

**MSAD #72 Board of Directors  
Wednesday - May 7, 2014  
Minutes  
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*	Shorey, Kathiann
Carter, John	Snow, Norma
Cummings, Laura	Spooner, Ed
Dondero, Mitch	Stacy, James
Dupuis, Steven	Steller, Bob
LeBlanc, Sharon*	Struven, Marie
Lyman, Kathleen*	Trumbull, Anne
Mattei, Chris	Weston, Laurie
Mosca, Anna	Williams, Jane*
Schasel, Dean	

**Administrators**

Emily Kirkpatrick  
Pat Menzel  
Mark Schrader  
David Powers  
Sue Frost  
Rhonda Poliquin

**Members not Present:**

Emery, Ricky*	Lindblade, Carl*
Smethurst, Kevan*	

**Agenda:**

1. Public Discussion (15-Minute):

Donna Dodge introduced herself as a parent from Denmark who came to represent herself and other parents with respect to the current Math curriculum. Donna feels that this past school year children have struggled with the current "Common Core" Math program and are not benefiting from it but in fact have fallen behind in their Math skills. Parents can't help them as they are unfamiliar with this new approach to teaching math and in some cases have had to hire tutors for their students who are falling behind. The board has chosen the curriculum. Numerous other towns are having the same type of issues. Common Core is the issue/problem. Common core is driving the curriculum. There has been no testing done on this Common Core to see if it is an effective curriculum. . It was just thrust on us and it is radically changing schools across the United States. The pretense for Common Core is that it is rigorous and preparing our students to be college and career ready. This is not true. Parents do not have to accept common core in this district. Heidi Sampson, who works at the State level, will come to speak in Denmark on Monday, May 19th at 6:30 at the Denmark Town Hall. She will give a presentation on Common Core We need your help to fix this problem.

Terri Vaughan introduced herself and her daughter Abby. Abby and her sister are in the MESA (Maine Environmental Science Academy) program at Molly Ockett.





6. Superintendent's Report:

- Poland Springs Grant for Bryant Pond; CAS PTO Support: Jay publicly thanked Poland Springs and the CA Snow PTO who made it possible for all 5th grade students to attend Bryant Pond for their annual trip. Mark Schrader shared that this trip has taken place the past few years with all 5th graders throughout the District spending time together. The students come to Molly Ockett for a Step-Up day to see the school; meet the teachers; learn about different programs/activities and ask questions. They then travel to Bryant Pond together for an overnight trip and participate in many fun activities.

7. New Business:

- Policy approval

- Policies for Second Reading  
ADF, BE-E1, CA and CF

Motion: Kathiann Shorey                      Second: Steve Dupuis                      Passed

- Policies for deletion  
CB, CC, CE, CJ (merged w/ CA), CD, CI (merge w/ CF) CL,  
CH (recoded)

Motion: Kathiann Shorey                      Second: Marie Struven                      Passed

- Discussion/Formal vote on FY15 Budget to be presented to District:  
(FY15 Budget Overview handout attached.)

Jay spoke before asking the Board to formally accept the Budget. He stated that current budget-to-budget increases (under 2%) are not sustainable. We can't set a budget and then freeze it immediately in August. When we are asked to cut the budget it is a painful process. Every Staff Member and Program is valuable to our District. That being said it isn't responsible to be overstaffed; for example in the MESA program. Although Roger Wheeler brings a lot to the table, having four teachers for 20-25 students doesn't make good fiscal sense. Three teachers are very capable of carrying on the program. Times are hard. The State is continually cutting funding and the costs are being pushed back onto the District every year. Meeting the needs of all students and being responsible to the taxpayers is not easy to do.

Budget Questions/Comments

**Steve:** What percentage increase would you feel comfortable with?

**Jay:** It is a case-by-case situation. As responsible as we try to be normal increases affect the budget.

**Ed:** How many kids are in MESA? Can anyone be in it?

**Jay:** Currently around 25. (There are 24 in the program.) There is a process for selecting students who will benefit the most being in the MESA program. Many factors come in to play.

**Sharon:** I am highly against cutting the MESA/Industrial arts position.

**Ed:** Is the Tech position new?

**Jay:** No it is the position that we have shared with Lake Region that we will fill internally.

**Norma:** Was a poll taken on how many current students would be interested in taking a foreign language?

**Jay:** Yes. 30 future 8th grade students are interested.

**Laurie:** What would it cost to keep the MESA/IA position?

**Jay:** Roughly \$46,000, which would cause the budget-to-budget increase to be 2.03%.

**Kathiann:** Everyone is in favor of the MESA program.

**Norma:** Do we have any idea how much the budget will drop with hiring new teachers?

**Jay:** We have made all the budgetary adjustments to reflect the retirements that will happen at the end of the year.

**Steve:** There is a need to teach reading. There is a deficiency in 2 schools as far as reading strength goes. If there is money to be spent we need to be putting resources into improving the reading program. Every program that comes up on the chopping block is going to have an emotional plea to keep it. We need to make tough decisions.

**Ed:** Why are we not using the same reading program throughout the district?

**Laurie:** What are we doing with Reading program?

**Jay:** We need to be able to study what is working in each school and figure out where to go from there.

**Jane:** We need to give the Reading program at New Suncook time to work before we make any changes.

**Ed:** We need to get all 3 schools on same page.

Motion made to keep the MESA/IA position in the budget.

Motion: Anna Mosca

Second: Sharon LeBlanc

Failed

3 in favor/all others opposed

Motion made to accept the budget as presented tonight 1.74% increase

Motion: Jim Stacy

Second: Ed Spooner

Passed

all in favor

- Votes on May 6, 2014/ Cost Sharing Referendum

The Board tabulated the results received from each town and declared that the referendum to vote on changing the Cost Sharing formula for the New Building project **failed** with a vote of **333 in favor and 683 opposed**.

VOTED: That the Computation and Declaration of Votes dated May 6, 2014 and attached hereto be and it is hereby approved.

FURTHER VOTED: That the Computation and Declaration of Votes be entered upon the records of the Maine School Administrative District No. 72 (the "District").

FURTHER VOTED: That a certified copy of the Computation and Declaration of Votes be sent to each of the municipal clerks within the District.

Motion: Norma Snow

Second: Jim Stacy

Passed

- Building Project Referendum - Sign Warrants

Voted: That the warrant and notice of election presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved and that a Maine School Administrative District No. 72 referendum be and is hereby called for June 10, 2014 for the purpose of approving the financing of a school construction project by Maine School Administrative District No. 72 as described therein

Further Voted: That the Notice of Public Hearing presented to the meeting be and is hereby approved for the purpose of notifying the Maine School Administrative District No. 72 voters of the public hearings(s) scheduled as provided therein on the financing of a school construction project.

Motion: Jim Stacy

Second: Norma Snow

Passed

8. Unfinished Business:

None

9. Personnel Action:

None

10. Agenda Planning/Adjournment:

Next Special Meeting: May 14, 2014

Next Regular Meeting: June 11, 2014

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:15

Motion: Ed Spooner

Second: Kathiann Shorey

Passed

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Sheehan  
Recording Secretary