

**School Administrative District No. 53**  
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**Excellence in Education**

Michael A. Gallagher  
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Directors

Minutes

2/7/11

Members in attendance: M. Hodgins, M. Wintle, J. Laux, P. Snow, M. Brooks, B. Poirier, B. Basford, R. Basford

Absent/excused: P. Williams, C. Cookson, J. Bradshaw

Item 1. Call to Order. Vice Board Chair M. Hodgins called the board to order at 7:02 P.M.

Item 2. Adjustments to the Agenda. Superintendent Gallagher recommended one adjustment to the agenda - move Item 8 B presentation after the approval of the minutes.

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of January 3, 2011 board meeting. On a motion by J. Laux, seconded by B. Poirier, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

Item 8.B (reorganized on agenda) Mrs. Russell and several of her students were in attendance at the meeting. She presented the board with a letter written by her students to share with the board. The students introduced themselves and stated their grade level. Some questions were asked by the board members and students provided responses. Students also indicated that the program could use some additional supplies i.e. books and art supplies. Mrs. Basford assumed responsibility for responding to each of the letters written.

Item 4. Public Commentary on Agenda Items. Debra Grignon hoped the board would not adopt a calendar with two weeks at the Christmas break because with "snow days" it extends the length of the year further into the month of June. She wanted to discontinue the PK-4 Universal Breakfast program, and she indicated that she felt that having an Ed. Tech. in her classroom was very important.

Item 5. Learning Results. Mrs. Anderson distributed a handout showing grades 3, 4 & 5 district scores and state scores in math and reading for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. Mrs. Anderson pointed out the growth made by grade level and for cohorts of students moving from one grade to the next in MSAD #53 and shared the comparison to the same grade

level students at the state. She indicated that she was extremely proud of the percent of students who were meeting or exceeding the standard particularly at grade 3, and at grade 5 in reading. Last year 54% of the grade 3 students met or exceeded the standard and 70% of this year's third graders met or exceeded the standard. Sixty percent of last year's fifth graders met or exceeded the standard compared to 72% of the fifth graders this year. Last year 54% of the grade four students met or exceeded the standard and only 50% met or exceeded this year. In comparison to the state percentages, the district was one percentage point higher than the state at grade three, eighteen percent lower than the state at grade four and 13 percent above the state at grade five for those who met or exceeded the standard.

She then compared the student scores against the MSAD #53 strategic plan reading goal. The goal set a year ago was for grades 3-5 to have 65% of the students meeting or exceeding the standard. The standard was set by adding last year's percentages earned by each grade level 3-5 and dividing by 3. The percentage that the district achieved this year was 64%; this means that they did not meet the strategic planning goal. However, a nine percentage point increase in one year was significant and cause for celebration.

She then reviewed the grades 3-5 math scores. First the percent of students who met or exceeded the standard were compared with their state counterparts. Although students in the district showed growth, for the percent of students who met or exceeded the standard, the growth was not as significant in the area of math.

The district's strategic plan goal was to have 54% of the grade 3-5 students at the meet or exceeds standard. However, only 47% met or exceeded the standard. Although this fell short of the strategic planning goal, a 3% increase is considered positive.

Mr. Nevens then shared the results of the grade 6, 7 & 8 students in the areas of reading and math. He explained that although students made growth from one year to the next, the growth was not as significant as had been expected. The grades 6, 7 & 8 students did not meet the strategic planning goals in either math or reading. In math 55% of the students at Warsaw met or exceeded the performance level in comparison to the strategic planning goal of 61%. In the area of reading 69% of the 6, 7 & 8 grade students met or exceeded the standard compared to the goal of 77%.

Mrs. Miller provided a reflection about why scores were not as good as anticipated, but pointed out that growth was clearly shown by all students from last year to this year. Mrs. Anderson additionally pointed out that students this year were not provided with the same accommodations as were permitted the previous year. No longer could the questions in the reading section of the assessment be read aloud to those students who were provided with that accommodation the previous year. Mrs. Miller indicated that new target goals would be incorporated into the strategic plan. The goal, although a stretch goal, will once again be 10%. She also reported that the state's computation for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is not yet available. Districts now have a window of opportunity to review their group data and notify the Department of Education if there are any discrepancies that have been discovered. The AYP results will be released in the near future. The AYP results will determine whether or not Vickery will continue to be

identified under a CIPS status and if Warsaw will maintain safe harbor, or return to a CIPS status. Mrs. Miller also indicated that the new math curriculum and the new math text at the grades 2-6 level should result in a significant impact to student performance on next year's NECAP assessments.

Questions about set aside funds in Title I based upon AYP were asked and answered. Although answers to some questions still are not yet clear to the district administration, it is clear that the ten percent set aside for either school identified under the CIPS status will be necessary. What is unclear is the percentage that must be set aside for Supplemental Educational Services (SES).

Item 6. Committee Reports. The Budget/Finance Committee report was provided by B. Poirier. She completed a brief review of the minutes of the January 25, 2011 Budget/Finance Committee meeting.

The Personnel Committee report, in the absence of J. Bradshaw, was provided by M. Brooks. Mr. Brooks indicated that the committee had reviewed the Superintendent's goals for the 2010-2011 year, and the committee heard evaluation summaries of administrators, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Shorey. He also indicated that it was the committee's recommendation to extend the contracts of each of these individual administrators.

The Policy Committee report was provided by M. Wintle. He shared with the board excerpts from the minutes of the committee meeting during which time they worked on policies that would be considered under Old Business, and policies that were being presented for their first reading under New Business.

The Vocational Committee report was provided by Superintendent Gallagher. He indicated that the welding program trailer currently used to deliver the program at the Cianbro worksite was going to be re-located to the Somerset Career and Technical Center in Skowhegan next year. By doing this it would increase the number of students who could take advantage of the program. He also indicated that the center will begin to offer an early childhood program through a collaborative effort with Kennebec Valley CAP.

Item 7. Old Business. Consideration of policies BEDG, Minutes; BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings; and BIA, New Board Member Orientation. Mr. Wintle reviewed the action taken by the Policy Committee on each of these policies, and moved that they be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by B. Basford and the board voted unanimously to adopt the policies as presented.

Item 8. New Business. Presentation of policies BBAA, Board Member Authority and Duties; BBBE, Board Member Resignation; BCA, School Board Member Ethics; BID, Board Member Compensation and Expenses; and BEDB, Agenda. Mr. Wintle shared that policy BEDB, Agenda, was being brought back to the Board for further consideration to address comments that were made at the last board meeting after adopting the previously recommended changes to the policy. Additional modifications were made to the order in which things were addressed on the board's agenda. He then explained that if any board

members had additional thoughts about the drafted policies, to contact either him, Regina Basford or Superintendent Gallagher. Superintendent Gallagher then suggested that policy BID, Board Member Compensation and Expenses, should provide compensation for travel and for sending board members to board workshops. Mrs. Basford questioned what was meant by “works harmoniously”, in item I on policy BBAA, Board Member Authority and Duties. Mr. Wintle provided an explanation.

Presentation of special education programming – Mrs. Shorey provided the board with a power point presentation handout which she reviewed. It covered areas of special education identification in which students of MSAD #53 classified. Although there are fourteen disability categories, the district has students identified in just nine of the areas. She then reviewed the number of students and examples of how the disability presents itself. She finished her presentation by sharing information about the least restrictive environment, the least restrictive hierarchy of the SAD #53 student population, and financial information regarding MaineCare reimbursements.

Item 9. Superintendent’s Report. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that Headmaster Hopkins was unable to attend the meeting because of illness.

Item 10. Communications. None.

Item 11. Future Agenda Items. Mr. Gallagher indicated that Mr. Hopkins would be in attendance at the next board meeting to present information about the MCI strategic plan.

Item 12. Executive Session. On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by M. Brooks, the board unanimously voted to go into Executive Session at 8:30 P.M. for the purpose of discussing the evaluation of administrators Anderson, Miller and Shorey pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A). The board came out of Executive Session at 9:00 P.M. Superintendent Gallagher recommended extending the contracts of all three administrators, Anderson, Miller and Shorey for the 2011-12 and the 2012-13 years.

Item 13. Action Item. On a motion by M. Wintle, seconded by P. Snow, seven members voted in the affirmative, with one abstention, J. Laux.

Item 14. Adjournment. On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by P. Snow, the voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Gallagher