

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JUNE 25, 2009
MINUTES

Chair Laura Tracy called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of the Special Education Building in Oakland. Directors Lawrence Brown, Glen Davis, Donna Doucette, Lora Downing, Elwood Ellis, Cathy McKelway, Kerri Oliver, Deanne Pizzo, Rebecca Seel and Laura Tracy were present. A quorum was declared. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were Gwen Bacon, Lois Bowden, Carol Browne, Robin Colby, Gail Estabrook, Carl Gartley, Monique Gilbert, Mark Hatch, Sharon Jolicoeur, Linda Laughlin, Dorene Leighton, Julie Meltzer, Jonathan Moody, Constance Packard, Kelly Roderick and Bruce Smith.

There were no delegations to be heard.

Chair Laura Tracy thanked Kelly Roderick for her three years of service on the Board and welcomed Cathy McKelway, newly appointed Board member from the Town of Oakland.

Linda Laughlin, Assistant Superintendent, introduced Julie Meltzer, Senior Advisor for Strategy, Research and Design, PCG's Center for Resource Management. She noted that the District has been working with Ms. Meltzer for four years. Her work makes a big impact in terms of current research and analysis of student data. Her work also helps to determine what types of training the staff needs in terms of curriculum.

Ms. Meltzer reviewed with the Board a report regarding the history of literacy in the Messalonskee School District. She provided a perspective regarding the MSAD 47 literacy improvement initiative from 2004 through 2009, and where the future lies to meet the needs of the students of the 21st Century and for them to be "literate and independent lifelong learners". One of the goals of adolescent literacy is to know and use reading, writing, listening, speaking and thinking strategies to learn across all content areas and to demonstrate/communicate that learning to others who need to know and to transfer that learning to new situations. In 2004 District administrators were not satisfied with the reading scores, did not have a plan in place for struggling readers, and had many reading assessments. The District put together a support plan, which included a Literacy Committee, sponsored teacher and administrator professional development, and school-based action planning related to District goals.

There was an urgent need to address systematic student motivation and assessment and reading in the content areas. Messalonskee Middle School was provided with a "to do" list – a literacy action plan and interventions for students who were struggling. Messalonskee "power" strategies included students using graphic organizers across all content areas, Reading is FAME, more literacy in the alternative program, a sustained silent reading program and literacy walkthroughs. As a result of the implementation of these strategies, reading and writing scores have steadily increased over the past four years. Ms. Meltzer noted, "Literacy is the plate, not something added to the plate." Ms. Meltzer thanked the Board for inviting her to the meeting and said it was an honor to be able to be part of the District and to work with teachers.

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Downing/Oliver The Board enter executive session to confer with legal counsel regarding a personnel matter per 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A).

Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 7:34 p.m.

The Chair declared the Board out of executive session at 8:13 p.m.

Davis/Downing The Board authorizes the Assistant Superintendent and Interim Superintendent to enter into a resignation agreement with an employee.

Motion carried: 9-1.

For: Brown, Davis, Downing, Ellis, McKelway,
Oliver, Pizzo, Seel and Tracy

Opposed: Doucette

Ellis/Seel The minutes of the June 3, 2009 and June 11, 2009 meetings be approved as printed.

Motion carried 9-0-1.

For: Brown, Davis, Doucette, Downing, Ellis,
Oliver, Pizzo, Seel and Tracy

Opposed: None

Abstained: McKelway

Linda Laughlin, Assistant Superintendent, provided the Board with an update regarding the activities of the Educational Programming Subcommittee. The Subcommittee met for the final time in 2008-09 last evening and reviewed some of the instruction and student policies and will forward them to the Policy Subcommittee for review.

Constance Packard, Business Manager, noted that the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee has completed its meetings for the 2008-09 school year.

Linda Laughlin, Assistant Superintendent, provided the Board with an update regarding the activities of the Policy Transition Subcommittee. The Subcommittee met this evening, and continued to work on policies related to instruction and students. Discussed was the transition from a transitional subcommittee to the official RSU Policy Committee and how to address policies prior to the start of school. She will provide a report on the RSU Web site as to which policies have been reviewed and which policies are yet to be completed.

Mark Hatch, Principal, provided a report of the Messalonskee Middle School Recognition Night held on June 18, 2009. The ceremony was held in the gymnasium at Messalonskee High School. It was noted that 194 students graduated from the Middle School. Attendance was great, with approximately 1,200 people attending the event. After the ceremony, the students were bussed to the Alford Youth Center for an evening of celebration and activities.

Under Unfinished Business, the Board reviewed Policy File: ECAB, Access to Buildings and Grounds.

Davis/Downing Action regarding Policy File: ECAB, Access to Buildings and Grounds, be tabled, and the policy be referred to the Policy Subcommittee for further review.

Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent Laughlin apprised the Board of the following resignations:

- Kelly Roderick, Board Member, Town of Oakland, and
- Anna Quattrucci, Instructional Leader, James H. Bean School.

It was noted that the teachers listed below were offered contracts for the 2009-10 school year.

- Kristi Chiasson, grade 4, Williams Elementary School
- Melinda Thibeault, Title I mathematics, District

Gwen Bacon, Associate Principal, reviewed with the Board the Class of 2009 “No” graduation statistics. The Class of 2009 had a total enrollment of 231 students, 24 of whom did not graduate. Five students were part of the special education program and were scheduled to graduate in 2007 or 2008 but could continue to be enrolled due to special education regulations. An additional 13 students either entered their senior year behind in credits or lost credits during the year due to attendance issues. Some of these students were placed in credit recovery programs that worked for short periods of time; however, attendance continued to interfere with academic programming. Four students failed required courses at the conclusion of the second semester, with no time to recover the credits needed for graduation. One student did not finish due to pregnancy; however, the student is completing an online course and will complete her requirements this summer. This student accelerated her course requirements in order to graduate a year early. One student transferred to Messalonskee from another state and will need to complete an additional semester due to educational gaps. Of the 24 students, 18 have completion plans in progress to receive their diplomas. Linda Laughlin noted that this program is not in place in every high school in the state. At Messalonskee the guidance counselors and administrators look at all students in their senior year, monitor their progress and coach them through. She credited the high school staff for their dedication and noted that this has resulted in the District having a low drop out rate.

The Board reviewed policies from Section G, Personnel, Section I, Instruction, and Section J, Students, of the Policy Manual

Oliver/Downing The following policies from Section G, Personnel, Section I, Instruction, and Section J, Students, be adopted as presented.

- Policy File: GCI, Professional Staff Development Opportunities
- Policy File: GCFB, Recruiting and Hiring of Administrative Staff
- Policy File: GCFB-R, Recruiting and Hiring of Administrative Staff Procedure
- Policy File: IHBAA, Referral/Pre-referral of Students with Disabilities
- Policy File: IHBAA-R, Referral/Pre-referral of Students with Disabilities Procedures
- Policy File: IHBAC, Child Find Policy

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- Policy File: IHBAG, Programming in the Least Restrictive Environment
- Policy File: IHBAG-R, Programming in the Least Restrictive Environment Administrative Procedure
- Policy File: IHBAI, Independent Educational Evaluations
- Policy File: IHBAL, Grievance Procedure for Persons with Disabilities
- Policy File: IMDA, Patriotic Exercises
- Policy File: IMDB, Flag Displays
- Policy File: JI, Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Policy File: JICA, Student Dress
- Policy File: JICB, Care of School Property by Students
- Policy File: JIH, Questioning and Searches of Students
- Policy File: JIH-E, Student Search Checklist
- Policy File: JIH-R, Questioning and Searches of Students Administrative Procedures
- Policy File: JICIA, Weapons, Violence, Bullying and School Safety
- Policy File: JK, Student Discipline
- Policy File: JKD, Student Detention/Suspension
- Policy File: JKE, Expulsion of Students
- Policy File: JKE-R, Expulsion of Students Guidelines
- Policy File: JKF, Disciplinary Removals of Students with Disabilities
- Policy File: JKG, Physical Restraint
- Policy File: JKGA, Time Out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint
- Policy File: JKGA-R, Time Out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint Administrative Procedure
- Policy File: JLCB, Immunization of Students
- Policy File: JLCC, Communicable/Infectious Diseases
- Policy File: JLCD, Administering Medication to Students

Motion carried: 9-0-1.

For: Brown, Davis, Doucette, Downing, Ellis,
Oliver, Pizzo, Seel and Tracy

Opposed: None

Abstained: McKelway

Assistant Superintendent Linda Laughlin reviewed with the Board updated enrollment projections for the 2009-10 school year. Total projected enrollment is at 3,271, with individual school enrollments as listed below.

Atwood Primary School	218
James H. Bean School	351
Belgrade Central School	295
China Middle School	204
China Primary School	278
Messalonskee High School	822
Messalonskee Middle School	590
Williams Elementary School	235
Tuition Students	<u>278</u>
Total	3,271

Ms. Laughlin noted that there may still be changes ahead as people move in and out of the School Unit. Dee Pizzo noted concern regarding class sizes at Williams Elementary School. Ms. Laughlin indicated that the School Unit will be able to provide a very strong Title I Program, with more early intervention for students.

Ms. Laughlin reviewed with the Board the present and anticipated staff vacancies for the 2009-10 school year. A number of stipend and coaching positions are open. There are still full-time teaching openings in science, tech trades, English language arts and Pre-K. Interviews are being conducted this week and next, with the hope of having candidates hired by the next Board meeting.

Constance Packard, Business Manager, noted that bids were solicited for borrowing for the 2009-10 school, with a due date of June 24; however, there were no bids received for borrowing for the 2009-10 school year. She spoke today with representatives from two banks that are not on the bid list, and they indicated an interest in bidding. A second round of bid solicitations will be prepared and sent out next week.

The Board reviewed the Regional School Unit No. 18 403(b) plan.

Ellis/Doucette BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regional School Unit No. 18 403(b) Plan set forth in the Plan Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto, is hereby adopted.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby authorized and instructed to execute said Plan Agreement for and on behalf of the organization.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the 2009-10 salary schedules for hourly support staff.

Downing/Ellis The salary schedules for 2009-10 for hourly support staff be approved as presented. (See attached copies of schedules.)

Motion carried unanimously.

Laura Tracy publicly thanked Dr. Morse, Superintendent, for his dedication and service to the Messalonskee School District, and wished him well as he assumes his role as Superintendent for the Portland Public Schools. It was noted that the June 3, 2009 meeting of the MSAD #47 School Board marked the end of Board members' terms for several long-time members. A formal thank you letter will be sent to those Board members: Laura Corbett, Jeffrey Frost, Michael Gosselin, Frank Haggan, Karen Hatch-Gagne and Michael Tracy.

Pizzo/Brown The meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 9:03 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Linda F. Laughlin
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

MEETINGS

Wednesday, July 15, 2009 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting – 5:30 p.m. – Central Office - Oakland

Wednesday, July 15, 2009 - Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Special Education Building – Oakland

Wednesday, August 5, 2009 - Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Special Education Building – Oakland

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 - Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Special Education Building – Oakland