

**MSAD #72 Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Meeting Minutes
Molly Ockett Middle School
7:00 PM**

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

Members Present:

Card, Linda*
Carter, John
Cummings, Laura
Dondero, Mitchell
LeBlanc, Sharon*
Lyman, Kathleen*
Mattei, Chris
McGrath, Denise*

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

Administrators

Emily Kirkpatrick
Pat Menzel
Rhonda Poliquin
Mark Schrader
Jay Robinson

Members not Present:

Lindblade, Carl*
Ontengco, Julie (Excused)

Smethurst, Kevan*
Steller, Bob (excused)

Agenda:

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

Sonya Harding: She apologized for not having this information sooner but wanted to give the Board the information she had gathered concerning the number of students who have been withdrawn due to Common Core. She said she had names of 35 students pulled from District Schools in the past 2 years and that 24 of them came from Brownfield Denmark Elementary School. She would not give the names of these students as she didn't feel it was her right to do that. She also stated that she knew of 32 students from Brownfield and Denmark who are not enrolling in our School District due to Common Core. No information was given as to how she collected this data.

Donna Dodge: She shared that it is challenging when you are fighting for something and you feel as if you are a solitary voice. She claimed she is not alone in her opposition to Common Core. Maine is one of 30 states that do not support Common Core. She shared some statistics regarding different teacher unions across the country that are opting out of Common Core and that some of these unions formerly supported Common Core but are now stepping back in their support. There is misinformation out there and she asked that Board members to do their own research regarding Common Core so that they will understand the facts. The Board is making important decisions regarding our students' education.

Jay: He is not intending this to turn into an argument but wanted the Board and visitors to understand that he specifically asked the DOE (Department of Education) if we have the authority to opt out of using Common Core standards and the answer was no.

Donna Dodge: Parents can refuse to have their child take the tests.

Jay: We have never said that a parent cannot opt out of having their child take the tests. We as a District cannot opt out of administering them and do not have the authority to excuse students from testing ourselves.

Kay Lyman: She had listened to NPR where they were discussing Common Core and testing. There would have to be change in the law in order that Districts would not lose funding if less than 85% of students took the tests.

Jenna Dodge: She is a 6th grade student at Molly Ockett and shared that she felt the current grading system is unfair. She works very hard yet did not make the honor roll this semester as she was marked as not meeting standards when it was the class as a whole not meeting standards. She is an individual and should be graded according to her skills and not the skills of the whole class.

Ed Spooner: Can I make a motion to withdraw from Common Core? (Multiple responses from Board members saying no.) Ed then answered his own question by saying of course we can't. There is nothing we as a Board can do about opting out of using the Common Core standards. Can we move on?

2. Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2015 meeting:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Board meeting held on February 11, 2015.

Motion: Kathiann Shorey

Second: Marie Struven

Passed
All in favor

3. Communications:

Letter of Resignation

Jay handed out a letter of resignation from Kayla Marston, School Counselor at C.A. Snow School for the rest of the 2014-2015 school year.

A motion was made to accept with regret the resignation of Kayla Marston.

Motion: Jim Stacy

Second: Marie Struven

Passed
All in favor

4. Committee Reports:

- a. Finance: Laurie Weston reported that the committee met Tuesday, March 10th with Jay and Sue Frost, Business Administrator. Steve McFarland, Director of Adult Education, came to present his budget and how that affects our District costs. He wants more money as the state is cutting back funding. They learned the State has raised mil. rate from 8.1. to 8.48. Some of our District towns will once again be affected. They discussed Co-Curricular participant numbers, reviewed policies, and reviewed/signed warrants.
- b. Curriculum: Jane Williams reported that the committee met Monday, March 9th. Committee members continue to visit schools and observe classes as well as talk with teachers. They have been attending some teacher planning periods to ask questions. They will make a decision on the reading curriculum to be used in the coming year(s) based upon their classroom observations, discussions with teachers, and testing results. They will then start looking at Math Curriculum.
- c. Transportation: Marie Struven reported that the committee had not met. They have looked at the contract with Bennett Transportation and will propose extending the current contract to June 30, 2016. The next contract will be from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2021.

- d. Facilities: Jim Stacy - No Report
 - e. Policy: Kay Lyman reported that the committee met tonight. They continued to review policies and the Board will be voting on policies later in tonight's meeting.
 - f. Special Education: Jane Williams reported that the committee met tonight and started to review the budget process. Things are going well and it looks like the budget will be similar to last year. They are not looking for more funding.
 - g. Personnel: Kathiann Shorey reported that the personnel committee has met and is working on PVEA/PVSSA contract negotiations. This will be ongoing.
5. Administrative Reports:
None
6. Superintendent's Report:
General Update: Building Project, etc.
Jay passed out handout and gave a PowerPoint presentation to review what was in the handout.
(See attached)

Building Project

As soon as the snow is gone the first phase will begin. This will include redirecting the traffic pattern. Initial work will include evening out playing fields; evening out site; putting in access for construction vehicles to get to site. A lot of work has been going on in regards to the concept plan such as fine tuning square footage; selecting materials to be used; obtaining permits; hiring a Commissioning Agent, which is required. Sparhawk was hired as the commissioning agent and will be reviewing all systems installed; identifying issues and resolving any issues that may arise.

Common Core: Jay agreed that people should do their own research regarding Common Core and should read the standards. Based on the response rate from the Board, it doesn't seem as if there is sufficient interest to plan presentations at future meetings. The Curriculum Committee is visiting classrooms to see how using CC standards is impacting students. The window for Smarter Balance testing is March 16th through May 29th. Although we do use Smarter Balance testing we do not "teach to the test" or spend time preparing students for the test beyond familiarizing them with the test interface. As a point of clarification, the Smarter Balance test is not a psychological test as has been reported in recent articles in local newspapers.

Budget Preview

Much work has been going on in preparing the 2015-2016 budget: negotiating PVEA/PVSSA contracts, finalizing expenditures, analyzing initial ED279 from the State and monitoring enrollments. Mil rate has gone from 8.10 to 8.48, which raises each town's required educational costs. Unknown cost factors include the PVEA/PVSSA salaries and benefits; teacher retirement costs and the increase in Health Insurance. We have significant work to do.

Ed Spooner: Asked Jay to explain retirement costs outside of EPS (Essential Programs and Services).

Jay: At one time the State paid teacher retirement costs outside of EPS, and currently these costs are included in the calculation.

7. New Business:

● Policy

2nd Read

DD: Funding Proposals, Grants and Special Projects

EBAA: Chemical Hazards

EEAEC: Student Transportation: Use of Monitoring Equipment

EEAEC-R: Student Transportation: Use of Monitoring Equipment Procedure

JJE: School Fundraising Activities

A motion was made to approve the above policies for Second Read.

Motion: Kathiann Shorey

Second: Mitchell Dondero

Passed

All in favor

Discussion: Kay Lyman asked if we could vote on Policies DD, EBAA, EEAEC and EEAEC-R first as an amendment was needed for Policy JJE. The Board voted on first 4 policies listed. Mitch Dondero read the amendment to Policy JJE item #4 to read as follows: "The District permits the sale of foods and beverages as fundraisers Fundraisers of foods which do not meet federal guidelines are limited to two annual fundraising activities per organization. These activities must take place after school hours."

A motion was made to approve Policy JJE.

Motion: Ed Spooner

Second: Anne Trumbull

Passed

All in favor

A motion was made to approve policy JJE with the following amendment:

"The District permits the sale of foods and beverages as fundraisers Fundraisers of foods which do not meet federal guidelines are limited to two annual fundraising activities per organization. These activities must take place after school hours."

Motion: Dean Schasel

Second: Jim Stacy

Passed

All in favor

1st Read

DBG: Budget Adoption

DID: Asset Capitalization

DJ: Bid Purchase Requirements

KF: Community Use Of School Facilities

A motion was made to approve the above policies for First Read.

Motion: Jim Stacy

Second: Marie Struven

Passed

All in favor

Review Only

DI: Fiscal Accounting and Reporting

DK: Payment Procedures

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

Motion: Anne Trumbull

Second: Jim Stacy

Passed

All in favor

Deletion

DGBA: Budget and Annual Information Reporting (merged w/ DBG)
DJB: Purchasing Procedures
DJE: Bid Openings (Merged w/DJ)
DM: Cash in Schools

A motion was made to approve the above policies for Deletion

Motion: Laurie Weston

Second: Jane Williams

Passed

All in favor

8. Unfinished Business:

Norma reminded Board members that they needed to call/e-mail Jay, Bob Steller or herself if they were going to be absent from a meeting. Heather Sheehan, recording secretary, will keep track of absences and will note if they are excused. The Board will not amend minutes to reflect excused absence. Heather will make the changes to attendance to reflect that an absence is excused.

9. Personnel Action:

Election of School Counselor for BDES

A motion was made to approve Kathleen Hunsicker as School Counselor at Brownfield Denmark Elementary School.

Motion: Jim Stacy

Second: Marie Struven

Passed

All in favor

10. Public Discussion:

Note: Discussions/questions should pertain to items discussed at this meeting.

Sonya Harding: She addressed Ed Spooner's comment about the Board not being able to make the decision to opt out of Common Core standards. She understands that the Board can't do anything about it now. She just hopes that when the time comes for them to go to Augusta to repeal Common Core that the Board members will go with them.

11. Agenda Planning/Adjournment:

Next Meetings: April 1st Budget Workshop
April 8th Budget Workshop
April 15th Budget Workshop

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Ed Spooner

Second: Jim Stacy

Passed

All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Sheehan
Recording Secretary

Superintendent's Report

- Building Project
- Common Core Standards
- Budget Preview

Timeline for Site Work

CONSTRUCTION PHASING	
PHASE	TIME PERIOD
PHASE 1A	APRIL 2015 THRU JUNE 2015
PHASE 1B	APRIL 2015 THRU AUGUST 2015
PHASE 1C	APRIL 2015 THRU AUGUST 2016
PHASE 2A	JUNE 2015 THRU AUGUST 2015
PHASE 2B	JUNE 2015 THRU AUGUST 2016
PHASE 3A	APRIL 2016 THRU AUGUST 2016
PHASE 3B	JUNE 2016 THRU AUGUST 2016



Other Information

- **Design Approval** – April 15th
- **Owner's Representative** – Rodney Boynton
 - Former Architect from Harriman
 - Required Position Chosen from Available List
 - Advocate for District/State
- **Commissioning Agent** – Sparhawk
 - Interviews 2/25/15
 - Another Required Facet of School Construction
 - Review Systems, Installation, etc.
 - Perform Functional Testing
 - Identify Issues and Resolution of Issues
 - Provide User Manuals, etc.

Common Core

- Given the response rate from the Board (11 of 22 current members), it doesn't seem as if there is sufficient interest to plan presentations at upcoming meetings. If that changes, we can use the survey feedback to tailor presentations to best meet your needs.
- Options for Information:

• Board Workshop	8	73%
• Teacher Presentation of a Lesson	6	55%
• Classroom Visitation	5	45%
• Links to Resources	6	55%
• Other	0	0%

Smarter Balanced Testing

- Testing Window:**
 - March 16th – May 29th.

Content Area	Grades	Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) Items	Performance Task (PT) Test Items	Total Test Items	Question Inventory (not included prior to the PT)	Total Test Items
		hrs : mins	hrs : mins	hrs : mins	hrs : mins	hrs : mins
English Language Arts/Literacy	3-5	1:30	2:00	3:30	20	4:00
	6-8	1:30	2:00	3:30	20	4:00
	HS	2:00	2:00	4:00	30	4:30
Mathematics	3-5	1:30	1:00	2:30	30	3:00
	6-8	2:00	1:00	3:00	30	3:30
	HS	2:00	1:30	3:30	30	4:00
Both	3-5	3:00	3:00	6:00	1:00	7:00
	6-8	3:30	3:00	6:30	1:00	7:30
	HS	4:00	3:30	7:30	1:00	8:30

- Preparation is minimal. We do not "teach to the test" or do any preparation beyond acclimating our students with the testing interface so they will be familiar with it beforehand.

Smarter Balanced Testing

- **Nature of the Test:**
 - Despite the label given by a recent editorial in the *Bridgton News* and *Conway Daily Sun* claiming that the test is “psychological” in nature, the test does nothing of the sort. The test measures academic ability in the content areas of math, writing, and reading.
 - I am hoping that many of you logged on to take a practice test so you could dispel this rumor yourselves.

Budget Preview

- **Current Activity:**
 - Finalizing expenditures.
 - Negotiating PVEA and PVSSA contracts shortly to finalize salaries, benefits, and other related financial elements.
 - Analyzing initial ED279 from the State, which determines Local Required/State Funding.
 - Monitoring enrollment to determine staffing needs.

Highlights

- The mill expectation has gone from 8.10 (FY15) to 8.48 (FY16).
- Prior to receiving State funding, a town has to meet the minimum mill requirement. Four of our towns do not, and thus they receive no State subsidy.

	Mill	FY15	FY16
• Brownfield	(8.48)	\$ 1,395,225	\$ 1,445,557
• Denmark	(5.86)	\$ 1,479,771	\$ 1,566,100
• Fryeburg	(8.48)	\$ 2,973,105	\$ 3,087,144
• Lovell	(3.28)	\$ 1,748,364	\$ 1,737,745
• Stoneham	(5.49)	\$ 371,512	\$ 419,135
• Stow	(8.48)	\$ 376,650	\$ 391,493
• Sweden	(6.53)	\$ 553,502	\$ 549,532
Total		\$ 8,898,128	\$ 9,196,707

State Contribution by Town

	FY15	FY16
• Brownfield	\$ 853,926	\$ 1,018,688
• Denmark	\$	\$
• Fryeburg	\$ 2,681,151	\$ 2,885,858
• Lovell	\$	\$
• Stoneham	\$	\$
• Stow	\$ 117,862	\$ 204,609
• Sweden	\$	\$
• Total	\$ 3,652,939	\$ 4,109,156

Subsidy Summary

- This year, the District is required to spend an additional **\$298,579** (based upon the higher mill rate) and is receiving an additional **\$456,217**.
- This is driven by the increase in the cost of education in the State budget, which is up by \$68 million dollars. State aid, however, is only increasing by \$20 million.
- The State share of education is dropping to 46.25%, making the local share 53.75%

Unknown Factors

- PVEA and PVSSA **Contracts** – Salaries and Benefits
- **Teacher Retirement Costs** – May be Paid Outside Essential Programs and Services (EPS). Current estimates are that the local portion of retirement costs are increasing from 2.65% to 3.36%. This is a \$7.5 million dollar increase for FY16 and a \$8.8 million dollar increase in FY17.
- **Health Insurance** Increase – Predicted to be 9.5%