

School Administrative District No. 53

293 Hartland Avenue Pittsfield, ME 04967

(207) 487-5107

Fax: (207) 487-6310

Burnham

Detroit

Pittsfield

Excellence in Education

Michael A. Gallagher
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Directors

Minutes

8/10/09

Members in attendance: R. Downs, B. Basford, P. Williams, B. Baldwin, J. Bradshaw, M. Hodgins, J. Laux, and B. Poirier

Absent: S. Nolan and R. Williams

Item 1. Call to Order. R. Downs called the board to order at 7:05 P.M.

Item 2. Adjustments to the Agenda. Superintendent Gallagher recommended a rewording for agenda Item 5 C to say “consideration of having the district return to a five day per week superintendent and if so, determine compensation.” Additionally, he indicated that he wished to provide the board with an update on consolidation discussions with MSAD #68.

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of June 23, 2009. R. Downs asked if there were any revisions or edits to the minutes, hearing none he asked for a motion. The motion was made by B. Basford, seconded by P. Williams, and the board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written.

Item 4. Public Commentary on Agenda Items. None

Item 5. New Business. Consideration of teacher resignations. Superintendent Gallagher read resignation letters from Deborah Ladd and from Shad Roach. He then recommended that the board accept the resignations with regret. On a motion by J. Laux, seconded by B. Poirier, the board voted unanimously to accept the resignations with regret.

Consideration of the nomination of teachers. Superintendent Gallagher read the names and positions for the teachers who were being nominated and recommended that the board approve the nominations of Kelly Bragdon, grade 1 at Manson Park School; Jim Hammond, grade 3 at Vickery School; Darcy Rollins, grade 4 at Vickery School; Kayla Brown, grade 5/6 at Warsaw Middle School; and Alison Veilleux, grade 5/6 at Warsaw

www.msad53.org
gallag@msad53.org

Middle School. A motion was made by B. Baldwin, seconded by J. Bradshaw, and the board voted unanimously to approve the nominations as presented.

Chair Downs indicated that the Board would skip Item C under New Business until after the Executive Session, and moved on to item 6. Communications

Item 6. Communications. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that he had received a phone call from MSAD #68 Superintendent Alan Smith who informed him that the members of the SAD #68 board discussed consolidation planning with SAD #53. They indicated that they would like to schedule a joint meeting between the two school boards and/or the RPC members for both districts. Superintendent Smith also indicated that he has had some feedback from the Department of Education that seemed to discourage the idea of combining SAD #68 with SAD #53, and it was felt by the SAD #68 school board that it would be important to have the department weigh in on this consolidation matter prior to entering into an agreement. Superintendent Gallagher felt as though it would be supported by the Commissioner. He then indicated that he would attempt to set up time during the month of September for a joint meeting between the two boards to which Chair Downs indicated that it should include both boards and members of both RPC's. Although neither district would choose to go to a referendum prior to the November repeal of the consolidation law referendum, the two districts should establish relationships, and at least the framework for a consolidation plan prior to November, in order to be prepared for a referendum prior to January 30, 2010.

Board member Michelle Hodgins asked why the focus now appears to be with MSAD #68 rather than with MSAD #59. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that he had conversations with the board chair in MSAD #59 who had indicated that it was unlikely that Madison would ever vote for a consolidation with MSAD #53 or anyone else for that matter. Superintendent Gallagher also indicated that the board members from the smaller communities of MSAD #59 were still in favor of consolidation with MSAD #53 although would not have the voting power to override a negative Madison vote. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that he had asked board chair Troy Emery to send a letter to board chair R. Downs indicating MSAD #59's interest or lack of thereof in consolidation with MSAD #53. Chair Emery indicated that he would conduct a board vote at the next school board meeting and then make contact with Chair Downs.

Item 7. Future Agenda Items. None

Item 8. Executive Session. Chair Downs asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for discussions regarding the extension on the Superintendent's contract to five days per week and compensation for the Superintendent of MSAD #53 in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (a). A motion was made by J. Laux, seconded by B. Poirier, and the board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 7:20 P.M.

The board came out of Executive Session at 7:45 P.M. Chair Downs asked for a motion to expand the Superintendent's contract from three days per week to five days per week.

The motion was made by B. Poirier, seconded by B. Basford, and the board voted unanimously to increase the Superintendent's days per week from three to five.

Chair Downs then asked for a motion to compensate the Superintendent with a salary of \$95,780.06. The motion was made by P. Williams, seconded by B. Baldwin, and the board voted seven in favor with one abstention, B. Basford.

Item 9. Adjournment. On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by B. Baldwin, the voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Gallagher