

RSU 56 Board of Directors Minutes
Amended Board Meeting Agenda- March 22, 2022- 6:30pm
(This meeting will be held at Dirigo High School. The board meeting will also be available via zoom and livestream on the RSU 56 Facebook page.)

School Board Members Present: Barbara Chow, Don Whittemore, Carl Lueders, Angela Varnum, Bruce Ross, Tim Kelly, Natalie Sneller, Larry Whittington, Angela Cushman, Joe Conron (student rep)

School Board Members Absent: Konstantin Aslanidi, Vacancy (Peru), Vacancy (Carthage)

Staff Attending: Pam Doyen, Mary Dailey, Cathy Arsenault, Brian Keene, Charlie Swan, Kurt Rowley, Gena Cloutier, Kenny Robbins, Heidi Broomhall, Beth Edwards, Aaron Arsenault, Kelly Porter, Jay Nicholson, Andrea Palmer, Stacey Gilbert, Michele Araujo

Also Attending: Olaf Johnson, Marianne Hutchinson, Liz Kelly, Skylar Killingsworth, Michelle Larrivee

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Barbara Chow, Board Chair, opened the meeting at 6:33pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Audience introductions were made. Everyone on zoom and Facebook live were welcomed.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

VII Supt. Report: Action item for hiring T. Olaf Johnson; stipend positions; DHS Math Teacher; Retirement of Franz Luce

Motion: T. Kelly

Seconded: B. Ross

Motion Carried

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the March 8, 2022 Board Meeting

Motion: T. Kelly

Seconded: L. Whittington

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. COVID cases update (Pam Doyen)

Pam went over the COVID numbers for the past two weeks in the district.

Positive and Quarantine Data
03/07/22-03/18/22

	# of positive students	# of students in CC quarantine	# positive staff	# staff in CC quarantine
DES	7	0	2	0
DMS	1	0	0	0
DHS	0	0	0	0

Total # of students out of school: 8

Total # of staff out of work: 2

2. Full Budget Overview/Budget workshop (Pam Doyen)

RSU 56 2022-23 Proposed Budget

Key Considerations:

1. What's best for our students?
2. How do we support our current employees?
3. How do we respond to community concerns/desires?

Good News from the ED279

Last year:

State share: 64.51%

Total state allocation:

\$6,498,092.59

This year:

State share: 68.53%

Total state allocation:

\$7,297,335.22

Up: \$799,242.63

Initial Proposed Budget: \$13,377,444

Initial Proposed Budget to Budget Increase: 3.1%

\$ increase= \$402,665.00

Proposed Budget to Budget Increase Breakdown:

\$248,287 (estimated)

Negotiated Increases:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	5 Yr Avg
BGT	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2.2%
Nutrition	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2.2%
Ed-Techs	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2.2%
CO/Tech	4.2%	3%	2%	2%	TBD	TBD
Secretaries	3%	3%	2%	2%	TBD	TBD
Admin	2%	2.5%	2%	2%	2.5%	2.2%
Teachers	5%**	4%	3%	3%	TBD	TBD

*percentage varies due to market corrections

**2% on base, with steps of 3% increases, teachers received 5% increases

Health Insurance Increase: Currently Unknown

Currently in budget 10%

Increase: \$169,438

Other (non-controllable) non payroll increases:

\$246,417.00

With admin cuts of non payroll items: Overall increase was \$154,378.

1. Audit cost \$3,800
2. Building insurance \$10,022
3. Spec Ed (OOD and SEED) \$172,748
4. Heating Oil \$29,262
5. Gas/Diesel \$20,585
6. Electricity \$10,000
7. Misc. areas throughout the budget

Uncontrollable increases were \$494,704; however, overall budget increase is \$402,655 due to initial admin cuts.

Impact on our four towns at a 3.1% budget to budget increase:

	Local Taxes	Addit Subsidy	Variance	Total	Variance	
	Use to decrease	FY 21-22 Minus	To be raised	FY 22-23 Minus	%	
Town	FY 21-22	Local Cost Share	20-21	FY 22-23	21-22	Increase
Canton	\$1,061,552.05	\$25,189.34	\$83,528.23	\$1,101,807.01	\$65,444.30	6.315%
Carthage	\$996,309.29	\$26,288.00	\$14,977.45	\$886,522.44	-\$83,498.85	-8.608%
Dixfield	\$2,273,742.78	\$48,101.34	-\$236,863.36	\$2,079,267.09	-\$146,374.35	-6.577%
Peru	\$1,848,682.29	\$44,240.00	-\$148,737.42	\$1,716,112.24	-\$88,330.05	-4.895%
	\$6,180,286.41	\$143,818.68	-\$287,095.10	\$5,783,708.78	-\$252,758.95	-4.187%

Impact on towns at 3.1%, 2%, 1% and 0%:

	3.1%	2%	1%	0%
Canton	6.315%	3.856%	1.628%	-0.600%
Carthage	-8.608%	-10.474%	-12.166%	-13.857%
Dixfield	-6.577%	-9.200%	-11.578%	-13.956%
Peru	-4.895%	-7.178%	-9.247%	-11.316%
Total	-4.187%	-6.559%	-8.708%	-10.858%

“Add-ons” for the board to consider:

Additional Faculty Leader at DES: \$1538.00

Ed-Tech at DHS to support Alt. Ed. \$50,545.00

Total of Add-ons: \$52,083

Would result in a proposed budget of....\$13,429,527

Resulting in a 3.5% budget to budget increase

Budget Timeline:

April 12, 2022: Board to vote on budget. (Additional warrant articles: additional subsidy, bus garage, etc.)

May 10, 2022: Board to sign warrants

Budget Newsletter: Residents will receive a newsletter with the budget information.

June 14, 2022: School Budget Referendum Vote in all four towns

[illegible]

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent's Report: Pam Doyen

The last Unified Basketball game was played this afternoon. If you did not get an opportunity to see one I would encourage you to join one next year. Amazing, the opportunity for students. I also want to give a shout out to the middle school and the high school students. Yesterday was Black Mountain day for the middle school and today was Black Mountain day for the high school. At the end of the day today the people who run Black Mountain came up to me and said, between Yesterday and today, I just have to tell you these are the best behaved students we've had on the mountain for a day for school. Both days, the students were saying please and thank you when they were getting things. The place was immaculate when we left. There was nothing out of order everything was picked up. I just really couldn't be more proud of the behavior of the students.

Administrator's Report: Charlie Swan

DES Administrator's Report

Current Enrollment: 357 (October- 348)

Grade	Pre-K	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
#of students Oct 21-22	37	46	49	58	55	53	50
#of students March 21-22	36	45	53	65	56	53	50

Office Referrals

# of Referrals	# of Students	% of Total Population
0	265	74%
1	29	8%
2	22	6%
3	12	3%
4	4	1%
5	3	1%
6	5	1.5%
7	4	1%
>7	14	4%

Total # of Referrals - 360

Reading Committee Progress:

The reading committee, which has been tasked with the job of selecting a new reading program for Dirigo Elementary School, has now met five times. During those five sessions we have managed to narrow the field down to three top programs. Dr. Doyen is currently reviewing these programs and Mr. Long and myself will be collecting information from other schools which currently use these programs. At our next meeting we hope to have all the necessary information together to provide a recommendation for a single program, which will then go to the curriculum committee for review and then hopefully to the full board in May for approval.

The team has worked hard and I believe will select a program that will help move our students forward in their reading development.

On-going Professional Development:

1. Easy CBM- Dr. Swan
2. Math- Dr. Overall
3. TCI- Gretchen Curtis
4. Assessing early literacy- Dr. Swan
5. Science of Reading (Online)

COVID Changes:

1. We are finally using our new cafeteria tables (the tv trays have been stored.)
2. Many of our classrooms are starting to look more like classrooms with students grouped together to learn with and from each other.
3. We are looking at having our first assembly in the gym in two years in April.
4. We are beginning to organize more normal end of the year activities.

Upcoming End of the Year Events @ DES

Arts Alive: May 10-12

Spring Book Fair: May 9-13

Weather @ Your School: May 27- Ch 8 will be on site

Spring NWEA Testing: May 16-27

Sea Dogs Game: May 24

Grade 5 @ Bryant Pond: May 31-June 2

Field Day- June 8 or 9

New Hires:

T. Olaf Johnson, DHS Math Teacher

Pam introduced Mr. Johnson and talked about his credentials.

Motion: T. Kelly

Seconded: B. Ross

Motion Carried

Stipended and Coaching Positions:

MS Varsity Softball: Stacey Gilbert

MS JV Softball: Lexi Holman

Resignations/Retirements:

Franz Luce BGT will be retiring at the end of June

Transfers:

Shiloh Felt from 3-year ESSER Secretary to FT Guidance Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Student Representative Report- Joe Conron- Busy week here at school. MS & HS went to Black Mtn, today was the final Unified Basketball game. This week is also Spring Fling week. Friday will be a half day with class activities in the gym. As Mr. Swan had mentioned a lot of teachers are liking their classrooms as classrooms rather than three feet apart. They are appreciating the ability to make their own shapes.
2. Policy Committee- Met 3/22- Had a presentation from DMS Student Council, along with their advisor Earl Couture and Mr. Long. Will be presenting to the board the policy committee's recommendation on the student dress issue. Also worked on one other
3. Finance Committee- Will meet 3/25 @ 1:30-Conference Room. Auditor will report out. Mary has the audit report if any of the finance committee would like them
4. Curriculum Committee- Not met
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Not met
6. Negotiations Committee- Meeting weekly
7. Personnel Committee- Wanted to report something that was missed in the last report out. There was a retirement that is leaving the guidance secretary position open. Anytime we have an open position, it gives us a good opportunity to reflect on that position and how it fits in the overall school building and staffing structure. One thing that Pam noted at the high school was that we have two secretary positions. We have the guidance secretary and we have the school secretary in the office. The guidance secretary position is a school year position, where the office secretary was year round. However, during the summer a lot of the questions that were coming in and a lot of the work that was needing to be done was pertaining to scheduling, transcript requests, class registrations. Things that feel more within the realm of the guidance secretary position, rather than the office secretary. So the committee approved a request from Pam to switch so that the guidance secretary position is the year round position and the high school secretary position goes to school year. No change in the budget, we just flip flopped which was which. The guidance secretary position was open so no issues there. Pam had a discussion with the high school secretary and they actually welcomed the change based on their personal and family situation.
8. Ad-hoc Committee- (1st Thursday of the each month, via zoom)- Meeting on 4/7 at 5:30 in the library in-person for the first time.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

A. Cushman- My future daughter in law is the high school secretary and was very happy to have the opportunity to do the school year position. She is very thankful for that.

B. Chow- I went to the last game of the Unified basketball game.

Pam explained it is the Special Olympics. It's run through the Maine Principals Association but it's part of the special olympics.

B. Chow- It was a good crowd. The gym was packed. Charlie used it as his staff meeting. The PTO were in the snack shack booth. For these kids, the highlight was just getting a basket. One of our kids sang the National Anthem with Mr. Hamalainen. He did a fabulous job. The smile on the kids faces ... They get helpers from the high school and middle school teams. It's just a joy to see it. Commend the coaches and the kids just love it.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: L. Whittington

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm