

**MSAD #72 Board of Directors
Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2014
Molly Ockett Middle School
7:00 PM**

Call to Order: Bob Steller called the meeting to order at 7:00 and declared a quorum.

Members Present

Card, Linda*	Schasel, Dean
Carter, John	Shorey, Kathiann
Cummings, Laura	Snow, Norma
Dondero, Mitch	Spooner, Ed
Dupuis, Steve	Stacy, James
LeBlanc, Sharon*	Steller, Bob
Lyman, Kathleen*	Struven, Marie
Mattei, Chris	Trumbull, Anne
Mosca, Anna	Williams, Jane*

Administrators

Emily Kirkpatrick
Pat Menzel
Rhonda Poliquin
David Powers

Members not Present:

Brown, Kirsten*	Smethurst, Kevan*
Emery, Ricky*	Laurie Weston

Agenda:

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

Cindy Alden: Shared an opinion regarding how educational monies should be spent (Building Project vs. Teachers and Student) and then regaled the audience with a story about giant reptiles.

George Cunningham: Expressed concerns regarding the Snow School. He stated that we need a new school. We need to get upgrades to Molly Ockett (library; special ed facilities; security issues; heating system; sports fields). We need to get building project moving. You serve people in entire district not just the town that you live in. Move forward.

Eric Walker: Eric stated that he was educated in MSAD 72 and is a current Selectman in Brownfield. He wanted to share that he was very upset with the comments made by a School Board member at the previous School Board meeting regarding former teacher Tom McLaughlin. He went on to say that he had Tom as a teacher and although he didn't always agree with his opinions he felt that he was a very good teacher. Eric's interest in politics and his desire to serve his community was fostered in part by having Tom McLaughlin as a teacher. He wanted to share that he felt it was inappropriate for a Board member to speak about a former staff member in a negative way.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve.
Motion: Jim Stacy Second: Norma Snow Motion: **Passed**

3. **Communications:**
None

4. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Finance:** Jim Stacy spoke for the committee saying they had met yesterday with PKA Board members/coordinator and had reviewed their financial process. The committee also discussed the upcoming budget process.
- b. **Curriculum:** Jane Williams shared that the committee had met last night and is in the process of reviewing different Language Arts programs; “Journeys” being one of programs they are looking at. They also discussed the possible implementation of alternative programs at both Fryeburg Academy and the elementary schools.
- c. **Transportation:** Marie Struven shared that the committee has not been able to meet due to illness and weather conditions. They are scheduled to meet February 26th at the Central Office at 5:30.
- d. **Facilities:** Jim Stacy stated that the committee met this evening. Dave Powers is in the process of putting together a 4 to 5 year plan.
- e. **Policy:** Norma Snow reported that the committee met this evening. They reviewed B and C policies. They will continue to review/revise policies but will present them to the Board only 5 or 6 policies at a time so as to not overwhelm everyone (including the committee). The Board will vote on policies under New Business later in this meeting.
- f. **Special Education:** Laura Cummings reported that the committee met tonight. Pat Menzel, Special Education Director, is in the process of developing new programs in hopes of bringing more kids back to the district and sending fewer kids to programs outside of our district. They are currently working with Fryeburg Academy in overhauling programming. They are happy to report that the working relationship with Fryeburg Academy is improving. The committee did want to let the board know that the Special Ed Budget will increase for the next fiscal year.
- g. **Personnel:** Norma Snow stated that the committee met yesterday and reviewed staffing plans for next year which could have a positive budget impact.

5. **Administrative Reports:**
None

6. **Superintendent’s Report:**
Liaison Meeting (March Vacation, Potential Option to Minimize 9-12 Out-of-District)

Jay shared that we are contractually obligated to have meetings with Fryeburg Academy and that he is happy to report that these more recent meetings have been a breath of fresh air. He felt that they are moving in a positive direction working together.

March Vacation: At his most recent meeting the Academy brought up the possibility of going to a two week March break and doing away with a February and April vacation. Jay told Fryeburg Academy that he would bring up the subject with the School Board at their next meeting. Board discussion ensued. Will it be more cost effective? Kay Lyman: Is it more of a financial advantage to have a week in April than in March? She also asked if the Administrative team could meet to discuss the issue. Ed Spooner: Kids are ready for vacation in February. We also have to keep in mind that we have to align with the Vocational program. Jay will do leg work to see if it is even feasible.

Potential Option to Minimize 9-12 Out -of -District Placement

Out-of-District placement costs are incredible. Students going in many directions = more vans, more aids, etc. We have been hit very hard this year with financial costs to support these students. The greater the mismatch between the needs of our students and our Special Education programming, the greater the problems and need for Out-of-District placements. We have to provide an education for students who are on an IEP. Fryeburg Academy is willing to help towards costs of programming so that we are keeping students in District. Jay hopes over time the numbers for Out-of-District placement will decrease.

Steve Dupuis: Could we take in students from other schools who may benefit from our programs? Would this be an option at the secondary level?

Pat Menzel: Placements ebb and flow depending on the kids we have. Unbudgeted costs that arise with new students coming into the district prove difficult.

Construction Update:

Jay handed out a tentative project calendar (attached). We are trying to move the schedule forward. We have several referendum votes that need to occur. We are in the process of taking our program descriptions and translating them into classroom spaces. Jay has continued to meet with the DOE in Augusta along with AD Hoc building committee members and the sense he is getting from the Governor is that the minimalist approach is beneficial. We will go for concept approval in March. We will begin to hold informational meetings regarding the final building project the end of March and beginning of April.

7. New Business:

1. Cost-Sharing Update: Jim Stacy: We are making progress. We have options on the table. The final meeting will be held February 24th and a vote will be taken at

that time to decide which cost sharing scenario we will put forth for a vote.

2. Timing of Referenda (FA Contract, Cost Sharing, Building Project): Jay met with Fryeburg Academy trustees. They asked for us to keep the referendum on the Fryeburg Academy contract separate from the referendum for the new building project. We need a finalized Fryeburg Academy contract before the budget is

presented in May. It would cost a little more to have separate referendum votes but the consensus of the School Board is that we should separate the two referendum votes. Tentative schedule for Building Project referendum vote is the end of April; the week after April vacation. Cost sharing referendum vote will

be separate.

Ed Spooner: We can't expect people to vote on new school without knowing the

cost. Cost Sharing Committee will come up with a proposal. We need to clarify if the Cost Charing Committee comes to a consensus for a plan if we will still need to go to a referendum vote.

3. Policies for First Reading: Norma Snow

Motion made to accept following policies for First Read.

BA, BB, BBA, BCB, BD, BDE, BE, BEA, BED

Discussion: Regarding BBA: Ed Spooner would like to make an addition under line B. Employment. He would like it to read that the board is responsible for the

selection and employment of the Director of Maintenance/Transportation. The change will be in the policy for Second Read.

Motion: Ed Spooner

Second: Steve Dupuis

Motion: **Passed**

Discussion: Ed would like the Policy Committee to send out the changes along

with

the final draft. Norma said that she would be happy to send out our rough drafts with red-lines, additions and deletions so that everyone on the board can see the changes. However she also shared that it can be overwhelming looking at all the changes and that it is the Policy committee's responsibility to make the changes

and

then bring them to the board for a vote. Does the whole board need to see all the changes? After discussion Ed decided he didn't need to see all the changes. Steve Dupuis asked how often do we need to review policies. The answer was every 3 to 5 years. We will not bring more than 5 to 6 policies at a time to the board for a vote.

4. Policies for Second Reading

Motion made to accept the following policies for Second Read:

AA, AB, AE, AEC

Motion: Ed Spooner

Second: Jim Stacy

Motion:

Passed

5. Policies for deletion

Motion made to delete the following policies.

AD-A, AEA

Motion: Jim Stacy

Second: Steve Dupuis

Motion:

Passed

6. **Budget Update:** Handout (Attached)

Jay stated that we have a moral obligation to do the best that we can for our children. Realizing that we do not have an inexhaustible amount of money we need to think carefully about how we are using our resources. This includes looking at our Middle School programming and making sure we are setting those

kids up for success and looking at our elementary program to ensure we really help kids socially and emotionally, which will lay the groundwork for academic success later on in their lives.

Budgetary constraints are an issue. If we do not have 980,000 moving forward that already represents a 6% increase in budget; if we are in a tight situation and

are considering freezing a budget before we come back to school next year this is not a good way to move forward.

Question: Ed Spooner: How are things going now?

Jay: We are spending 2 to 3 hundred thousand more than what was budgeted for. We have local entitlement to help us a little and are paying for some health insurance with federal money. We can move up to 5% from one cost center to another which would have to be voted on by the board. Rhonda Poliquin used Title 1 money to enable us to keep 2 teachers because there were salary differentials and we had enough money to pay for our Title 1 programming.

The bottom line is we are making it work, but being hit with unanticipated expenses, which must be addressed, is making it difficult to move into next year's budget with a balance forward to help minimize the overall budget increase.

8. **Unfinished Business:**

None

9. **Personnel Action:**

None

10. **Agenda Planning/Adjournment:**

Next Meeting: March 12, 2014

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:00

Motion: Jim Stacy

Second: Steve Dupuis

Motion: **Passed**

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Sheehan
Recording Secretary