

**S.A.D. #44 BOARD of DIRECTORS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2006
7:30 p.m. ---- Crescent Park School
MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Directors Absent: Mr. Everett, Ms. Thurston, Ms. Largess, Mr. Deegan

Others Present: Dr. Murphy, Mr. Powell, Ms. Graham, Ms. Waite, Mr. Sabin, Mr. Tornrose, Dr. Whitman, Mr. Clanton, Ms. Brown, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Driscoll, Mrs. Tancrelle

Pledge of Allegiance

II. ACTION ON MINUTES:

Ms. Cross motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 9, 2006.

MOTION: Ms. Cross SECOND: Mr. Farrington VOTE: Unanimous

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS: (maximum fifteen minutes)

None

IV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: (maximum fifteen minutes)

Mr. Pew spoke briefly regarding Capturing Community Stories Workshop. Mr. Pew accompanied a group of seventh grade students to Farmington. These students are involved in a program called the Way of the Woods. Two districts are involved in the program. An exposition is planned for the spring.

Chairman's Report:

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Mr. Polak – No report.

Facilities & Ancillary Services Committee: Ms. Cross reported on the tour of Crescent Park School completed just prior to the meeting.

Finance Committee: Mr. Pew – The Committee met prior to the meeting for the signing of warrants and to consider other agenda items

Negotiations Committee: Mr. Pew – no report

Personnel Committee: Ms. Brown – The Committee met prior to the meeting to consider the proposed job description for the School Reform Resource Assistant.

Policy Committee: Mr. Farrington reported that he will be meeting with Dr. Murphy on 4/6/06.

Region #9 Cooperative Board: Mr. Everett – No Report

VI. COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS:

SAD #44 Board Meeting: Monday, March 13, 2006 – Telstar Library

Executive Committee: 3/21/06 at 4:00 PM

Education Committee: 3/6/06 at 4:00 PM

Facilities & Ancillary Services Committee: 4/5/06

Negotiations Committee: TBD

Policy Committee: TBD

Region #9 Cooperative Board: Tuesday, February 21, 2006 – 7:00 PM

VII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Dr. Murphy informed the Board of a meeting he, along with all the Superintendents in the State, attended with the Commissioner of Education. He will be sending Board members an e-mail updating them on changes and mid-course corrections at the State level.
- Dr. Murphy passed along an invitation from Tim O'Connor to the Board to attend a Fund Raiser "Italian Feast" to benefit the Telstar Football Boosters. Everything has been donated by the Gideon Hastings House. There are two more dinners to be held on February 16th and February 18th. The cost is \$25.00 for adults and \$12.50 for children 12 and under. Approximately 45 people attended last night's dinner which netted about \$1,000.
- Dr. Murphy reported that Carole Corriveau has been hired as the new Telstar Middle School Secretary. A considerable number of applications were received and Mr. Tornrose and his team interviewed a total of 8 candidates. Dr. Murphy also thanked Debbie Jackson, the former Middle School Secretary, for coming in and assisting Carole with the transition.
- Dr. Murphy introduced Mr. Dave Driscoll, Director of Region 9, who was present to give the Board a report on the Region 9 Addition Project. He also introduced Norm Clanton who is a SAD #44 representative to the Region 9 Board. Mr. Driscoll began by giving

the Board a brief background on himself. He distributed a packet of information to Board members and reviewed a prepared a Power Point presentation. He stressed that this was an informational meeting and “nothing has been cast in stone”.

Mr. Driscoll began by explaining the Mission of the Vocational School which is to provide students with technical training. It also provides them with entry level skills and college readiness. Another key goal is to keep students in school and to support economic development. Mr. Driscoll displayed a map of the State showing where the 27 Vocational schools are located. He then reviewed a list of the programs currently offered and gave a brief history of Region 9.

The discussion moved on to how the decision was made to build onto the existing building. He also spoke briefly regarding newly proposed programs which include automotive, residential electrician and culinary arts. Mr. Driscoll displayed a building plan, pointing out the current 24,000 square foot section and the new 30,000 square foot proposed addition. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Driscoll took questions from Board members.

Ms. Cummings asked if old programs would drop off with the addition of the new programs. Mr. Driscoll stated that they currently offer 8 programs and with the addition they hope to offer 12 to 13 programs. They currently serve 150 students and hope to serve an additional 150 students. He added that some programs could be half time.

Mr. Pew asked if the studies completed had taken into consideration the projected drop in student population. Dr. Driscoll acknowledged the issue and stated more research would be done but he did not feel this would negatively impact program enrollment.

Mr. Polak asked Mr. Driscoll to describe the process/time line for moving forward with the project. Mr. Driscoll responded that they are continuing to meet with Superintendents of SAD 21, 43, and 44 and the Region 9 Facilities Committee. They are also working to fine tune the programs to be offered. He will provide the Superintendents with projected operating costs. Due to flaws in the previous survey, at their request, another survey will be completed. The next step is to take the project to referendum in the fall. Mr. Polak expressed concern that the process has already moved to a scheduled referendum. He stated that the project needs to be cost effective and well thought out. He feels that November is much too soon for a referendum.

Mr. Clanton stated that they had already been approved for \$1.5 million but the money would not be there forever. He reminded the Board that there are fire safety issues. The building is not compliant with fire codes. Parts of the building have been shut down and they have had to use portable classrooms. He stated they had originally looked at an April referendum but pushed it back to November.

Mr. Polak reminded Mr. Clanton and Mr. Driscoll that the Board is responsible for providing information to the community but they are “just scratching the surface on

understanding the implications to the community.” There needs to be much broader discussion. Mr. Clanton responded that they expect to return to the Board many more times.

Mr. Farrington asked if they had the money to fix the existing problems at the school. Mr. Clanton responded that they have approval for \$1.5 million but this amount is not enough and they cannot get the additional money without going to referendum. He stated “if we’re going to do, we have to do it right.” Mr. Farrington asked what the cost would be to fix the existing building the size that it is. Mr. Clanton responded that fixing the existing building would not accommodate the current programs and he believed that it does not make sense to fix the building without addressing the space issues.

Mr. Brough asked what was driving the project. Was it a “build it and they will come” idea? Mr. Clanton stated that there is no question they have the demand. For most of the past 25 years the programs have been scattered around. In various locations, Region 9 had no identity as a school. He explained briefly how the programs used to operate and how they are scheduled now.

Mr. Korhonen asked how much the fees would increase. Mr. Driscoll explained the cooperative agreement that exists between the three sending school districts. The fees are dependent on the number of students from each district. Region 9 does not receive money directly from the State. If the operating costs go up, the fees would go up accordingly. Currently, approximately 50% of students come from SAD 43 with 25% each from SAD 44 and 21. At the present time, SAD 44 receives a 40% state subsidy. Mr. Driscoll stated that if the referendum was pushed past the fall of 2006, Region 9 would most likely lose the revolving loan money.

Ms. Cross stated that CMCC is offering academic programs and asked if there had been any effort at collaboration. Mr. Driscoll responded that he was aware they were offering freshmen level academic courses for \$120.00 per course, half the usual cost. This is already in place in Farmington. If they had the facility, such a plan might be feasible.

Mr. Polak stated his hope that Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Clanton would return with more research on programs, including why they chose certain ones and not others, and more specific information on cost. Mr. Clanton acknowledged that it sounds like just brick and mortar, but that is because they want to build in as much flexibility as possible. They do not want the space to be too specifically oriented to a specific program.

- Mrs. Graham provided the Board with the annual district Learning Results Progress Report. She informed the Board that there are mid-course corrections going on with Learning Results. Ten years ago, when the Learning Results were put into effect, there were certain requirements. Students had to be assessed, they had to meet standards for graduation and we would have to develop a local assessment system. There turned out to be too much time spent assessing and not enough time spent teaching. As a result, the Legislature passed LD 1424 last spring, backing off the requirements a little. It appears

that we will not have to graduate students based on just Learning Result in 2008. Special Education students' IEP's must be based on Learning Results and their ability to graduate will be based on meeting the standards in their IEP's rather than the same standards as the other students.

Dr. Murphy noted that outside consultants have been hired at the national level. The Commissioner commented that after they looked at what Maine had, they determined that we are over-assessed.

Mrs. Graham went on to explain that students had traditionally been assessed in Grade 4, 8, and 11. The Grade 11 MEA has been replaced by the SAT. This year, for the first time, the MEA will be administered in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. This is required by the No Child Left Behind initiative. In all grades, students will be tested in Math and Reading. In Grade 4, Science will be added. In Grade 5, Narrative Writing will be added. This has been moved from Grade 4. Grade 8, in addition to Reading and Math, will also have Science and Writing (which will be in the form of a persuasive essay).

Mr. Brough asked if all this assessing was taking a lot more time. Mrs. Graham responded yes and no. The MEA will be shorter for all grades except for Grade 8. The results of the MEA will be used to calculate yearly progress.

Mr. Farrington asked if there was any incentive for the students to do well on the MEA. Could they use the assessment to replace another test or a final exam for example? Mrs. Graham explained that it cannot be used to replace another test because the results are returned in July or August and the students are already out of school and have moved on to another grade level.

Mr. Brough asked if the students see the test results. Mrs. Graham responded that they do see them. Results are mailed to parents when they are received.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion
2. Adjustments to the Agenda:

3. Ms. Brown motioned to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation to approve the Job Description for the School Reform Resource Assistant.

Mr. Tornrose briefly addressed the Board regarding the job description. He explained the position was a cross between a clerical position and an Ed. Tech III. The Comprehensive School Reform Grant will fund this position and the position will only be in place for the length of the grant. The person will work with teachers on improving student achievement, redesigning curriculum, and completing research. The person will also be available to release teachers for professional development.

Mr. Tornrose also spoke briefly about the Leadership Team in place at the Middle School. Representatives from each grade level and special education meet once every 2 weeks to plan grant activities and workshops.

MOTION: Ms. Brown SECOND: Ms. Cross VOTE: Unanimous

4. Mr. Pew motioned to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the three Revolving Loan Items.

Mr. Pew explained the purpose of the School Revolving Renovations Fund and read aloud each of the three items and three separate votes were taken.

ITEM I That in connection with the School Revolving Renovation Fund minor capital project previously approved by Maine School Administrative District No. 44 (the "Governmental Unit") in accordance with applicable law, the Governmental Unit be and it hereby is authorized to execute and deliver a Loan Agreement between the Maine Municipal Bond Bank (the "Bond Bank") and the Government Unit to effect a loan from the Bond Bank in the principal amount of up to \$21,031, of which amount \$7,878 of principal is forgiven by the Bond Bank, and which Loan Agreement shall be substantially in the form presented at this meeting, and such Loan Agreement hereby is approved in all respects, for the purpose of financing the School Revolving Renovation Fund minor capital project (the "Project"), provided, however, that the unforgiven portion of the Loan Agreement shall be rebated by the Treasurer of the Governmental Unit to the Bond Bank from the loan proceeds.

MOTION: Mr. Pew SECOND: Mr. Brown VOTE: Unanimous

ITEM II That under and pursuant to the provisions of Title 20-A M.R.S.A. Sections 1311 and 1351, and Title 30-A M.R.S.A. § 5953-E and § 6006(F), the Chair of the

Board of Directors and the Treasurer of the Governmental Unit be, and hereby are authorized to borrow in the name and on behalf of the Governmental Unit the sum of up to Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$13,153) from the Bond Bank and, in connection therewith, the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized to issue general obligation securities (bonds or notes) of the Governmental Unit in an original principal amount of up to Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (\$13,153), payable WITH NO INTEREST in 5 equal annual installments of principal, and to execute and deliver such general obligation bonds or notes (as so executed and delivered, the "Bond) in registered form under the seal of the Governmental Unit and as attested by the Secretary, which Bond shall be dated on or about February 24, 2006, and be in substantially the form presented to this meeting, with such changes therein not contrary to the general tenor thereof as the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer may approve, the execution and delivery thereof to be conclusive evidence of such approval, provided, however, that the Treasurer shall prepay the Bond upon delivery thereof by rebating the proceeds to the Bond Bank, and such payment and satisfaction shall be indicated on the Bond by the Bond Bank.

MOTION: Mr. Pew SECOND: Mr. Brown VOTE: Unanimous

ITEM III That the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer be, and each of them acting singly hereby is authorized in the name and on behalf of the Governmental Unit to execute and deliver the Loan Agreement, an Assignment of monies transferred by the State of Maine to pay for Project costs, and such other instruments, documents, certificates and agreements, and to take or cause to be taken such further actions for and on behalf of the Governmental Unit as may be necessary, convenient or appropriate to effect the transactions contemplated by the foregoing votes and the documents referenced therein, and that the Secretary of the Governmental Unit be and hereby is authorized to attest to the foregoing and attach the Governmental Unit's seal to any of the foregoing.

MOTION: Mr. Pew SECOND: Mr. Brown VOTE: Unanimous

5. Ms. Cross moved to accept the Facilities Committee's recommendation to approve increasing prices for the School Hot Lunch Program effective at the start of the 2006-2007 school year.

Mr. Powell reviewed the Criteria for Evaluating Student Price Waiver received from the State. This form is used to seek an increase. If approved, the student price will

**Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2006
Page 8**

increase by \$.25 to \$1.75 at the elementary level and \$2.00 at the secondary level. The adult price will increase \$.50 to \$3.00. This increase will have no effect on students who receive free or reduced price meals. Mr. Powell explained that we have always operated the hot lunch program at a loss. The one year where we almost broke even was when there was a price increase and a staffing reduction. There are very few districts in the State who break even. At the present time we have an approximate \$100,000 deficit. This increase, if approved, will generate approximately \$16,000.

Dr. Murphy noted that we are talking with SAD #43 about possibly using the services of their Food Service Director for a nominal fee. Also, there will be a million dollars allocated to the State for collaborate and cooperative efforts between school systems. He was hopeful that SAD #44 and SAD #43 might be able to access some of those funds by working together on this effort.

MOTION: Ms. Cross SECOND: Mr. Brown VOTE: Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT: 9:18 PM

MOTION: Ms. Cummings SECOND: Ms. Cross VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

David W. Murphy, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools