

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

Michael A. Gallagher  
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Directors  
Minutes  
1/3/11

Members in attendance: P. Williams, M. Wintle, B. Basford, R. Basford, J. Bradshaw, J. Laux, M. Hodgins, C. Cookson, P. Snow, M. Brooks and B. Poirier

Item 1. Call to Order. Chair Williams called the board to order at 7:01 P.M.

Item 2. Adjustments to the Agenda. Move Item 8 C to after the Executive Session. Chair Williams indicated that he would move the MCI Headmaster report to after the Public Commentary.

Item 3. Consideration of December 6, 2010 Minutes. On a motion by J. Laux, seconded by B. Poirier, the board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written.

Item 4. Public Commentary. None

Item 5. Learning Results. Superintendent Gallagher introduced each of the Board of Education Award Recipients and read the award presentation speech that was used at an assembly of all staff held on December 13, 2010. Staff members who were recognized included Lori Stevens, computer teacher, faculty award; Lori Glidden, Business Manager for community award; Nanette Shannon, Warsaw custodian, for support staff award; and Monique Braley, education technician in special education at Vickery School, support staff award.

Chair Williams then asked Clint Williams, who was representing MCI, to provide his report. Mr. Williams reported on the purpose, method and structuring of enrollment for the MCI residential population. He spoke about how these students from other U.S. states and other countries around the world add to MCI culture. He also included in his presentation the benefits that the additional revenues for programming provide to all students who attend MCI.

Item 6. Committee Reports. B. Poirier provided the Budget/Finance Committee report by indicating that the district's expenditures were progressing as expected, that the

percentage of the budget expended YTD is on par with previous years, and that the tuition rate for students attending MCI came in much lower than what was budgeted, thus saving the district approximately \$180,000 in expenditures.

The Curriculum Committee report was included in the board packet. M. Hodgins asked how the request for funding for curriculum materials would be accomplished. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that Mrs. Miller would inform both Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Nevens about the amounts needed to support curriculum material purchases.

The Policy Committee report was provided by M. Wintle. He reported that the board would be considering two policies up for adoption, policies BE, School Board Meetings and BEDB, Agenda. He explained that policy BE had one small additional modification and that the policy BEDB had been unchanged. He also explained that policies BEDF, Voting Method; BEDG, Minutes; BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings; and BIA, New Board Member Orientation were to be presented to the board for their first reading. He shared that the Policy Committee utilized the MSMA policies with some revisions to include concepts included in the current board policies. He asked that if board members had any questions regarding the policies and/or suggestions for revisions, that they should forward those to the Policy Committee.

Item 7. Old Business. Considerations of policies BE, School Board Meetings and BEDB, Agenda. Superintendent Gallagher recommended that the board approve the two policies as presented by the Policy Committee. On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by M. Hodgins, the board voted unanimously to adopt the policies as written.

Presentation of Board Workshop –self evaluation top three choices – Superintendent Gallagher distributed a document containing the feedback shared by three board members regarding their top three choices of ideas to use based on the results of the board workshop to review the self evaluation. He indicated that the commonalities that existed with the feedback that he received were about shared vision, recognizing and sharing successes and using the district’s website to do so, and included ideas regarding the level of public confidence in the board. He suggested that perhaps board member bios could be included with the board member’s picture on the district’s website, and that posting information such as the board of education awards should also be included on the district website.

A short discussion was conducted regarding whether or not the district had the capability of posting the daily announcements on its website so that parents who had children who did not keep them informed about the activities at school would have the information. Although it may be difficult logistically it would seem that the process could be accomplished.

Item 8. New Business. Presentation of policies BEDF, Voting Method; BEDG, Minutes; BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings; and BIA, New Board Member Orientation. Board member B. Poirier asked about modifications to policy BEDB, Agenda indicating that it would make sense to move the superintendent’s report to an

earlier time on the board agenda so that representation from MCI would not have to attend the entire board meeting prior to sharing their report. However, the policy had just been approved by the board. Therefore, it will be reviewed once again by the Policy Committee and if there are further modifications to the policy, it will be brought back to the board for approval of any additions or changes. It would still have to go through readings at two board meetings.

Questions were then asked about policy BEDG, specifically about paragraph three and the confusing way that the sentence was written. The sentence is regarding the providing of a reason for abstaining from a vote. The Policy Committee will review that sentence in an attempt to make adjustments so that the policy will read more plainly. Mr. Snow also asked a question regarding policy BEDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings and his desire expressed at a previous meeting about having two locations on the school board agenda for public comment. Superintendent Gallagher and other Policy Committee members indicated that they reviewed the policy with Mr. Snow's suggestion in mind and chose to have just one public comment period on the agenda, and allow for the board chair to recognize members of the audience if they had additional comments that they would like to offer at a later point in the board meeting. Chair Williams asked for a review of the weighted votes as listed in policy BEDF using the latest census. Superintendent Gallagher will check this and if necessary go through the process of redistributing the votes. He indicated that it was highly unlikely that there would be a change in the number of board members representing any of the communities of the district.

Consideration of resignation of Warsaw principal Sandy Nevens. Superintendent Gallagher read the letter of resignation provided to him by Mr. Nevens. On a motion by J. Laux, seconded by P. Snow, the board accepted the resignation of Mr. Nevens with nine voting in the affirmative, one opposed, B. Basford and one abstention, R. Basford.

Item 9. Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Gallagher distributed Mr. Nevens' board report since it had not been included in the board packet.

Item 10. Communications. Superintendent Gallagher read a letter addressed to Stacy Shorey from Debra Hannigan regarding the district meeting all of the criteria for provisions of special education and related services. He also distributed a performance report developed by the Maine Department of Education to assess the factors used in the determination of the LEA compliance.

Item 11. Future Agenda Items. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that he had asked Stacy Shorey, Director of Special Services, to provide the board with an overview of special education services provided in the district. Board member J. Laux asked that the overview include the provision of education services for those students who have been expelled from MCI. Superintendent Gallagher also indicated that the board would hear a presentation from the Alternative Education teacher and students at the February board meeting.

Item 12. Executive Session. Chair Williams entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent of Schools' evaluation pursuant to 1 MRSA §405 (6) (A). On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by M. Hodgins, the board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:18 P.M. The board came out of Executive Session at 8:50 P.M. A motion was made by B. Poirier to place the tabled motion to extend the contract of Superintendent Gallagher back on the table, the motion was seconded by M. Brooks, and the board voted unanimously to place extending the contract of Superintendent Gallagher back on the table. A motion was made by J. Bradshaw to extend the Superintendent's contract for one additional year with compensation to be determined at a later date. The motion was seconded by M. Hodgins and the board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Item 13. Adjournment. On a motion by J. Laux, seconded by B. Poirier, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Gallagher