

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DECEMBER 2, 2009
MINUTES

Chair Laura Tracy called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 6:34 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room at Central Office in Oakland. Directors Lawrence Brown, Donna Doucette, Elwood Ellis, Doreen Leighton, Kerri Oliver, Deanne Pizzo, Rebecca Seel and Laura Tracy were present. Director Glen Davis joined the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Director Lora Downing was absent. A quorum was declared. Also present at all or parts of the meeting were Gwen Bacon, Irene Belanger, Michael Benecke, Carol Browne, Paula Callan, Monique Gilbert, Catherine Gordon, Kathy Harris-Smedberg, Mark Hatch, Linda Laughlin, Dustin Leighton, Jennifer McGee, Cheryl Mercier, Jonathan Moody, Constance Packard, Nancy Reynolds and Kelly Roderick.

Pizzo/Seel The Board enter executive session to complete discussion regarding the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools per 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A).

Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 6:34 p.m.

The Chair declared the Board out of executive session at 6:45 p.m.

There were no delegations to be heard.

Doucette/Ellis The minutes of the November 4, 2009 and November 18, 2009 meetings be approved as printed.

Motion carried: 7-0-1

For: Brown, Davis, Doucette, Ellis, Leighton, Seel
and Tracy

Opposed: None

Abstained: Oliver and Pizzo

The Superintendent's Report was updated. Superintendent Smith noted that as of this week, there are two links on the RSU No. 18 main Web page related to the 2010-11 school budget. One link is for staff suggestions, and the second link is for community suggestions. These links will allow staff and community members to anonymously post suggestions related to the 2010-11 school budget.

Superintendent Smith congratulated the Administrative Team for their efforts with regard to the recent flu clinics, which were held on October 27, November 9, and November 17. The first round of clinics is completed. He also thanked the staff of MaineGeneral Medical Center for their efforts as well with the organization and planning of the clinics.

Superintendent Smith noted that per Board action, a Cost Sharing Committee and a Major Capital Application (Facilities) Committee have been formed. The School Unit has secured a facilitator for the Cost Sharing committee, a requirement of the Consolidation Plan. The Major Capital Application Committee will meet on December 10, 2009, and the Cost Sharing Committee will meet on December 17, 2009.

To facilitate the work of the Policy Committee the Administrative Team met to discuss building and field use. A meeting with Town recreation directors is also scheduled for December 9 to discuss concerns and policies related to building and field use.

Superintendent Smith noted that as a result of the Governor's budget curtailment order, the prediction for a potential reduction in subsidy for the 2009-10 school year for RSU No. 18 was at \$525,000 as of the last Board meeting on November 4, 2009. At this point the Maine Department of Education had already informed school districts to expect \$38 million in cuts this school year and another \$36 million in 2010-11. The prediction today for subsidy reduction for RSU No. 18 for 2009-10 is up to \$569,500. Putting together a budget for the 2010-11 school year that maintains programming and class sizes will require some tough work.

There were no additions to the agenda by the Chair or Directors.

Elwood Ellis provided a report of the Budget and Finance Committee meeting held on November 18, 2009. He noted that the audit for the 2008-09 school year for MSAD #47 went extremely well. The China audit is nearly complete. Regarding expenditures, the School Unit is right on line. With regard to year to date, the School Unit is doing very well at this point in time. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 6, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Under Unfinished Business, the Board reviewed a request from the Messalonskee High School Foreign Language Department regarding a trip to Quebec, Canada, on March 17-21, 2010. Superintendent Smith noted that representatives from Messalonskee High School have done some additional research in working with Skowhegan High School. The group has secured outside transportation at a lower rate. The insurance program does cover that trip. The group has also recommended that chaperones complete a background check, just as any school employee would be required to do. There is no request for funding from the Board at this time.

Brown/Davis The request from the Messalonskee High School Foreign Language Department to travel to Quebec, Canada, on March 17-21, 2010, be approved as presented, with no cost to the School Unit.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board requested a follow-up discussion after the trip in March.

Doucette/Ellis The nominations of the Superintendent be accepted, and the following slate of individuals be elected for the 2009-10 school year.

- Kayla Fletcher, winter cheering coach, Messalonskee High School
- Brittney Greene, varsity cheering coach, China Middle School

Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Laughlin, Assistant Superintendent, discussed with the Board a survey to be administered to Middle School and High School students. As a requirement of one of the School

Unit's NCLB (No Child Left Behind) grants, the School Unit is required to survey members of the school community (including students, teachers and parents) about their use, interest and beliefs about technology in the schools. The Speak Up survey is an on-line nationally developed survey facilitated by Project Tomorrow for schools across the country, and is open only until December 18, 2009. Besides meeting the NCLB requirements, the School Unit will be able to use the data results to help determine what the technological needs are across the RSU. The student survey will focus on the students' education, including their use of technology and how well their School is preparing them for the future.

Doucette/Leighton The Board approve the Speak Up survey facilitated by Project Tomorrow as presented to be administered to a sample group of RSU No. 18 students in grades 6 through 12, focusing on students' education, including their use of technology and how well their School is preparing them for the future.

Motion carried unanimously.

Constance Packard, Business Manager, reviewed with the Board the bids for a lease purchase agreement for three TBB/Freightliner buses.

Ellis/Davis Voted: That under and pursuant to the provisions of Title 20-A M.R.S.A Sections 1001 and 1055, the Superintendent of Schools be and hereby is authorized to execute and deliver a tax-exempt lease purchase agreement with Androscoggin Bank in the name and on behalf of Regional School Unit No. 18 for three TBB/Freightliner busses, with an aggregate purchase price of Two Hundred Forty Thousand One Hundred Five Dollars (\$240,105) plus interest at a rate not to exceed 2.89%, in such form as the Superintendent may approve (the "Lease Purchase Agreement"); and that the appropriate officials of Regional School Unit No. 18 be and hereby are authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of Regional School Unit No. 18 such other documents and certificates as may be required in connection with the Lease Purchase Agreement; and that no part of the proceeds of the Lease Purchase Agreement shall be used, directly or indirectly, to acquire any securities and obligations, the acquisition of which would cause the Lease Purchase Agreement to be a "private activity bond" or an "arbitrage bond" within the meaning of Sections 141 and 148, respectively, of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"); and that the Lease Purchase Agreement issued pursuant hereto be designated as a qualified tax-exempt obligation within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3)(B) of said Code; and that the Superintendent be and he/she hereby is authorized to covenant on behalf of the Unit to file any information report and pay any rebate due to the United States in connection with the issuance of the Lease Purchase Agreement, and to take all other lawful actions necessary to insure the interest portion of the rental payments under and pursuant to the Lease Purchase Agreement will be excluded from the gross income of the owners thereof for purposes of federal income taxation and to refrain from taking any action which would cause such interest portion of the rental payments to become includable in the gross income of the owners thereof.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a request from Julie Fabian Benecke regarding the establishment of an after school child care program at Belgrade Central School. Superintendent Smith noted that there currently is an after school program that is operated at the Atwood Primary School. This is not a program sponsored by RSU No. 18. The School Unit's responsibility with respect to the Atwood program is that it acts as the fiscal agent for the Program. The Program maintains the building, provides insurance and supervises their workers. Information obtained from the Belgrade Town Office indicates that there are at least five other day cares that operate in the Town, including the program operated at the Belgrade Center for All Seasons. The Program at the Belgrade Center for All Seasons is connected to the Alford Youth Center (AYC) and includes busing to the AYC. Michael Benecke noted that the intention of the request is to see if the Board would give consideration, with the next step being a meeting with representatives at Belgrade Central School. If approved, then the Beneckes would provide the Board with a formal proposal for review. The Board took no action regarding this request.

The Board reviewed the procedure regarding existing MSAD #47 and China policies remaining in effect until the RSU adopts new policies.

Davis/Seel The Board directs the administration to follow existing Central Office policies for MSAD #47 and China, with the understanding that if there is a fundamental conflict between policies, then the Superintendent will use discretion in making a decision as to which policy will be enforced until the RSU Board has an opportunity to adopt new policies.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed dates for a RSU No. 18 budget and facility workshop. As discussions begin regarding the major capital facilities application, the Board would like to obtain input from various community groups and representatives before submitting the application to the State. Superintendent Smith proposed a possible forum to obtain that input. In addition, it was suggested that the Board host a budget forum as well. The recommendation would be to combine both of those sessions to obtain input from the public regarding facilities and budget. Craig Freshley of Good Group Decisions will be present at the January 6, 2010 Board meeting to discuss options/ framework for the public meeting.

Doucette/Pizzo The Board enter executive session to review the evaluation of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools per 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A).

Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 7:31 p.m.

The Chair declared the Board out of executive session at 8:03 p.m.

Ellis/Doucette The Assistant Superintendent be offered a one-year contract extension (June 30, 2013) with the salary and benefits to be determined in February when the Budget and Finance Committee has an opportunity to deal with compensation levels.

Motion carried unanimously.

Oliver/Brown The Board enter executive session to review the evaluation of the Superintendent per 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A).

Motion carried unanimously.
Time: 8:04 p.m.

The Chair declared the Board out of executive session at 8:23 p.m.

Ellis/Davis The Superintendent be offered a two-year contract extension (June 30, 2012) with salary and benefits to be determined in February when the Budget and Finance Committee has an opportunity to deal with compensation levels.

Motion carried: 6-1-2.
For: Brown, Davis, Ellis, Leighton, Oliver, Tracy
Opposed: Seel
Abstained: Doucette, Pizzo

Doucette/Pizzo The meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.
Time: 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary N. Smith
Superintendent of Schools

MEETINGS

Thursday, December 3, 2009 – Belgrade Central School Grades 3 and 4 Concert – 6:30 p.m. – Belgrade Central School

Monday, December 7, 2009 – Educational Programming Committee – 6:00 p.m. – Central Office

Tuesday, December 8, 2009 – China Primary School Grades K-2 Concert – 1:00 p.m. – China Primary School

Tuesday, December 8, 2009 – District Grade 5 Chorus Concert – 7:00 p.m. – J. Duke Albanese Performing Arts Center – Messalonskee High School

Thursday, December 10, 2009 – Major Capital Application Committee – 6:30 p.m. – Central Office

Regional School Unit No. 18 Board Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2009
Page Six

Thursday, December 10, 2009 – Messalonskee Middle School Grade 6 Chorus Concert – 7:00 p.m. – J. Duke Albanese Performing Arts Center – Messalonskee High School

Monday, December 14, 2009 – China Primary School Grades 3-4 Concert – 1:00 p.m. – China Primary School

Monday, December 14, 2009 – Messalonskee Middle School Band and Chorus Concert – 7:00 p.m. – J. Duke Albanese Performing Arts Center – Messalonskee High School

Wednesday, December 16, 2009 – China Middle School Holiday Concert – 6:30 p.m. – China Middle School

Thursday, December 17, 2009 – Mid-Maine Technical Center Governance Board – 10:00 a.m. – Mid-Maine Technical Center

Thursday, December 17, 2009 – Cost Sharing Committee – 6:30 p.m. – Central Office

Sunday, December 20, 2009 – Messalonskee High School Band and Chorus Concert – 3:00 p.m. – J. Duke Albanese Performing Arts Center – Messalonskee High School

Monday, January 4, 2010 – Educational Programming Committee – 6:00 p.m. – Central Office

Wednesday, January 6, 2010 – Budget and Finance Committee – 6:00 p.m. – Central Office

Wednesday, January 6, 2010 – Regular Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m. – Central Office

Thursday, January 7, 2010 – Cost Sharing Committee – 6:30 p.m. – Central Office

Tuesday, January 12, 2010 – Messalonskee Middle School Beginning Band Concert – 7:00 p.m. – J. Duke Albanese Performing Arts Center – Messalonskee High School

Wednesday, January 13, 2010 – Major Capital Application Committee – 6:30 p.m. – Central Office

Thursday, January 14, 2010 – James H. Bean School Grade 4 Concert – 6:30 p.m. – James H. Bean School