

# School Administrative District No. 53

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**Excellence in Education**

Michael A. Gallagher  
Superintendent of Schools

## Board of Directors

Minutes

8/31/09

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

Absent: J. Laux and R. Williams

Item 1. Call to Order. Board Chair R. Downs called the board to order at 7:00 P.M. and then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Gallagher.

Item 2. Board of Directors Reorganization - Superintendent Gallagher called for nominations for board chair. P. Williams nominated R. Downs; the motion was seconded by B. Poirier. The board voted 7 in the affirmative, with one abstention, R. Downs.

Chair Downs then asked for nominations for board vice chair. S. Nolan was nominated and she indicated that she would decline the nomination. S. Nolan then nominated B. Basford, the motion was seconded by B. Poirier, and the board voted unanimously to elect B. Basford as the vice chair of the board.

Item 3. Adjustments to the Agenda. Added under New Business: to elect a district delegate for the Delegate Assembly of the Maine School Boards Association. Added to the end of the meeting: an Executive Session to discuss a student matter in accordance 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (B).

Item 4. Consideration of Minutes of August 10, 2009 – Chair Downs asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made by P. Williams, seconded by B. Basford, and the board voted 7 in the affirmative to accept the minutes as written, one abstention S. Nolan.

Item 5. Public Commentary on Agenda Items. None.

Item 6. Learning Results. District Administrators Faye Anderson, Sandy Nevens, Anne Miller and Stacy Shorey provided the board with a comprehensive review of the AYP

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reports for Vickery and Warsaw Schools. Mrs. Miller began by sharing a glossary of terms to provide meaning to the reports and handed out an additional publication about Adequate Yearly Progress. Mrs. Anderson followed by providing an explanation about the AYP report pointing out the differences between the subgroups and the complications presented with a change from the MEA to the NECAPS assessment. This change means that the students will be assessed in October rather than in March; therefore there are a mere 21 days to work at areas of weakness prior to the administration of the NECAP, and if the students are unsuccessful at meeting the levels of performance, then Vickery School would become a CIPS two status for next year.

Mr. Nevens provided an explanation about Warsaw's designation as a Safe Harbor School. He pointed out that although Warsaw is not out of the woods, he was grateful for the work that was completed last year in the skills block at the grade 5/6 level, and the additional work completed by math teachers in grades 5-8 in an effort to improve students' scores. He also spoke about the setup for the skills block this year; it will also be established in grades 7 and 8.

Mrs. Shorey provided a perspective of the subgroup entitled "Students with Disabilities" which was the subgroup that did not make adequate yearly progress in either reading or math at the Vickery School, thus providing the designation of not meeting adequate yearly progress for the school. She shared the numbers of students who are involved in special education in grades 3 and 4 and those involved in grades 5-8. She indicated that those students in that category did in fact improve, but the improvements were not significant enough for them to be considered making adequate yearly progress. She then provided a review of the Personalized Alternative Assessment Portfolio (PAAP) and their impact on AYP.

Item 7. Committee Reports. There were no committee reports, however, Superintendent Gallagher indicated that the board should disregard the September and October dates listed on the agenda for committee meetings and referred the Board to a handout that was distributed listing committees meetings. Reminder notices will be sent out to committee members by Carol Anthony prior to each of the committee meetings.

Item 8. Old Business. Superintendent Gallagher read a letter from MSAD #59 Board chair, Troy Emery, indicating that the MSAD #59 board voted not to enter into any discussions on consolidation at this time. Superintendent Gallagher then indicated that the date when most MSAD #53 Board and RPC members could meet with the school board of MSAD #68 was Monday, September 21. He will communicate this information to MSAD #68 Superintendent Allen Smith and then provide the MSAD #53 Board and RPC members with an agenda for the meeting.

Superintendent Gallagher then provided a review of the district's strategic plan by highlighting the degree of completion for the individual action steps of each goal and objective. He indicated that some of the goals and objectives were completed, and it would not be necessary to have them on a new strategic plan. However, other objectives

even if completed, would need to be on going, and others that were not complete should be added to a new district strategic plan.

The board then considered the approval of the District Emergency Response Plan and the Pandemic Flu Plan. Superintendent Gallagher recommended the approval of the District Emergency Plan. On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by P. Williams, the board voted unanimously to accept the District Emergency Plan as presented.

Superintendent Gallagher then recommended the approval of Pandemic Flu Plan. On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by P. Williams, the board voted unanimously to accept the Pandemic Flu Plan as written.

Item 9. New Business. After a short discussion the board determined that they would schedule a board workshop for the purpose of discussing the board evaluation, the District Strategic Plan and designing a new strategic plan on September 22 at 6:15 P.M. at the Warsaw Middle School library.

Superintendent Gallagher then provided a brief presentation regarding the free vaccination clinics that will be set up in schools to immunize students for the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu.

The board then considered a leave of absence for an employee who is receiving chemotherapy treatment for colorectal cancer. A letter was read from the employee asking for the leave due to treatments. Superintendent Gallagher recommended the board approve eight weeks of unpaid medical leave for the employee beginning at the conclusion of the six weeks of Maine Family Medical Leave. On a motion by P. Williams, seconded by J. Bradshaw, the board voted 7 in the affirmative, with one opposed, S. Nolan (reason: to provide a longer period of time).

The board then considered the employment of a school physician. Superintendent Gallagher explained that letters had been sent to area physicians asking them to provide proposals to be the school physician. The district received one response, which was from the Sebasticook Regional Family Care office. He recommended the board approve the appointment of Dr. Diehl to serve as the district's school physician. On a motion B. Poirier, seconded by B. Basford, the board voted 8 in favor, with one abstention, B. Baldwin.

The board then considered the appointment of an MSAD #53 board member to the Delegate Assembly for the Maine School Boards Association meeting. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that Jan Laux had told him that he wished to fill that position if no one else on the board wished to attend the meeting. Since no one else was interested, on a motion by P. Williams, seconded by B. Poirier, the board unanimously voted to approve Jan Laux as the delegate from MSAD #53 to serve on the Delegate Assembly of the Maine School Boards Association.

Item 10. Superintendent Report. The Head of School report was provided by Chris Hopkins who indicated that MCI, although only having completed three days of school, had a good opening. He also indicated that the school's theme this year was sustainability. Therefore speakers and other initiatives are being planned for the year with this theme. He also indicated that the Strategic Planning Committees have or will soon begin meeting to put together the strategic plan. There will also be a campus master plan for dealing with facilities. He then shared the renovation work that occurred on the MCI campus during this past summer. The Founders Hall roof was re-shingled and structural work was completed; the Parks roof was replaced; the Wrights' Gym roof was repaired; new windows were installed in Weymouth Hall; five faculty apartments were renovated; a new parking will be constructed so that the center road on campus will be a walkway only area. All of this work has been paid for with a previously secured bond that was designated for capital improvements.

The district administrators included their reports in the Board packet and were available to answer questions. Chair Downs asked a question of Mrs. Anderson and one of Mrs. Shorey regarding their reports and received answers to both.

Item 11. Communications. Superintendent Gallagher read a card to the board from Mrs. Jan Pushard thanking the Board for her retirement gift of a watch.

Item 12. Future Agenda Items. None.

Item 13. Executive Session. Superintendent Gallagher recommended the board enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a student matter in accordance with 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (B). On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by P. Williams, the board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:35 P.M. The board came out of Executive Session at 8:44 P.M.

Item 14. Adjournment. On a motion by B. Poirier, seconded by B. Baldwin, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Gallagher