

# MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT No. 52

Greene, Leeds, and Turner, Maine

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## Minutes of the First Special Meeting of the Board of Directors for 2014-2015

September 25, 2014    6:00 P.M.    Central Office

Members present: Elizabeth Bullard; Diana Morgan; Robert Allen; Yuri Kowalski; JoAnn Nickerson; John Soucy; Jon Woodard; Peter Ricker

Members absent: Richard Gross

Others Present: Henry Aliberti, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Becky Foley, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Deb Alden, Special Education Director; Deborah Roberts, Business Manager; Eben Shaw, Leavitt Area High School Principal; Gail Marine, Tripp Middle School Principal; Theresa Gillis, Turner Primary School Principal; Pamela Doyen, Greene Central School Principal; Danielle Harris, Leeds Central School Principal;

1. Chairperson Elizabeth Bullard called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.
2. New Business:
  - 2.1 A motion was made by Peter Ricker, seconded by Jon Woodard and voted unanimously by those present to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(F).

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:05 P.M.

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:24 P.M.

- 2.2 No action taken.
- 2.3 The position of the Facilities and Transportation Director was discussed. Superintendent Aliberti reported that the position requires good communication, good decision making, and a good knowledge base. He solicited input from the administrators about what they would prefer in the position. Some prefer to separate it into two different positions, and some want it to remain intact.

Business Manager Deb Roberts examined other districts and how they were organized. Most districts our size have the position structured the same way we do. Ms. Roberts reported that she feels if the Routing Specialist is allowed to do his job eight hours a day the position is doable. It would also be helpful to add additional time to the Administrative Assistant's position in order to support both the Transportation Department and the Maintenance Department.

This restructuring would cost less than hiring an additional administrator, which would cost approximately \$60,000. Hiring a sub bus driver could cost the district less in the long run and then the Routing Specialist could be doing his job full time.

Currently, the District has to contract from private providers and public districts to fill the busing needs. The District is trying to find sub drivers. We have our own trainers. Currently, the District has two individuals who are trying to obtain their license.

It is the last minute bus requests that are the most difficult to fill. There was a question of whether the District has enough school buses as sometimes we see buses from elsewhere driving our students. Business Manager Deb Roberts said the District has enough buses; it is just that the drivers, from wherever they come, prefer to drive their own buses. The three new buses that the District bought for this school year have not been delivered yet, but we do have enough spares at the moment.

There was a question of whether the District ever says no to transportation requests and Superintendent Aliberti responded that he does not remember saying no to these types of requests. There has been discussion about setting up parameters around trip requests, but this has not been done as of yet. Some Board members do not want us saying no to field trips, and yes to trips for athletics.

The District is examining whether there are companies that would be willing to do the subcontracting of transportation services. Last year, no companies responded that they were interested in bidding.

There was discussion about where the money would come from in the budget if we hired a full time sub driver. Board members would not want to see the budget frozen. Superintendent Aliberti replied that we have not frozen the budget in the past as it implies that there are no expenditures. In the past, including last year, we have asked the administrators to be cautious/careful when ordering or making requests.

By voting for a full time bus driver, it does not mean that the District is spending additional money as the transportation requests need to be met. The next steps are: 1) look at realistic solution for long term; 2) report back to Board about whether there are companies interested in placing a bid for contracting bus services for RSU 52; 3) continue to look for ways to attract or train more bus subs.

A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Peter Ricker and voted 6 Yes (Bullard, Morgan, Ricker, Woodard, Kowalski, Soucy) and 2 Abstain (Nickerson, Allen) to hire a substitute bus driver for one year.

3. Other Business – None.
4. A motion was made by Diana Morgan, seconded by Jon Woodard and voted unanimously by those present to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry Aliberti, Secretary