

**S.A.D. #44 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006
7:30 PM – TELSTAR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
MINUTES**

Finance Committee Meeting – 6:45 PM

I CALL TO ORDER:

Directors Absent: Ms. Cummings

Others Present: Mr. Lambert, Dr. Murphy, Mr. Powell, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Aloisio, Ms. Conrad, Ms. Ruff, Ms. Tancredelle, Ms. Borst

Pledge of Allegiance

II ACTION ON MINUTES:

Mr. Pew motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 13, 2006.

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

III CITIZEN COMMENTS: (maximum fifteen minutes)

None

IV BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: (maximum fifteen minutes)

Mr. Polak voiced his opinion regarding the presentation to the Board by Mr. Driscoll, Director of Region 9, at the previous meeting. He stated that he felt the presentation was not presented professionally, lacked substance, and did not provide a compelling case to support the project. Mr. Polak also stated his hope that the process slows down to allow the Board more time to scrutinize the project.

Mr. Brough stated that he also felt that the presenter was not adequately prepared.

Mr. Brown informed the Board of the recent success of the MS Alpine and Nordic Ski Teams. The girls finished in 1st place in Alpine and the boys' team took 4th place.

Chairman's Report

Ms. Cross reported that Ms. Bonnie Largess, who had been serving on the Board as an appointed member, has been elected to the Board representing Newry.

Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2006
Page 2

V COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Mr. Polak - none
Facilities & Ancillary Services Committee: Ms. Cross - none
Finance Committee: Mr. Pew – Committee met prior to the Board Meeting to sign warrants. The first budget meeting will be held on March 21, 2006.
Negotiations Committee: Mr. Pew – The Committee has an agenda item.
Personnel Committee: Ms. Brown - none
Policy Committee: Mr. Farrington - none
Region 9 Cooperative Board: Mr. Everett - none

VI COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS:

SAD #44 Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 Telstar Library (Workshop)
Executive Committee: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 4:00 PM - EBS
Education Committee: Monday, April 3, 2006 4:00 PM - EBS
Facilities & Ancillary Services Committee: Wednesday, April 5, 2006 - EBS
Negotiations Committee: TBD
Finance Committee: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 6:00 PM - EBS
Policy Committee: TBD
Region 9 Cooperative Board: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 7:00 PM

VII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Appointments and Resignations – Dr. Murphy informed the Board of the following appointments for coaching positions at Telstar High/Middle School for the spring season: Bob Remington – HS Varsity baseball; Levi Brown – HS JV baseball; Tim Remington – HS baseball volunteer; David Leclerc – HS track; Gail Wight – HS track; Gary Wight – HS track assistant; Jim Lunney – HS varsity softball; Jessica Cantelo – HS JV softball; Tim O'Connor – MS baseball; Mark Kenney – MS softball; Lori Davis – MS JV softball volunteer.
- Andover School Recognition Award – Dr. Murphy announced that Andover Elementary School has been recognized by the Department of Education as an Improving School for Reading and Math at Grade 4 level. He commended Mr. Sabin, principal, and his staff for a job well done.
- FY '07 Budget Development – There will be a Finance Committee on March 21, 2006 to work on budget development. Dr. Murphy invited any interested Board members to join the committee. Dr. Murphy will keep the Board updated on the progress of the budget. The budget will be an agenda item for the March 28th meeting.

Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2006
Page 3

- Dr. Murphy reminded the Board that the Football Boosters will be holding a fundraiser “Irish Dinner” at The L’Auberge Restaurant on March 16th and 17th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The menu will include salad, appetizers, choice of corned beef and cabbage, haddock, or chicken, dessert and coffee. Tickets are \$25.00 for adults and children 12 and under are \$12.50. The “Italian Feast” dinner that was held in February raised approximately \$6,600.00.
- Dr. Murphy informed the Board of the “well building” check that was recently completed on the Woodstock Elementary School. As part of this check, a radon test was performed. The test revealed slightly elevated numbers in various places in the school including office space, kindergarten and grade 1, and the multi-purpose room. Dr. Murphy assured the Board that the level is well below what State officials say would be cause for concern. Over the next few months new fan systems will be installed in various locations in the school to increase the venting. Dr. Murphy will be sending a letter to the Woodstock School parents informing them of the slightly elevated readings and the steps that will be taken to alleviate the situation.
- Dr. Murphy informed the Board of the success of Shawn Caddigan, a Telstar High School student. Shawn was named MVC Player of the Year for Basketball. Shawn also recently won the State level competition for free-throw shooting and was featured on the Channel 6 Varsity Club.
- Dr. Murphy informed the Board of the hiring of a new bus driver, John Babbage. John has previously driven for SAD #17.
- Dr. Murphy touched briefly on the Region 9 issue. He reported that he did speak with Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Clanton regarding the presentation and there are ongoing conversations regarding the project. The figure of \$7.2 million dollars that was used in the presentation is currently being reconsidered, with several different options currently on the table. There is the potential of studying relocating to Mountain Valley High School which has a wing that is currently not heavily utilized. This would also require an addition off of the Mountain Valley High School. Dr. Murphy stated he will continue to keep the Board posted on any new developments with the project.

VIII OLD BUSINESS:

None

IX NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion - None
2. Adjustments to the Agenda - None

Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2006
Page 4

3. Great Expectations Presentation by Blake Conrad, Telstar High School Senior

Dr. Murphy informed the Board that the planned presentation would need to be rescheduled to a later date.

Mr. Pew moved to table the Great Expectations Presentation to a later date.

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

4. To see what action the Board wishes to take regarding accepting the report of the MSAD #44 Dropout Prevention Committee.

Mr. Lambert reported to the Board that the Drop-Out Prevention Committee has been working diligently over the past three years. The Committee has completed research, and conducted interviews. They looked at the number of dropouts over the past 10 years from 1994 to 2003 and tried to figure out what was happening with these students. Mr. Lambert distributed dropout statistics for the class of 2004 and 2005 along with a list of the dropouts stating the gender, age at withdrawal, grade at withdrawal and the reason for withdrawal. Mr. Lambert then reviewed the 19 step Dropout Prevention Plan the Committee put together. After the presentation, Mr. Lambert answered questions from Board members.

Mr. Polak expressed his appreciation for the excellent presentation. He stated that he now has a much clearer understanding of what a “dropout” is. He noted that several of the students listed as dropouts have obtained their GED and are now enrolled in good colleges. He asked what the difference is between obtaining a GED or getting a diploma. Ms. Ruff responded that it is much more difficult now than even 5 years ago to obtain a GED. The testing is much more challenging. Obtaining a GED is no longer the easy way out. Mr. Lambert added that students don’t necessarily drop out of school due to grades. In some cases there are other factors involved, such as family issues or medical issues.

Mr. Polak asked how it can be determine which steps are most cost effective. Mr. Lambert stated that it is a matter of supply and demand. They have to look at the number of students affected.

Mr. Farrington asked how students make it to the 11th or 12th grade if literacy is such a big problem. Why haven’t the students been held back in lower grades? Mr. Lambert stated he has a degree in English but he doesn’t know how to teach literacy. A literacy specialist is needed to teach literacy. As a student’s reading skills plateau teachers don’t know how to help them get over that plateau so other

Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2006
Page 5

structures are created that act as crutches to help them along. Dr. Murphy noted that literacy support is more focused in the elementary grades. It is only in the past couple of years that, through Title 1, literacy support has been available at the Middle School.

Mr. Deegan asked what initiatives we need to support financially. He added that, in order to determine this, it is important to know why these students have dropped out. Mr. Lambert stated that when he is notified that a student has dropped out, he tries to write down what he knows about that student in the file.

Mr. Polak asked how many teachers are qualified to teach literacy. Dr. Murphy stated that more and more teachers are working towards their Master's degree and many are in literacy. We are also looking into getting literacy experts to work primarily with teachers.

Mr. Brough asked if we have any students for whom English is a second language. Dr. Murphy responded that MSAD #44 does not have any ESL students currently enrolled.

Mr. Farrington asked what the difference is between reading and literacy. Dr. Murphy stated that a Master's degree in English and a Master's Degree in Literacy are entirely different degrees. Ms. Ruff responded that literacy is the ability to read for understanding rather than just reading the words.

Dr. Murphy stated that he will schedule a presentation by a staff member with a literacy degree for a later meeting.

Mr. Pew motioned to accept the report of the Dropout Prevention Committee.

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

5. To see what action the Board wishes to take regarding entering into Executive Session to consider Labor Contract Negotiations with AFSCME employees pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (D)

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

Time in: 8:48

Time out: 8:56

**Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2006
Page 6**

ADJOURNMENT: 8:56 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted:

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