

RSU 56 Board of Directors Minutes
Board Meeting Amended Agenda- August 23, 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, Liz Kelly, Angela Cushman, Tim Kelly, Larry Whittington, Marianne Young, Bruce Ross (left mtg @ 6:42), Natalie Sneller, Student Rep- Joe Conron (arrived-6:48)

School Board Members Absent: Konstantin Aslanidi, Deanna Dolloff

Staff Attending: Brian Keene, Pam Doyen, Jason Long, Cathy Arsenault, Earl Couture, Mary Dailey, Charlie Swan, Gena Cloutier, Michelle Araujo, Beth MacFarlane, Heidi Broomhall, Judy Horne, Stacey Gilbert

Also Attending: Nancy Carpenter, Charlotte Collins, Kathleen Sastick, Brian Sastick, Marianne Hutchinson

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Barbara Chow, Board Chair, opened the meeting at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Audience introductions were made. Everyone on zoom and Facebook live were welcomed.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

1. Motion to add the following:

VIII Superintendent Report and Correspondence;

Resignation of a Teacher, Reporting of Coaching Positions

Motion: L. Whittington

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the June 28, 2022 Board Meeting

Motion: A. Cushman

Seconded: D. Whittemore

N. Sneller- Not Voting

Motion Carried

2. Minutes of the August 9, 2022 Special Board Meeting

Motion: A. Cushman

Seconded: M. Young

Opposed: L. Whittington

Not Voting: N. Sneller

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Board members have received letters and a card from Efficiency Maine. Feel free to take yours. The RSU 56 Board members also received communication concerning the August 9, 2022 Special Board meeting decision, which I have forwarded to the full board.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of the RSU 56 School Board President
Motion: B. Ross made to nominate to elect Barbara Chow Board President
Seconded: A. Cushman B. Chow Not Voting
Motion Carried
B. Ross made a motion to cess nominations Seconded: D. Whittemore
B. Chow Not Voting Motion Carried
2. Election of the RSU 56 School Board Vice President
Motion: A. Cushman made a motion to nominate Bruce Ross- Vice President
Seconded: M. Young B. Ross-Not Voting
Motion Carried
M. Young made a motion to cess nominations Seconded: A. Cushman
B. Ross -Not Voting Motion Carried
3. Committee Assignments
Finance is pretty much set. A. Cushman may have Deanna Dolloff do Finance
Policy need two more
Buildings & Grounds- All set
Personnel- Could use more on this committee. They do job descriptions and interviews. Any board member that is available can do interviews.
Negotiations- Down one board member. There are no negotiations scheduled for this year.
Curriculum- Could use one or two more
Email Barbara or Pam to which committees the members would like to be on
Natalie commented that all committee meetings are public except for negotiations and any board member can attend any committee meeting even if they're not technically on that committee.
4. Motion to approve the written response to the challenged material appeal
Motion: D. Whittemore Seconded: N. Sneller
Opposed: L. Whittington
Motion Carried
5. Motion to declare a board vacancy per Policy BBBDA
Barbara explained the policy.
When a member must be absent from a regular meeting of the School Board for any reason, that member shall contact the Board Chair or Superintendent, if the Chair must be absent, he/she shall contact the Vice Chair. The minutes of each meeting shall reflect the names of the members present, those absent.

The Board shall take the following action when a member is absent without cause.

- A. After two consecutive unreported absences from regular meetings, the member shall be notified in writing by the Board informing him/her that a third consecutive unexcused absence from a regular meeting will constitute cause for the Board to consider declaring his/her seat on the Board vacant.
- B. After three consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings, the Board shall notify said member in writing that the Board will consider declaring his/her seat vacant at the next regular meeting of the Board or at a meeting called for the purpose of considering this matter.
- C. At the meeting where the declaration of a vacancy, in accordance with this policy, is being considered, the Board member who is subject of the action shall be provided the opportunity to present his/her reasons why the Board should not declare a vacancy.
- D. Following the deliberation outlined in sections B and C of this policy, the Board shall vote whether or not to declare a vacancy.
- E. Should a vacancy be declared in accordance with this policy, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the appropriate provisions of MRSA Title 20-A.

Angela Cushman made a comment to the residents of Peru, if anyone is interested in being on the board please let the town office know and they can make a decision on if they would let that person come on now or wait until elections in November.

Motion: A. Cushman

Seconded: M. Young

Motion Carried

6. Motion to approve the 2022-23 DHS Comprehensive Emergency Plan

Motion: A. Cushman

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

Pam commented that she, Charlie and Jason have met on these plans. They updated any people who have changed positions. They also went to instead of doing hard copy plans, doing electronic copy plans to everyone because that's easier for the police and everyone to have electronic copies. Those are the big changes that we had.

7. Motion to approve the 2022-23 TWKDMS Comprehensive Emergency Plan

Motion: M. Young

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

8. Motion to approve the 2022-23 DES Comprehensive Emergency Plan

Motion: A. Cushman

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

This summer the Business Office moved from the main office in the high school to the former guidance office rooms in the high school. Cathy Arsenault and I really like our new space.

The auditors did their usual preliminary audit work for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 in May. Two auditors came to the district for two days. The rest of the audit will take place remotely the last week in October. If there are documents that the auditors need to see, I will upload them to the Runyon Kersteen and Ouellette secure portal. The audit should be complete by the end of December.

As for an update on COVID funding, the district has not received any additional funding beyond ESSERF 3. The deadline for expending ESSERF 1 is September 30, 2022 and it has all been spent or encumbered at this point in time. ESSERF 2 can be used until September 30, 2023 and ESSERF 3 until September 30, 2024.

As you know, the district went out to bid for property and casualty insurance last spring. Maine School Management Association was awarded the bid as low bidder. I attended a MSMA training but have not had to submit a claim yet.

The accounting software used by the business office still has to be upgraded. In addition to looking further into the conversion process through Tyler Technologies, Brian, Cathy and I will be having demonstrations from two other companies who provide accounting software to schools in Maine.

Last week Kenny and I submitted an application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency to be entered into a lottery to receive funds to purchase two electric school buses. If RSU 56 is selected, there will also be funds available for a charging station. However, the district will probably not receive enough to completely pay for the charging station. The district will be notified in October of 2022 if we have been selected to receive any funding. Then we have until October of 2024 to purchase the buses and get them on the road. The district does have the option of refusing the money. Kenny will be doing more research and he will be reporting out at the next board meeting if you have any questions for him. Barbara asked about positions that are paid for with ESSER money, what year they would be finished. Mary replied they would be done in 2024.

Barbara also asked how much are electric buses? Mary replied that Kenny is going to do some more research but from what they have heard and the webinars they attended they are about \$345,000. The lottery that they have entered would give up to \$370,000 per bus, so the bus would be covered. They give up to \$20,000 for the charging station. Barbara asked how much for the charging station? They are estimated at \$60,000. If we get two buses, we'd get \$40,000 but there's a lot that Kenny needs to look into yet, if it's even viable here in the cold weather. The application deadline was August 19th and the state was pushing all districts to apply.

Carl L. did a little calculation on the price of fuel for the regular buses we currently have.

New Hires:

Dana Howe- Bus driver/custodian

Stipended and Coaching Positions:

Abby Wood- TWKDMS Faculty Leader

Yami Hamalainen- Early Act Advisor at TWKDMS

Rebecca Fletcher- Cougar Paw, Grades 9 & 10

DHS Football Varsity Coach- Craig Collins
DHS Football JV Coach- Kelly Wells
DHS Football Assistant Coach- Chris Whitney
DHS Golf Varsity Coach- Chandler Redmond
DHS Cross Country Varsity Coach- Gunnar Bradbury
DHS Girls Soccer Varsity Coach- Chris Araujo
DHS Boys Soccer Varsity Coach- Josh Wilcox

Resignations/Retirements:

Katelyn Gervais, Teacher at DES

Transfers:

Beth MacFarlane- From DES to DHS math/science teacher

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Student Representative Report- Joe Conron- Football scrimmage on Sat. against Spruce at Spruce. We did well. A lot of other fall sports are starting up. Sunday we had the car show hosted by the senior class. We had a record turnout for cars entering in the show. We also had a craft fair and snack shack running during that time. Later that night we had a football versus field hockey fundraising event. We did 2 halves with field hockey and 2 halves with football, with football taking the lead. Everyone is getting ready for the school year to start and getting used to pre-season conditioning. Pam made one comment...Just for the record at the end of the first half, so two quarters of field hockey, the field hockey girls were up 3-0. They did end up losing overall after they played two halves of football 6-5. It was a very fun fundraiser. The car show was a great success.
2. Policy Committee- Not met. One policy with medication that needs to be worked on. Waiting on the legislature
3. Finance Committee- Not met. Everything seems to be good.
4. Curriculum Committee- Not met
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Bruce is absent. Pam commented that Kenny will be speaking at the next meeting
6. Negotiations Committee- Nothing
7. Personnel Committee- Nothing new
8. Ad-hoc Committee (1st Thursday of each month)- Nothing new. Jason will wait until Oct to start

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

A. Cushman asked how we were with staffing.

Pam commented that we are fully staffed at the high school and the middle school. Mr Swan is doing some last minute finangling to get staffed at the elementary school. We are finishing up with two positions, one as a resignation and one was a transfer to the high school. He has good plans for both of them and hopefully by the next board meeting we will have that for you. We are fully staffed bus driver/ custodian and nutrition.

A. Cushman commented that to have a full staff is amazing. Many schools across the country are looking at four day weeks because they are so short staffed. That's amazing for RSU 56.

Barbara Chow commented, like Pam mentioned, we have an excellent staff. They come here because we have excellent administrator's, we have great kids. We need to reiterate that, as I always say on public comments, not to speak about people. We did have one alumni student speak and he was harassed for speaking out. We need to make sure we respect and we treat people with dignity, and the kids pick up on this. We need to remember, with a new school year, I want the kids to know I'm there for them and the staff. I listen to everyone and I think the board as a whole did listen to everyone respectfully. It didn't mean we agree, we agree to disagree.

Joe Conron- It is extremely important that the board respect each and everyone of our students that attend Dirigo, no matter what. If they're a student at Dirigo they need to be respected so that respect may be returned.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: M. Young

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm