) ABSENT
Valerie Coulombe (Norr-46) PRESENT	Timothy Williams* (Skow-53) ABSENT
Karyn Curran (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Samantha Delorie (Norr-46) PRESENT	
Lauren Fox (Mercer-16) PRESENT	
Jean Franklin (Canaan-43) PRESENT	
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	*Excused
Lynda Quinn (Skow-53) PRESENT	
Amy Rouse (Skow-53) 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

Jason Bellerose, Principal of Skowhegan Area High School, along with ASPIRE Coordinators Valerie McNamara and Jasmine Doyen, presented to the Board on Adopt a Classroom Program, which aims to create a nurturing environment where students can connect across different ages and grades, fostering camaraderie and shared goals. Seniors Twyla Hodgdon-Wagg, Brooklyn Goodridge and Sebastien Williams shared information on this initiative, which not only enriches the younger students' learning experiences but also allows them to develop their leadership skills and make a positive impact on their community. Throughout the year, Seniors will visit 3rd and 4th grade classes four times. There are currently 27 participating seniors.

3. Approval of Minutes – 12/19/24

ON A MOTION BY Samantha Delorie, seconded by Sara Smith, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of 12/19/24 into the public record. (803 yes)

4. Communications

a. Letters

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of intent to retire from Tammie Veinotte, Science Teacher at Skowhegan Area Middle School, effective June 2025 (38 years of service).

The Superintendent acknowledged and accepted a letter of resignation from Amanda Fornet, Ed Tech I at North Elementary School.

b. School Personnel

There were no school personnel who wished to speak.

Chair Quinn welcomed Wayne Wofford (Cornville), to the Board of Directors.

c. Visitors

Danielle Denis from Somerset Public Health shared that she has invited Freshman Abby Clair and her mother, who are on the REACH Advisory Board, to the national conference for Drug Free Community grantees in National Harbor, MD on February 2-6. They will be attending workshops, there is a youth leadership track as well as an adult track and will also have the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill with Senate and House Representatives.

Danielle also shared Substance Use Data for MSAD 54 from the Maine Integrated Youth Health Services.

5. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports. Superintendent Moody reminded the Board that the next Educational Policy/Program Committee has been moved from 1/14/25 to 1/21/25.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Vacancies, nominations, recommendations

ON A MOTION BY Jean Franklin, seconded by Theresa Howard, the Board voted to approve nominations page one. (803 yes)

b. Report on Assessment Payments to Date

Superintendent Moody shared that as of January 9, 2025, Cornville paid January assessment, with Canaan, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan and Smithfield outstanding for January. Assessments are due on the 20th of each month.

c. Update on New School Construction Building Project

Superintendent Moody shared that the Building Committee is scheduled to meet on 1/29/25 and will receive a full update on the building project, including a review of furniture purchase from Principal Myla Kreider and Asst. Support Services Manager Jessica Brown.

Principal Kreider shared that small staff group tours are being coordinated and are expected to begin the first week of February.

Support Services Manager David Leavitt shared that Phase 2 of the site work has started this week.

Superintendent Moody shared that he hopes to schedule the Board for another tour in late March or early April, with student tours hopefully taking place in late May.

Superintendent Moody shared that representatives from the state toured the new building site on 1/6/25. Being the first in the state to have a Birth to Grade 5 school, they were excited about what it could mean for kids and were hopeful that they can impact other projects state-wide to do what we are doing and were only aware of one other school in the country to offer Birth to Grade 5. Superintendent Moody included that our SCTC students in the Early Childhood Program, will also be based there.

d. Budget Update

Superintendent Moody shared that the FY26 budget will be a difficult process this year. The Commissioner of Education did share with the State Board that school funding will remain at 55% overall. Some of the areas the

Commissioner highlighted with large increases were special education and CTE; disadvantaged funding is projected to increase 20% from the prior year. Discussions have begun about necessary athletic projects over the next three years and prioritizing how we will approach them in what he suspects will be a series of challenging budgets.

e. Other

Superintendent Moody acknowledged the following:

- The Social Security Fairness Act passed the US Senate and House of Representatives and marks an important adjustment to a system that discouraged people from switching to education mid/late career. This has the potential to positively impact many educators.
- There was a national Powerschool Data Breach and once we have more information we will share with families.
- Desiree Libby will chair a meeting on our School Safety Plan with local law enforcement and staff on January 21st.

Superintendent Moody requested the Board's approval to allow David Leavitt to lock in energy prices following receiving quotes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Valerie Coulombe, seconded by Peggy Lovejoy to allow the Support Services Manager to lock in energy prices following quotes received after January 20th.

Following questions and comments, Peggy Lovejoy withdrew her second to the motion, but following further explanation of the process rescinded the withdrawal and the initial motion remained.

THE MOTION PASSED (433 yes, 165 no, 205 abstain)

Superintendent Moody thanked the JMG team, including Tracey Travers, Valerie McNamara and Jasmine Doyen, for their support in the ASPIRE grant.

7. Assistant Superintendent and Support Services Manager

Assistant Superintendent Hatch shared one room is fully tiled, painted and built in pieces are in. The MCSCS is pulling everything together and meeting on scheduling and will prepare the first draft to share with staff for review and feedback. Our next dine and discuss is scheduled for February 26th and will share feedback from staff.

Support Services Manager reported that a frozen coil burst at the high school, resulting in school closure for a day to repair and clean up.

8. Old and Unfinished Business

There was no old or unfinished business.

9. Introduction of New Business not listed on the Agenda

There was no introduction of new business not listed on the agenda.

10. Executive Sessions

a. Student Discipline Matter pursuant to *Title I MRSA §405(A)*

ON A MOTION BY Theresa Howard, seconded by Tanya Groce, the Board voted to enter into executive session at 7:42 pm, to discuss Student Discipline Matter pursuant to *Title I MRSA §405(A)*. (803 yes)

ON A MOTION BY Sara Smith, seconded by Samantha Delorie, the Board voted to return to regular session at 7:53 pm. (803 yes)

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Moody, Superintendent of Schools