

## Board Meeting Agenda- May 10, 2022- 6:30pm

School Board Members Present: Barbara Chow, Don Whittemore, Larry Whittington, Bruce Ross,  
Tim Kelly, Angela Cushman, Angela Varnum, Carl Lueders,  
Marianne Young, Natalie Sneller

Staff Attending: Pam Doyen, Mary Dailey, Jared Hodgkins, Cathy Arsenault, Gena Cloutier, Beth Edwards, Heidi Broomhall, Michele Araujo, Jay Nicholson

## CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

## CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

- ## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Liz: I'm concerned about the appropriateness of a book in the library and I'm not sure if others have heard of it or are aware of it. I have it in my possession, I've read it. It seems to be the diary of a young woman or person who has questioned her gender identity. The book for the most part might be okay but I found 11 pages in it that I thought was soft porn. I don't know if the others ( on the board) have seen it, read it. I would like to make a formal request to have it reviewed, if that's possible, by whoever does the reviewing for our school district.

Barbara responded: There have been a couple other requests to have it reviewed. There is a form along with the policy that gets filled out. There is a committee formed and Pam will explain further what steps have been taken.

Pam responded: She was going to address it in the Communications, however responded to Liz's concern in Public Comments.

The board has received two official complaints concerning a book in the DHS library. As you may know, this institutes policy IJJ. The committee that is outlined in that policy has been formed. The book is being passed between the committee members, so the way it works from there is that the book is read by the five-person committee. That committee comes together, reviews the book as well as any reviews that are made on the book and they write up a recommendation to the board. The superintendent then brings that recommendation to the board and if their recommendation is not found the way that people want it in the community, then the appeals process would be that it would appeal then to the board. The board would then make a determination concerning the book. So, it has been officially logged. We have a committee formed and the process is underway including a date that we're going to come together to review the book.

Liz: Thank you I won't take any more of your time.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Pam went over her communications in Public Comments.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion to Sign Warrants: "I moved that the Vote entitled" (Wording will be provided to board members, it needs to be read verbatim)  
B. Ross made the motion: I move that the Vote entitled, "Vote to Call and Approve the Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Budget Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted," be approved in form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting.  
VOTE TO CALL AND APPROVE THE WARRANTS FOR THE BUDGET MEETING AND THE BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE NOTICE OF AMOUNTS ADOPTED  
VOTED: That the warrant for the Regional School Unit No. 56 (the "Regional School Unit") Budget Meeting presented to the meeting be approved and that a Regional School Unit budget meeting be called for May 24, 2022 for the purpose of voting on the annual budget for the Regional School Unit for the 2022-2023 fiscal year;  
That the Warrant and Notice of Election for the Regional School Unit Budget Validation Referendum presented to the meeting be approved, and that a Regional School Unit budget validation referendum be called for June 14, 2022 for the purpose of approving the budget adopted at the Regional School Unit budget meeting for the 2022-2023 fiscal year and considering whether to continue the budget validation referendum process; and  
That the form of Notice of Amounts Adopted at Budget Meeting presented to this meeting be approved, and that the Superintendent of Schools of the Regional School Unit be authorized and directed to complete said Notice in accordance with the Regional School Unit budget meeting on May 24, 2022, and to cause copies of said Notice, as completed, to be delivered to the municipal clerks of each municipality of the Regional School Unit for posting at the polling places for the

June 14, 2022 Regional School Unit budget validation referendum.

A true copy as adopted by a majority of the School Board, attest:

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATION

I certify that the May 10, 2022 meeting of the Regional School Unit No. 56 School Board was:

☒ Conducted as a public meeting with no Board members participating remotely; or

Conducted in accordance with Board policy through telephonic, video, electronic, or other similar means of remote participation, and that the Board's vote on this Resolution was taken by roll call as follows:

Board Member	Participation			Vote		
	Physically Attending	Attending Remotely	Not Attending	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Barbara Chow	<b>x</b>			<b>x</b>		
Bruce Ross	<b>x</b>			<b>x</b>		
Don Whittemore	<b>x</b>			<b>x</b>		
Larry Whittington	<b>x</b>			<b>x</b>		
Tim Kelly	<b>x</b>			<b>x</b>		
Natalie Sneller	<b>x</b>			<b>x</b>		
Angela Cushman	<b>x</b>			<b>x</b>		
Carl Lueders	<b>x</b>			<b>x</b>		
Angela Varnum	<b>x</b>			<b>x</b>		
Marianne Young	<b>x</b>			<b>x</b>		
Konstantin Aslanidi			<b>x</b>			

2. Sign Warrants

3. Motion to accept revenue anticipation note bid (Mary Dailey)

Mary explained and went over the 2022-2023 Revenue Anticipation Note \$500,000 on a draw down basis

15 banks were sent an invitation to bid. 2 bids were received.

**Bangor Savings Bank:** 3.52%

**Androscoggin Bank:** 3.2% "with a utilization fee of \$900 charged to the RSU at loan maturity. Should RSU 56's finance charge due at maturity be equal to or greater than this fee, the fee will be waived in its entirety."

I recommend accepting the bid from Bangor Savings Bank at the higher interest rate because the amount of interest that the district pays is generally lower than \$900.

2017-2018: \$2237.74

2018-2019: \$21.33

2019-2020: \$30.77

2020-2021: \$23.29

2021-2022: \$22.17

B. Ross made a motion: I move that the vote entitled, "Vote to Authorize Issuance of a \$500,000 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note," be approved in form presented to this meeting and that the Secretary file an attested copy of said vote with the minutes of this meeting.

VOTE TO AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF A \$500,000  
TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE

1. That the offer of **Bangor** (the "Bank") to purchase tax and revenue anticipation note(s) of Regional School Unit No. 56 (the "RSU") in the original principal amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) with an interest rate per annum on the outstanding principal amount thereof equal to **3.52%**, be and the same hereby is accepted and approved;
2. That the School Board of the RSU hereby authorizes a borrowing in the amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) from the Bank on behalf of the RSU, with interest on the principal amount thereof at a rate of **3.52** % per annum, principal and interest to be paid no later than the scheduled maturity date on June 30, 2023, which borrowing is in anticipation of tax and other revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023;
3. That under and pursuant to the provisions of sections 1490 and 15695 of Title 20-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, the Chairperson of the School Board and the Treasurer of the RSU are hereby authorized to borrow in anticipation of tax and other revenues from the Bank in the name and on behalf of the RSU the sum of up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) at the per annum interest rate of **3.52** %, and that the Chairperson of the School Board and the Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized to issue general obligation securities of the RSU in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) and to execute and deliver a note or notes under the seal of the RSU attested by the Secretary, dated on or about July 1, 2022, in such form as the Chairperson of the School Board and the Treasurer may approve (the "Note"); and that the appropriate officials of the RSU be and hereby are authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the RSU such other documents and certificates as may be required in connection with the issuance of the Note; and that no part of the proceeds of said Note shall be used, directly or indirectly, to acquire any securities and obligations, the acquisition of which would cause the Note to be an "arbitrage bond" or "private activity bond" within the meaning of sections 148 or 141, respectively, of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"); and that the Note be designated as qualified tax-exempt obligations within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3) of said Code; and that the Chairperson of the School Board and the Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized to covenant on behalf of the RSU to file any information report and pay any rebate due to the United States in connection with the issuance of the Note, to take all other lawful actions necessary to ensure the interest on the Note will be excludable from the gross income of the owners thereof for purposes of federal income taxation and to refrain from taking any action which would cause interest on the Note to become includable in the gross income of the owners thereof; and
4. That the RSU establish written procedures with respect to the Note for the purpose of ensuring timely "remedial action" for any portion of the Note that may become "non-qualified bonds," as

those terms are defined in the Code and regulations thereunder; and monitoring the RSU's compliance following the issuance of the Note with the arbitrage, yield restriction and rebate requirements of the Code and regulations thereunder; and that the Treasurer is designated to implement and follow these written procedures.

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

4. Motion to accept property/casualty insurance bid

Carl L. explained about the insurance bid. A couple months ago the property/casualty bid was put out to about 3 agencies, one being Maine School Management. We have been with Kyes for quite awhile and four other agencies. Only 2 actually bid....One was Kyes, which we've been with for many years. Maine School Management also provides school insurance. They make a pool of , like 145 districts and they can get a better rate because they pool some resources. Carl then referred to some papers from each company. Overall, the difference in bids was over \$18k. The deductibles were pretty much the same. Carl spoke a little more about the difference in the two companies and the locality. Tonight we need to decide if we want to go with a company we've been with for quite awhile or if we want to switch to Maine School Management and save roughly \$18-19k.

B. Ross: asked if now that the bids are in are you able to go back to Kyes and see if they can do anything better? Carl...I don't believe so. It's through Liberty Mutual and they printed out the bid. It would take awhile and I don't believe they will come back quickly for budget purposes with anything else. There's not a lot of places that offer school insurance. MSM will also do risk evaluation on all the buildings. They will do an appraisal every 3 years.

Pam: We go out to bid every 5 years..but if we do a year and we're unhappy that doesn't mean we have to stay.

C. Lueders- for the SY 2022-23 we accept the bid to change insurance companies to Maine School Management.

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

5. Second reading of Policy JLF Child Abuse Reporting Prevention and Education

Motion: T. Kelly

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

6. Second reading of Policy JLF-E Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect Report Form

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

7. Second reading of Policy JHB Truancy

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

- [illegible]

## OLD BUSINESS

- ## 1. COVID cases update (Pam Doyen)

We have had 3 staff members out over the past two weeks. No students have been reported as out with COVID

B. Ross: I'm just curious, I'm watching the numbers go from low to medium. If we go one step higher are we going to be reviewing things? Pam: Our current Return to Classroom Framework says we are going to follow CDC guidelines. The CDC guidance from areas that are reporting high is they are recommending mask indoor places. As long as the CDC guidance says recommended we would say recommended.

A. Varnum: Is Oxford County high? Reply: No, it's Yellow

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

*Superintendent's Report: Pam Doyen*

Teacher appreciation was last week ( wk of May 2nd) as well as kitchen staff appreciation. School nurse appreciation day is tomorrow (May 11th). Each of our schools were fortunate to have both in-district and out-of-district organizations show appreciation to our staff last week. Oxford County Federal Credit Union and Edge Nutrition are two that I am aware of. Additionally, the PTO at both DES and TWKDMS provided treats for the staff. The student council at DHS came in at 5:30 on Wednesday morning to cook breakfast for the high school staff. I personally and publicly want to state my appreciation for all of our RSU 56 employees. We are fortunate to have a great team of people to support the students in RSU 56. On Saturday evening, the Prom for DHS went well at Black Mtn. The students appeared to enjoy a traditional event without any COVID restrictions. (I don't want to say too much about it as it probably will make Joe's student report).

*Administrator's Report:* Nick Karavas (DHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director)

Very successful winter season overall:

DHS Events:

Nordic Ski- 10 events- Qualifying times all decreased for entire team

Cheering- 3 events- Many reschedules but were able to compete in State Competition

Wrestling- 14 events- Individuals went to state qualifier/New England qualifier- A very exciting year for them.

Girls Basketball- 21 events- Exhilarating year- Ended as 10-8 with a completed season

Boys Basketball- 27 events- Exciting year with comeback wins. Class C State Champions- Ended as 13-5

Both Girls & Boys Basketball were one of the few teams to complete the entire season

81 total scheduled events; 8 canceled

TWKDMS Events:

Nordic Ski- 6 events- Qualifying times decreased for entire team

Wrestling- 8 events- Amazing season for the entire team, Exciting year for all; Pine Tree State Champions!

Girls Basketball- 12 events- Great year for them and finished well

Boys Basketball- 11 events- Great year for them and finished well

Unified Basketball- 4 events- Amazing events of both Mountain Valley & Dirigo. Thank you to all of those that came out and supported. Incredible year overall and excited to look into bringing it to the high school next year.

Thank you to all of those that made the Winter Season come together and thank you to all of those who came and supported our athletes during the course of the season!

DHS Spring Season:

Track & Field: Haven't confirmed everything but looks like we have athletes who will break or have already broken school records.

Approximately 72 events across: Track & Field, Baseball, Softball, Boys/Girls Tennis

We have 68 athletes

TWKDMS: 28 events

Track & Field, Baseball & Softball- 72 Athletes

Thank you to everyone that has made an impact on the Spring season including staff, community members. The grounds look amazing and it's exciting to see so much support for our athletes.

This is the most participation in the last 5 years that I've been able to come up with.

B. Chow: asked how the AP position was going. Nick replied: it's going. He's extremely fortunate to have such a great mentor in Pam. He's also teaching 3 advanced math classes.

Student Rep: Joe responded that he teaching Pre Calc very well and has told the class they are actually a little ahead of schedule.

*Resignations/Retirements:*

Ann Mayo, Nutrition worker, resigned May 2, 2022

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Student Representative Report- The end of the year gets pretty busy. As Ms. Doyen mentioned last week was teacher appreciation week. Over the weekend was Prom. A little under 90 kids bought tickets for prom, 75% of them were Dirigo students and the others were invited from other schools. Both baseball and softball had a win last week. Tonight there is a tennis match away and both a baseball and softball game. Later this week is a track meet as well as a tennis match for both girls and boys. Friday is a baseball and softball. At the end of this week will be the last AP exams, so those classes will be wrapped up. Portfolios and Senior tri-folds are coming up soon. Next Monday is the student council and class representative votes. Tuesday is the Blood Drive hosted by NHS and the American Red Cross. May 20th there is a Debate trivia night for fundraising for the National Tournament.
2. Policy Committee- Will meet next meeting. A couple we need to do with law changes.
3. Finance Committee- Not met- Been very busy. Hopefully the budget will be approved and make yourselves visible to your community members if they have questions.
4. Curriculum Committee- Not met
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Not met- Everything is going well with the buildings, updating

our transportation. Hopefully everyone will get out and vote that we can add another new bus to our fleet improves and continues to improve our fleet. Not only does it keep our drivers safe, our students safe but it also keeps our budget in line so that we're not repairing old buses that become unsafe.

6. Negotiations Committee- Have approved 1 contract- Working with two other groups to make one contract and when it's complete we'll bring it to you.
7. Personnel Committee- Nothing new
8. Ad-hoc Committee (1st Thursday of each month)- Will meet this Thursday at 5:30 in the library

Pam: The Budget/Validation meeting on May 24th will be held here. If you choose to zoom in that night you will not be able to vote. People have to be present to vote. Board members & community members need to be aware of that.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

B. Chow- It's nice to vote in person.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned @ 7:22