

**RSU 56 Board of Directors Minutes**  
**Board Meeting Amended Agenda- September 13, 2022- 6:30 pm**  
**(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, Bruce Ross, Tim Kelly, Elizabeth Kelly, Carl Lueders, Don Whittemore, Larry Whittington, Marianne Young, Deanna Dolloff, Joe Conron (Student rep)

School Board Members Absent: Natalie Sneller, Angela Cushman, Peru Vacancy

Staff Attending: Pam Doyen, Brian Keene, Cathy Arsenault, Kenny Robbins, Charlie Swan, Judy Horne, Gena Cloutier, Heidi Broomhall, Stacey Gilbert

Also Attending: 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:

VI New Business;

Review RSU 56 Mission, Vision and Goals

VIII Superintendent Report and Correspondence;

Co-Advisors for the Class of 2026

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: L. Whittington

Motion Carried

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the August 23, 2022 Board Meeting

Motion: M. Young

Seconded: D. Whittemore

B. Ross- Not Voting

Motion Carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**COMMUNICATIONS**

No new communications

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Review RSU 56 Mission, Vision and Goals**

Pam felt it important to review the Mission, Vision and Goals each year. She wanted to get them out in front of the board to go over and see what the long term goals are.

Pam explained how the mission, vision and goals were developed. When RSU 56 was formed an outside consultant was brought in and had several meetings. Then a number of people were gathered from the staff, community members, students and worked on forming the mission, vision and goals.

Barbara asked what the board would like to do.

B. Ross suggested reviewing all the goals and going over it at the next meeting.

Pam suggested, when looking over the goals and wanting information, to send her an email over the next couple of weeks so she can compile the information and data.

B. Ross suggested having a list of what the acronyms stand for.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Review of Board Committee's for 2022-2023**

Barbara went over the list of Board committee's and asked board members to join a committee if they were not already on one. She mentioned that finance they like to have a board member from each town represented. Liz Kelly was added to Personnel & Policy

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

*Superintendent's Report:* Pam Doyen

When you hear Kenny's report, you will hear about the water heater at Dirigo Elementary School. It failed and needed to be replaced. I designated \$24,317 in fund balance to cover the cost of replacing the water heater at DES.

The administrative team met this afternoon. We discussed storm days this year. The plan is to call regular storm days for the first 4 storms and then consider remote learning for additional storm days, providing there is power. This would provide some level of predictability for families, while also keeping the last day of school at a reasonable time ( hopefully no later than June 16th).

B. Ross questioned why not having the 1st or 2nd storm days as remote learning.

Pam explained that is why they only planned 4 days, it would still give a buffer. It is more difficult for DES students to have remote learning days than the middle school and high school.

*Administrator's Report:* Kenny Robbins, BGT

Kenny went over all items that were taken care of over the summer and the past few months:

DES:

AC/ Heat Unit- will help with some of the classrooms that are not very warm

Pre K Shade

Hot Water Boiler- As Pam mentioned earlier, the Hot water boiler had to be replaced. It was first just leaking and then was completely running a stream of water out of it.

Gym Floor

Reseed/Deep Tine Fields

### DMS:

Replaced Band Room Carpet

Replaced Home Ed/ Floor Tile

Gym Floor

Cooler/Freezer- Should be replaced over Christmas vacation

Fire Alarms Installed-some of the classrooms were reconfigured so fire alarms needed to be installed

Reseed/ Deep Tine

### DHS:

New Boiler

Pone Boiler- This will allow us to shut the big boiler down over the summer to help save money

Painted SCC

Gym Floor

SCC A/C

Entrance Pavers- the pavers were getting to be a hazard- Roger White came and fixed them, added a Cougar in them. Looks really nice

Hallway Painted

### Transportation

Maintenance on Buses

State Police Inspection- Inspected all the buses

Clean

Paint

Grounds Equipment

### Grounds

Repair Dug Outs

Playground Chips- Irving donated & delivered the chips to DES

Releveled Pre K Play Ground

Outdoor Basketball Court

Summer School- Ran a lot with buses / vans to DES

All Roofs Inspected

Lead Free- State requires to test water. Barbara asked if the faucet outside the Booster Shack has been tested? She said the football team uses it for their coolers. Kenny said he would look into it. DES didn't pass but it has since been corrected. Some faucets at the middle school that have been corrected. Once all that is done they check for chemicals. Also then the state will come in and test for radon.

Controls at DHS - Maine Power Ops

State Class in Windham- Kenny said it was very beneficial and informative

Electric Bus Application- The application has been put in. It is good for 3 years. The cost per bus will be between \$300k-\$350k to buy. The charging stations will be between \$20k-\$50k each. Each bus would need one. Replacement batteries are about \$150k.

No Hope Association- The federal funding has been cut for Hope Assoc. so they couldn't be used as in the past. It's too bad that happened and it made more work for our ground crews.

New Bus- Should arrive sometime in Oct

Bus Garage- On hold for right now. In talking to the architect the money we have put aside for it will not be enough. Still working on the designing of the building. Main-Land is working on the surveys.

Radio Satellite- The radios on the buses have a lot of dead spots and everyone, even people with scanners can hear everything. The satellites would work everywhere and also Kenny would be able to see where the buses are at all times. It would be through Yankee Radio. There is a cost and a monthly cost

Building Inspections

Propane Heat- Wondering if it is time to switch over to propane heat with the rising cost of heating oil.

Bleachers Inspections- Hussey Bleachers came and checked the bleachers at Harlow- They are getting so they don't like to do inspections on wooden bleachers. They did measurements to possibly replace the bleachers with aluminum seats or all aluminum bleachers. It is beginning to be a liability. The town of Dixfield would be responsible for half the cost. They also checked the bleachers in the gym at the high school to be sure that the ones who put them in did them all correctly. They were fine.

Three buses out to bid:

Bus #16 2007- 244,557 miles 66 passenger- Been ok for a new one from the state to replace this

Bus #15 2004- 190,580 miles 84 passenger

Bus #7 2004- 208,155 miles 84 passenger

The board agreed for Kenny to put these buses out to bid

Barbara Chow asked about new doors for DHS- Kenny explained that some of the projects came in over budget so the money for the new doors is not there right now.

Carl Lueders asked if water softener was possibly the reason the water heater went. Kenny said he didn't feel that was the problem.

Bruce Ross- Surprised that the water heater was only 12 years old and had to be replaced. Kenny said he felt the same. He said it was completely rusted. Also mentioned with the new Bus Garage, presume that the wiring will be pretty extensive for the possibility of electric buses. Kenny said he understands that the buses are only good for about 120 miles per charge. He did a calculation on the mileage of a bus during the lifetime at the price of diesel fuel. It is about \$145K for diesel...it's difficult to say how much the electricity would cost.

Bruce asked if we have or will we send Irving a Thank you for the chips. Kenny said he would send one.

*Reporting of New Hires:*

Jen Barlow, Special Education Ed- Tech III

*Stipended and Coaching Positions:*

Charity Webster and Heather Bishop, Co-Advisors for the Class of 2026

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Student Representative Report- Joe Conron, Off to a good start to the school year. Scheduling the first few days was a little chaotic but that has mostly been all straightened out. The theme for Homecoming is Board Games- Seniors will be Candyland, not sure on the other classes. New this year Freshman, Sophomores & Juniors have a mandatory activity period every Thursday. Chess club has been meeting, they do some during activity periods. Sports are going well. Football team

won the game Friday night against OOB 26-20; will travel to Traip for a Saturday game; Golf was scheduled for a match today @ Oakdale, not sure if they had it with the weather; Field Hockey beat Telstar on Monday, Wednesday the Field Hockey team is home against Hall-Dale.

2. Policy Committee- Will meet Oct 3rd. Will go over the Cell phone policy along with 4 other policies that the law has changed some that were changed last year per an email Barbara received from MSMA. Barbara would like to have a discussion at the board level regarding the policy around Public comments.
3. Finance Committee- Not met
4. Curriculum Committee- Will meet Sept 27
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Not met with Kenny has reported out what has been happening in the district.
6. Negotiations Committee- Not meeting
7. Personnel Committee- N/A
8. Ad-hoc Committee (1st Thursday of each month)- Will meet Oct 6

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Liz Kelly- Would like to Thank Jason Long for inviting the board to the open house at DMS. She missed it but did go by and see the cars all the way out to the road.

Barbara said she did hear that about 80% of parents did attend.

Barbara Chow - Thank you to Kenny & the crews for all the work.

Bruce Ross- Wanted to agree with Barbara and Thank Kenny and the crew for all the hard work in keeping the buildings in great shape. Transportation is in really good shape also.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm