

**S.A.D. #44 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007
7:30 PM – TELSTAR HIGH SCHOOL
MINUTES**

I CALL TO ORDER:

Directors Absent: Ms. Thurston, Ms. Cummings

Others Present: Mr. Davis, Mr. Tornrose, Ms. Littlehale, Dr. Murphy, Ms. Tancrelle, Ms. Aloisio, Ms. Charette, Walker Alford, Shaynah Seames, Jordan Pilgrim-Hanson

Pledge of Allegiance

II ACTION ON MINUTES:

Mr. Melville motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 14, 2007.

MOTION: Mr. Melville SECOND: Mr. Farrington VOTE: Unanimous

III CITIZEN COMMENTS: (maximum fifteen minutes)

None

IV BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: (maximum fifteen minutes)

Ms. Nasta commended administration and staff on very successful and well planned graduation week events. She also commended Ms. Cross on the excellent slideshow presentation.

Ms. Arizzi also stated that she was very impressed with the graduation ceremony.

Chairman's Report

None

V COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS:

SAD #44 Board Meeting: Monday, July 16, 2007– Telstar Library – 7:30 PM

Executive Committee: TBD

Education Committee: Monday, June 18, 2007 – 4:00 PM – EBS – Will be rescheduled

Personnel Committee: Monday, June 11, 2007 – 7:15 PM – Telstar High School

Facilities & Ancillary Services Committee: Monday, June 18, 2007 – 7:00 PM - EBS

Negotiations Committee: Monday, June 11, 2007 – 6:30 PM – Telstar High School

Finance Committee: Monday, June 11, 2007 – 7:00 PM – Telstar High School

Policy Committee: Monday, June 18, 2007 – 5:30 PM - EBS

Region 9 Cooperative Board: Tuesday, June 19, 2007 – 7:00 PM

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VI COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Mr. Polak – No report
Facilities & Ancillary Services Committee: Ms. Cross – No report
Finance Committee: Mr. Pew – Agenda item
Negotiations Committee: Mr. Pew – Agenda item
Personnel Committee: Ms. Brown – Agenda item
Policy Committee: Ms. Largess – No report
Region 9 Cooperative Board: Mr. Farrington – No Report

VII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Proposed Regionalization and Consolidation Update – Dr. Murphy reported that the state budget has been approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor. He distributed 3 handouts regarding the school consolidation plan. The plan is to establish school districts with a minimum of 2500 students. Island schools and tribal schools will be exempt from this number. Districts can also petition for exemption if they have a minimum of three high performing schools as defined in part by the MEA results between 2002 and 2005. Both AES and CPS meet the criteria for high performance schools. In addition, the district has to have spent no more than 4% of per pupil expense on administration. Even if a district is granted an exemption by the Commissioner, they still must have a minimum of 1200 students. Another possible reason for receiving an exemption is if a district tries in good faith to consolidate but is rejected by their surrounding districts.

Dr. Murphy referred the Board to an e-mail he received from the Commissioner on Friday afternoon. Regional meetings will be scheduled between 6/18/07 and 7/25/07. SAD #44's regional meeting has been set for June 27, 2007 at Mountain Valley. Dr. Murphy stated that he has not seen an agenda for the meeting and he will get more information out to the Board as it becomes available.

Dr. Murphy spoke briefly about penalties associated with failure to consolidate. Funding for administration would be cut by 50% based on the previous year's budget, there would be a 50% loss in state subsidy for minimum receivers and no transitional funding would be available. General funding would be maintained at 53.8%. Other additional penalties have been eliminated. Dr. Murphy stated he will be discussing the implications of the plan with Dr. Clockedile on Monday, 6/18.

Districts may have a choice as to whether to hold a referendum vote in January of '08 with consolidation beginning July 1, 2008 or if they are not ready they can hold the referendum in June of '08 with consolidation beginning July 1, 2009. This will depend on the status of their proposed plans.

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The Board spent some time discussing questions such as who is responsible for formulating the plan, how the regional boards will be formed, how will SAD #44's exemption from the funding formula affect consolidation, will every town in the district have representation on the regional board and will the regional board have the option of creating local boards. It was the general consensus that the plan appears to be very disjointed, with more questions than answers and will need to be fine tuned.

- Energy Patrol – Renee Charette & CPS students – Ms. Charette briefly explained to the Board that the purpose of the Energy Patrol is to teach students and staff about energy conservation and global warming. The students involved in the project performed experiments using a light meter and patrolled classrooms to remind staff and students to turn off lights and computer monitors when leaving the room. They performed skits to teach others the benefits of energy conservation. The group passed out light switch covers as reminders to turn off lights when they are not needed. The students displayed graphs to the Board to illustrate their activities and success rates. They performed 705 classroom patrols, along with 5 other areas of the building such as the library, during the lunch period and achieved an overall 94% success rate. Only three classrooms did not participate in the project. It is hoped that the project will be expanded and continued during the next school year.
- TEA/Board Dinner Update – Dr. Murphy reminded the Board of the TEA/Board/AFSCME Dinner scheduled for Wednesday, June 13th. He informed everyone that the location has been changed from the Conference Center to the main dining room at the Bethel Inn. Over 100 people have indicated that they are planning to attend.
- Update on meeting with Bethel Selectmen – Dr. Murphy informed the Board that he has met with the Bethel Selectmen and discussed consolidation and the potential impact on the \$700,000 set aside in the Capital Reserve Fund. Dr. Murphy stated that the potential is there to involve town officials in the consolidation planning and the selectmen have indicated that they want to stay involved in the process.
- June 12th Referendum Vote – Dr. Murphy reminded those present of the Referendum Vote on Tuesday. He stated that he has not received any questions regarding the budget since the Public Hearing that was held on May 29th. He urged everyone to get out and vote.
- FY'08 Combined Fuel Bid – SAD #44, SAD #21, SAD #43, Region 9 & interested towns – Dr. Murphy briefly stated that he has been working with other districts and has invited town managers to join us in joint fuel purchases.

VIII OLD BUSINESS:

None

IX NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion - None

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2. Adjustments to the Agenda

Mr. Pew motioned to approve adding Agenda Item #6 to the agenda:

6. To see what action the Board wishes to take regarding authorizing the Superintendent to explore all possible avenues regarding school consolidation and how it applies to MSAD #44 and to bring all recommendation to the Board for consideration.

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

Mr. Polak motioned to add Agenda Item #7 to the agenda:

7. To see what action the Board wishes to take regarding the addition of a Board Meeting on June 25, 2007 at 7:30 PM at Telstar High School.

MOTION: Mr. Polak SECOND: Mr. Farrington VOTE: Unanimous

3. Ms. Brown motioned to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to approve the appointment of Theodore Davis to a one year employment contract as Principal of Telstar High School. All salaries and benefits will be consistent with the negotiated agreement between the MSAD #44 Board of Directors and the MSAD #44 Administrators Association. Mr. Davis will receive a salary of \$84,824 and benefits comparable with other district administrators.

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

4. Ms. Brown motioned to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation to approve a three year contract extension for Charles Raymond, Dean of Students at Telstar High School. Mr. Raymond will receive a salary of \$58,388 for a total of 201 days. He will receive a 3% increase in each of the next two years. Benefits will be similar to other administrators with the exception of Mr. Raymond receiving 15 sick days instead of 25.

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

5. Mr. Pew motioned to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation for the use of contingency fund money to pay down \$50,000 worth of debt on the Telstar Boiler project. There is currently a total of \$149,500 remaining on the principle. Paying down \$50,000 will save the district between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in interest.

MOTION: Ms. Pew SECOND: Mr. Melville VOTE: Unanimous

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6. Mr. Pew motioned to approve authorizing the Superintendent to explore all possible avenues regarding school consolidation and how it applies to MSAD #44 and to bring all recommendation to the Board for consideration.

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

7. Mr. Brown motioned to approve the addition of a Board Meeting on June 25, 2007 at 7:30 PM at Telstar High School.

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

ADJOURNMENT: 9:08 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted:

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