

S.A.D. #44 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONDAY, October 22, 2007
7:30 PM – TELSTAR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
MINUTES

I CALL TO ORDER:

Directors Absent: Mr. Pew, Ms. Cross, Mr. Korhonen, Mr. Melville, Mr. Brown

Others Present: Mr. Connors, Ms. Tancrelle, Mr. Brown, Ms. Littlehale, Mr. Raymond,
Mr. Rice, Jean Waite, Ms. Aloisio, Mr. Davis, Mr. Tornrose, Mr. Sabin

Pledge of Allegiance

II ACTION ON MINUTES:

Ms. Taylor motioned to approve the minutes of August 27th and September 17, 2007.

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

III CITIZEN COMMENTS: (maximum fifteen minutes)

Representative Tim Carter spoke to the Board regarding upcoming bond issues, including a bond issue to increase funding for research and development to help expand Maine's economy. Another bill would increase funding for the University of Maine, who is a leader in working with wood, making products such as medicine, plastics, ethanol and paper. They also produce wood composites used in tents for the troops in Iraq. Another bond issue deals with keeping Maine owned land open for multiple uses.

Rep. Carter also stated that most people are unhappy with the Consolidation Bill. He stated that there are multiple bills on the floor that will deal with Consolidation. He will keep the Board informed.

IV BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: (maximum fifteen minutes)

Ms. Arizzi noted that she had attended the Consolidation meeting with MSAD 17 and MSAD #39. There were over 100 people in attendance. Ms. Arizzi stated that it would cost SAD #17 approximately \$600,000 to merge with SAD #39. She stated that it appeared to her that the Commissioner was acting as an advocate for SAD #39, who has to merge with someone. SAD #17 and SAD #39 are already collaborating in some areas which could end if they do not merge.

Chairman's Report

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V COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS:

SAD #44 Board Meeting: Monday, October 22, 2007 – THS – 7:30 PM

Executive Committee: TBD

Education Committee: Monday, October 22, 2007 – 7:10 PM - THS

Personnel Committee: Monday, October 22, 2007 – 7:10 PM - THS

Facilities & Ancillary Services Committee: Monday, October 22, 2007 – 7:10 PM - THS

Negotiations Committee: Monday, October 22, 2007 – 7:10 PM - THS

Finance Committee: Monday, October 22, 2007 – 7:10 PM – THS

Policy Committee: Region 9 Cooperative Board: Tuesday, November 20, 2007 – 7:00 PM

VI COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Mr. Polak - No report

Facilities & Ancillary Services Committee: Ms. Cross – No report

Finance Committee: Mr. Pew – No report

Negotiations Committee: Mr. Pew – No report

Personnel Committee: Ms. Brown – Agenda item

Policy Committee: Ms. Largess – No report

Region 9 Cooperative Board: Mr. Farrington – The source of the money for the project has changed to a funding group out of Colorado but this will not affect construction. The ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled for November 7th.

VII SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Appointments and Resignations – Dr. Murphy appointed Melissa Prescott, Kate Slattery and Joe Bailey as Student Council Advisors. The stipend for the position will be divided equally among them.
- Consolidation Update and visit by facilitator, Bob Connors – Dr. Murphy informed the Board that Bob Connors has accepted our request to serve as SAD #44 facilitator. He noted that four towns have selected their official for the planning committee. Mr. Connors stated that he attended a meeting in Rangeley last Monday. The two big issues seem to be governance and finances. He reiterated that consolidation is not an option; it is state law. Communities can opt out but will incur financial penalties. Approximately 60 bills have been introduced for discussion in January of '08. Most of these bills will likely be consolidated down to 10 or 20. There is at least one pending bill that would kill consolidation but is not supported by the Governor or the legislature. The Governor, Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate all firmly support consolidation. The next deadline is December 1st. Districts must submit a consolidation plan, though these plans are not likely to be complete. The plans will be returned from the DOE by December 15th. Regional Planning Committees need to be developed, some with 60+ members. Every community is entitled to 3 members. The Regional Planning Committee will likely break into sub-committees, with governance and financial being the most important. July 1, 2009 is the absolute deadline for consolidation.

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It was noted by a Board member that originally the letter of intent sent to the DOE was to express the intent to explore consolidation with neighboring districts, not a foregone conclusion of consolidation with these districts. Our letter stated any combination of the listed districts. Mr. Connors stated that the approval of the Commissioner was for the 4 listed districts and SAD #44 would need to re-submit another letter if our consolidation partners are different.

Another Board member noted that the ultimate decision regarding consolidation rests with the voters. Mr. Connors was asked if his mandate is to follow the law or to assist districts in determining what is best for the district. Is he neutral or acting as an advocate for the DOE? And, has the DOE provided him with a job description and can the Board have access to it? Mr. Connors stated that he does need to follow the law and he provided the Board with his job description.

Mr. Connors stated that if some combination of districts reaches the required 2500 students but there is a district left out in the cold, the Commissioner will send the plan back to the drawing board. If there is any give in the required 2500 students, it will be the Commissioner's call.

- District Consolidation Presentations – Dr. Murphy thanked Ms. Arizzi for her information. He informed the Board that Town Meetings have been held in Greenwood, Newry and Woodstock. Approximately 30 people attended the Woodstock meeting.
- Budget Validation Process for FY 09 – Dr. Murphy informed the Board that the FY '09 budget will be in a different format. Twelve specific areas will be looked at by the public at a Public Forum. The public will vote on each section. The budget will then go to referendum. If the budget is voted down, the process will begin again. MSAD #43 currently operates this way and it will now be mandatory.
- Dr. Murphy noted that there has been some interest in beginning Board meetings earlier in the evening. He encouraged Board members who are interested to contact Ms. Cummings.

VIII OLD BUSINESS:

None

IX NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Discussion - None
- 2) Adjustments to the Agenda - #10 To see what action the Board wishes to take regarding the approval of Board representatives to the Regional Planning Committee.

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

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- 3) Ms. Brown motioned to approve the creation of a Special Education Educational Technician position at the Crescent Park School.

This will be an Ed Tech III position and will be funded through Local Entitlement.

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

- 4) Ms. Cummings motioned to approve of the creation of a half-time Special Education teaching position at the Woodstock School.

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

- 5) Ms. Cummings motioned to approve a requested change in extracurricular positions at the Woodstock School to eliminate the position of Cheering coach and establish a position of Cross Country Skiing coach.

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

- 6) Ms. Brown motioned to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation and approve the Superintendent's nominations of Curriculum Leaders.

MOTION: Ms. Brown SECOND: VOTE: Unanimous

- 7) Ms. Cummings motioned to approve the continuation of a police officer at the Telstar Complex until the date of the next scheduled Board meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Cummings SECOND: Ms. Largess VOTE:

After discussion Ms. Cummings motioned to approve the continuation of a police officer at the Telstar complex if available until the date of the next scheduled Board meeting on 11/19/07.

MOTION: Ms. Cummings SECOND: Ms. Largess VOTE: 10 yea, 2 nay

- 8) Ms. Taylor motioned to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve a request for release time at the high school to work on the upcoming school accreditation report during the months of November and December.

MOTION: Ms. Taylor SECOND: Ms. Largess VOTE: Unanimous

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- 9) Mr. Farrington motioned to approve adding an additional Board meeting on Monday, October 29, 2007.

MOTION: Mr. Farrington SECOND: Ms. Taylor VOTE: 3 yea, 8 nay
1 abstention

Motion fails.

- 10) Ms. Brown motioned to approve the following Board representatives to the Regional Planning Committee: Greenwood – Mr. Melville; Woodstock – Mr. Polak; Bethel – Ms. Arizzi; Andover – Vacant.

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

ADJOURNMENT: 9:50 PM

MOTION: Ms. Thurston SECOND: Ms. Davis VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

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