

School Administrative District No. 53

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Excellence in Education

Michael A. Gallagher
Superintendent of Schools

Advisory Committee

Minutes

11/09/09

Members in attendance: R. Downs, B. Basford, S. Nolan, J. Laux, B. Bartlett, R. McCarthy, Headmaster Chris Hopkins, and Superintendent Mike Gallagher

Item 1. Calendar Update - Superintendent Gallagher provided a brief explanation about the work completed by Mr. Hopkins and himself. He reported that Mr. Hopkins and he had met once to discuss concepts about development of the school calendar, and after the discussion agreed that both MCI and the district would develop draft calendars with the current template used for the 2009-2010 school calendar year, and moving that template forward one year to 2010-2011. Superintendent Gallagher sent to Headmaster Hopkins a draft of that calendar and another with three additional inclement weather days added to the end of the year. It is typical that the calendar for the following school year be approved either at the January or February board meeting. Therefore, it will be the goal of Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Gallagher to establish a calendar for proposal to the Advisory Committee at the next Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for January 12, 2010.

Item 2. Update on Consolidation/Reorganization - Superintendent Gallagher reported that the district was going to make application to the Department of Education for the Commissioner of Education's consideration of MSAD #53 being a "donut hole" under the consolidation law. He explained that two other districts in the state had been approved as "doughnut holes", that seemingly did not meet the criteria in the law as well as MSAD #53 does. MSAD #53 is rural, completely surrounded by districts that did not need to consolidate or are already consolidated, that there would be no consolidation partners with whom MSAD #53 could work, and MSAD #53 has between 1,000 and 1,200 students. He then informed the committee that he was corresponding with area superintendents to determine whether they would send to him a response regarding their desire to stay as they currently exist, or if they would be interested in consolidation discussions with MSAD #53. He indicated he had already received a response from MSAD #3 that they were not interested in having consolidation discussions. Superintendent Gallagher reported that RSU #19 superintendent William Braun indicated that he would bring the matter to the school board for discussion purposes, and get back

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to him after that board meeting. Those in attendance at the Advisory Committee meeting appeared to be in agreement that the district should apply for the “doughnut hole” designation.

Item 3. Discussion regarding process and schedule for negotiating a successor contract - Superintendent Gallagher indicated that a review was conducted regarding the dates on which the board of trustees at MCI and the board of directors of MSAD #53 signed contracts for the ensuing contract for the provision of grades 9-12 high school education. That review indicated that the negotiations were completed, and the contract signed by the respective boards, approximately 2.5 to 3 years prior to when the contract would begin. This practice has been used in the past so that both entities would have up to 2 or 3 years to make contingency plans if the parties fail to agree to a new contract. Although it is anticipated that the contract negotiations would be successful, it would be prudent to begin the contract negotiations as soon as possible since the contract expires on June 30, 2013. MSAD #53 board chair R. Downs provided a brief review of the process used and the length time consumed by the last contract negotiations. He indicated that it took approximately 14 months for the negotiations. The negotiations were completed at the Advisory Committee meetings with input along the way from the district board. Therefore he indicated that it would be important to have the MSAD #53 school board review the current contract as well as the previous contract to provide the Advisory Committee membership with ideas and suggestions, about the negotiations. Superintendent Gallagher distributed copies of the 1993-2003 and the 2003-2013 contracts between MSAD #53 and MCI, inclusive of the MOU's.

Item 4. Other – Headmaster Hopkins provided two additional pieces of information. The first was in regard to the flu clinic held at MCI on Friday, November 6 at which the resident and residential student population received the seasonal flu vaccine. He also indicated that the MCI staff was busy in preparation for the celebration of life services for Alton “Bud” Cianchette.

Item 5. Next Agenda – The next agenda will be for the purpose of sharing a proposed calendar, and to perhaps begin discussions for negotiating a successor contract.

Being no further business the committee adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Gallagher