

**MSAD #72 Board of Directors  
Wednesday, December 10, 2014  
Meeting Minutes  
Molly Ockett Middle School  
7:00 PM**

**Call to Order:** Norma Snow called the meeting to order and declared a quorum at 7:05

**Members Present:**

Card, Linda\*  
Carter, John  
Cummings, Laura  
Dondero, Mitchell  
Dupuis, Steven  
LeBlanc, Sharon\*  
Lyman, Kathleen\*  
Mattei, Chris  
Ontengco, Julie

Schasel, Dean  
Shorey, Kathiann  
Snow, Norma  
Spooner, Ed  
Stacy, Jim  
Struven, Marie  
Trumbull, Anne  
Weston, Laurie  
Williams, Jane\*

**Administrators**

Emily Kirkpatrick  
Pat Menzel  
Rhonda Poliquin  
David Powers  
Mark Schrader

**Members not Present:**

Lindblade, Carl\* (excused)  
McGrath, Denise\*

Smethurst, Kevan\*  
Steller, Bob (excused)

**Agenda:**

1. **Public Discussion** (15-Minute):

Daymond Steer, Conway Sun, asked if any Board members had attended the Common Core Informational session at Shawnee Peak and if so what was their opinion of it? A few Board members did attend.

Julie Ontengco: She responded that she had attended and thought it was an excellent presentation and caused her look for more information regarding Common Core.

Sharon LeBlanc: She felt it was a very good but repetitive presentation as she had attended the presentation held at Brownfield Denmark School last spring.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Board Meeting November 12, 2014

A motion was made to approve the Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2014.

Motion: Marie Struven

Second: Jim Stacy

**Passed**  
All in favor

3. **Communications:**

None

4. Committee Reports:

- a. Finance: Laurie Weston reported that the Finance Committee met Tuesday and finished reviewing all D policies. They discussed the new oven installed at Molly Ockett, a timeline for the placement of portable classrooms once the new building is under construction, the sustainability of PKA (Pequawket Kids Association) our after school enrichment program, and a request from Headstart which will be addressed later in tonight's meeting.
- b. Curriculum: Jane Williams reported that the committee met Monday night. Several committee members had visited New Suncook and Snow Schools to observe ELA (English Language Arts) classes. They will continue with classroom visits after the holidays. They discussed curriculum challenges and book lists. She offered if parents had questions regarding the Book Lists that they should speak with their child's teacher as lists might vary amongst classrooms. Molly Ockett does have a Book List housed in the library.
- c. Transportation: Marie Struven, No report
- d. Facilities: Jim Stacy, No report
- e. Policy: Linda Card reported that the policy committee met this evening and continued their work on reviewing all policies. The Board will be voting on policies later this evening.
- f. Special Education: Sharon LeBlanc, No Report
- g. Personnel: Norma Snow, No Report

5. Administrative Reports:

None

6. Superintendent's Report:

- Common Core Standards Presentation: (Handout of presentation attached) Jay stated that the purpose of this presentation is to inform the Board of the District's relationship with Common Core.

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were adopted by the State legislature, and as a Maine public school we are required, by statute, to align our curriculum, instruction, and assessment to those standards. We are also required to assess students using the Smarter Balanced testing, which will be implemented for the first time during this school year. We have no ability to "vote out" the Common Core or to refuse to take the State-mandated tests. The energies and focus on the administration and teachers in our district will be better utilized on maintaining a focus on how to help the individual children in our classrooms, not on arguing against things we have no control over.



Discussion: There was discussion around the attendance section of Policy BB and who makes the determination about what is an excused absence. We follow the policy recommended by MSBA (Maine School Board Association) It is important for both regular and alternate Board members to be present at all meetings so that each member can be informed about the issues being discussed.

Question: Could we notate in minutes when a Board member is absent as to whether it was excused or not? Jay said that we could do that.

Review Only

EBCA: Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

EGAD: Copyright Compliance

EGAD-R: Copyright Compliance Administrative Procedure

A motion was made to approve the above three policies for review only.

Motion: Jim Stacy

Second: Marie Struven

**Passed**

All in favor

Deletion

EG: Office Services

A motion was made to approve the deletion of the above policy.

Motion: Jim Stacy

Second: Laurie Weston

**Passed**

All in favor

8. Unfinished Business:

**General Board Information**

Jay passed out a handout with some basic information for Board members and reviewed key points. (See attached)

**Headstart:** Jay received a request from Headstart for the District to contribute \$48,000.00 towards operating costs. They are interested in expanding staffing and the number of students attending. Currently the District helps with mowing, shoveling, and clearing of snow. This request would have to be something considered during budget preparation for 2015-2016. We received half subsidy last year and will receive full subsidy the 2014-2015 school year for students attending, but we do not transfer that amount to Headstart. We should be getting about \$25,000.00 in subsidy for the 2014-2015 school year. That number fluctuates depending on the number of students attending from our District. Jay stated that he was asking the Board for their feedback on this issue but a formal decision would not be made until Budget time.

Rhonda Poliquin shared that there are not a lot of pre-school options for parents to choose from. She sees a benefit in having students do pre-academic work at the Pre-School level. Headstart serves a small population of Pre-K students because of the income qualification restrictions.

There was discussion amongst the Board concerning recent news that the state is working on increasing pre-school funding; how will new students be selected; what will happen when new building is in place and we have 2 pre-school classrooms, will we conflict with Headstart; some members voiced their support for Headstart.

A motion was made to give Headstart the amount of the subsidy that we get back from the State.

Motion: Jim Stacy

Second: Kathiann Shorey

**Passed**

11 in favor, 7 opposed

9. Personnel Action:

None

10. Public Discussion: (15 Minutes - questions/comments should only address agenda items covered in tonight's meeting)

Donna Dodge: After listening to the Common Core discussion she finds it alarming that no one has brought up that these standards are being forced on us by the federal government.

Luanne Mageles: She wanted to point out that Star testing is being done at the 2nd grade level as well as 3rd through 5th grade. Mark Schrader confirmed that was true.

Sonya Harding: Shared that she felt Chris Mattei made a good point that he would like to know how teachers feel about Common Core since they are the ones implementing the standards. She stated that she has spoken with several teachers and they don't like it but they feel that they could lose their jobs if they spoke out against it.

Christina Westleigh: She appreciated the presentation that Jay gave. She wanted to know if test results come back immediately to teachers and do they see the results. Jay responded that results from NECAP tests taken in October usually don't come back to the school until January/February. Star Testing has a quick turnaround so that teachers can see where students might need extra help. This is where RtI (Response to Intervention) time is used to help students.

Steve Dupuis: At the sub-committee level the Board meets with administration, asks questions and visits classrooms in order to find out what going on in the classroom This is ongoing work that the Curriculum Committee is doing. The Committee is certainly open to hearing what the public would like them to look at.

11. Agenda Planning/Adjournment:

Next Meeting: January 14, 2015

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Jim Stacy

Second: Steve Dupuis

**Passed**  
All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted



Heather Sheehan  
Recording Secretary