

RSU 56 Board of Directors Minutes
Board Meeting Amended Agenda- October 25, 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, Liz Kelly, Bruce Ross, Larry Whittington, Deanna Dolloff, Don Whittemore, Natalie Sneller, Joe Conron (Student Rep)

School Board Members Absent: Marianne Young, Carl Lueders, Tim Kelly, Angela Cushman, Vacancy (Peru)

Staff Attending: Pam Doyen, Brian Keene, Mary Dailey, Jason Long, Charlie Swan, Kristin Arsenault, Sonia Arsenault,

Also Attending: Tricia Benson, Amanda Archer, Sophia Archer, Shelley Bronish, Lynn Belskis, Scott Belskis, Micky Dyer, Sherman Bradeen, Sheila Weld, Bruce Weld, Bonnie McKenna, Tyler McDonald, Pamela ?,

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Motion to add the following:

VII Supt. Report: Resignation of an Ed-Tech

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the October 11, 2022 Board Meeting

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: L. Whittington

Bruce asked if the board was going to address the other two policies that the minutes say there will be a first reading tonight (cell phone & administering meds.)

Barbara responded that those two policies will be discussed at the next policy meeting and brought back to the board for a first reading at another time after the policy meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Bonnie McKenna- Spoke in regards to the bathroom issues. She had multiple questions. Who makes the decisions about renovating the bathrooms? Do the taxpayers get to vote on this? Who is paying for this? Is the money coming from OutMaine? She feels the gender neutral bathroom is the right thing for many reasons. According to her understanding, the law prohibits anyone from specifying which bathroom they use. They can use whichever bathroom they would like. Every person in the school deserves their privacy. She would like to see blueprints of what the renovations will look like. How many stalls, how many toilets & sinks based on capacity? If we do this for the bathrooms, then what about the locker rooms? There are so many things that can go wrong. You are not helping a transgender person by allowing them to go into a bathroom that they do not belong in. They will be bullied, they will be made fun of. When would the renovation start? Hopefully we'll have some answers next time.

Also brought up the question as to whether the board is going to take away cell phone use from the students. She is opposed to this. They need and deserve to have it. Need to go back to holding students accountable, not punish all students who are using them inappropriately. We have so many policies but we have no rules. I don't feel the reason the phones are being taken away is the reason that is being presented. If the phones do get banned and you ask a student to pass it over and that student refuses, what are you going to do? Are they going to be searched?

2. Scott Belskis- Is there a packet for curriculum that guides teachers? Barbara stated it was online and could be looked at.

At the first assembly some comments were made. Barbara told him he could not talk about specific people.

This has been a legal debate? Is that what I'm understanding? Barbara told him that anyone who identifies as a transgender, we cannot tell them what bathroom they have to use. That is the law, it is not something we made up.

The cell phone issue. I agree that the students phone should be set aside in a box but I also feel the teacher should not have theirs out as well.

COMMUNICATIONS

No new communications

NEW BUSINESS

1. MIYHS Overview (Jason Long)

Jason Long did a presentation on **MIYHS -Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey Overview- District Goals- Population Info- Differences from State**

Overview:

What is the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey?

The Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS) was first administered in 2009 and will be offered in February of odd-numbered years.

The MIYHS is the result of collaboration between the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Department of Education.

Its purpose is to quantify the health of Kindergarten and Grade 3 students through parent interviews, and the health-related behaviors and attitudes of 5th through 12th graders by direct student survey.

Letters are sent home in advance to the families of all eligible students.

District Goals:

From June 2018 RSU 56 Vision/Mission Objectives using MIYHS data

By the next MIYHS data point, 90% of students report that they feel [safe](#) at school.

Mission/Vision short term objective, June 2018

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I feel safe at my school."

Grades	Dirigo '21	Dirigo '19	Dirigo '17	ME '21	ME '19	ME '17
5-6	93.9%	81.0%	**	91.9%	90.7%	92%
7-8	93.0%	85.9%	89.9%	87.7%	86.5%	89.0%
9-12	90.7%	87.8%	76.0%	88.3%	86.2%	88.9%

Answered Agree or Strongly Agree

By 2024, 90% of students will report that their school and community [cares](#) about them as

evidenced on the MIYHS survey. Mission/Vision long term objective, June 2018

Do you agree or disagree that at least one of your teachers really cares and gives you help and support when you need it?

Grades	Dirigo '21	Dirigo '19	Dirigo '17	ME '21	ME '19	ME '17
5-6	92.5%	65.10%	71.4%	83.7%	83.2%	84.4%
7-8	81.9%	74.1%	78.6%	71.7%	75.1%	76.5%
9-12	78.9%	81.3%	74.6%	73.4%	80.5%	81.5%

Answered Agree or Strongly Agree

Do you agree or disagree that in your community you feel like you matter to people?

Grade	Dirigo '21	Dirigo '19	Dirigo '17	ME '21	ME '19	ME '17
5-6	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
7-8	52.3%	48.6%	58.1%	54.8%	59.4%	62.6%
9-12	52.6%	53.5%	44.8%	51.5%	56.6%	57.3%

Answered Agree or Strongly Agree

Progress despite the state trend, but we have more work to do.

Population Info:

2021 MIYHS Demographic Information about Dirigo High School

The following questions are from the 9-12 level of the survey

10 examples comparing DHS with the State

Q#	9-12 Student Response	Dirigo	Maine
3	Students who reported Body Mass Index at or above the 85th percentile (Overweight or Obese)	39.6%	30.9%
5	Students who reported that a language other than "English" is spoken most often at home	2.6%	4.6%
6	Students who reported they were "best described" as "Gay or lesbian", "Bisexual", or "some other way"	17.2%	21.2%
10	Students who reported that they experienced "forced sexual contact" in their lifetime	18.2%	14.2%
12	Students who reported to have experienced violence or threat of violence at home that made them want to leave	19.4%	20.5%
13	Students who reported to have been bullied at school in the past 12 months	15.9%	23.4%
15	Students who reported to have experienced offensive racial comments or attacks at school	8.1%	8.3%
19	Students who reported to have considered attempting suicide in the past 12 months	19.2%	18.5%
44	Students who reported to have lived with an adult who had a problem with alcohol or drugs	47.2%	32.8%
69	Students who reported to have 4 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences	35.0%	24.5%

Different from ME:

2021 MIYHS RSU 56 data that is significantly different from State data

DHS students are pretty typical of Maine students, except for.....

- **Vaping, Marijuana and Alcohol**

- Attitudes about Substance Use
- Less Healthy Eating Habits

Vaping, Marijuana and Alcohol

Q#	9-12 Student Response	Dirigo	Maine
21	Have you ever used a vape?	42.8%	31.7%
22	Vaping, past 30 days?	25.8%	17.4%
24	Alcohol use before 13?	17.1%	11.1%
35	Marijuana use before 13?	14.9%	5.7%

21.5% of Dirigo 7-8 students report to have tried a vape vs. 105% statewide, and only 87.3% of Dirigo 5-6 students report that they “definitely will not” try tobacco in the next year vs. 94.2% statewide.

Attitude about Substance Use

Q#	9-12 Student Response	Dirigo	Maine
31	Believe there is “no” or “slight risk” from daily moderate alcohol use	46.4%	37.7%
38	Believe there is “no” or “slight risk” from weekly marijuana use	74.7%	65.1%

Less Healthy Eating Habits

Q#	9-12 Student Response	Dirigo	Maine
47	Eat less than 1 daily serving of fruit	60.3%	41.9%
49	Eat less than 1 daily serving of vegetables	69.5%	56.6%

Similar significant differences in fruit and vegetable consumption was reported at the 7-8 and 5-6 levels. On a positive note, Dirigo students in the 7-8 grades reported significantly higher levels of physical activity.

Dirigo students are generally typical of Maine students, but significantly more of them are impacted by substance issues. Thankfully, they feel safe in school and know that they have teachers who care.

L. Kelly- asked if the question regarding exposure to alcohol does it include someone that might be in recovery or just that the child has been exposed? Jason said he wasn’t sure of that.

L. Kelly also mentioned that at the high school they have 55 minutes for lunch and a lot of students go to Ellis to get pizza and such rather than eat the school lunch.

Pam stated the extended lunch for high school started during the pandemic as well as research that shows that students needed a mental break in the middle of the day.

Jason stated that in regards to fruit and vegetable consumption regardless of grade level: 5-6, 7-8 or 9-12 the Dirigo schools had far less consumption than the state average on a daily basis.

N. Sneller- Is there a regional analysis of this? As of right now, there is nothing county wise.

Now that we’ve dissected the data, what is the next step? Jason replied: When it comes to the two school goals: when it comes to safety I think we continue the path we’re on and try to maintain those levels or approve on them. When it comes to staff & community I think we need to proactively engage the community. For some of the other things, I think it means we continue with the social work services we have in the buildings.

J. Conron- With the data in regards to substance abuse- Did you see any changes from past surveys? Having studied the data and previous presentations, I believe it has consistently been an issue for students in our district. J. Conron- When looking at the surveys in 2019-2021 are

Some people in the audience spoke on the issues.

2. Second Reading of Policy AC- Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
Motion: B. Ross Seconded: L. Whittington
Motion Carried
3. Second Reading of Policy ACAA- Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
Motion: L. Whittington Seconded: D. Whittemore
Motion Carried

4. Second Reading of Policy ACAA-R- Student Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

5. Second Reading of Policy ACAB- Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: L. Whittington

Motion Carried

6. Second Reading of Policy GBN- Family and Medical Leave

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

7. Second Reading of Policy GCFB- Recruiting and Hiring of Administrative Staff

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

8. Review of MSBA Resolutions

Barbara went over the MSBA Resolutions from the MSBA Zoom Meeting

Resolutions that were reviewed; no action recommended

1. Staff Use of Social Media
2. Role of Maine Department of Education
3. Professional Staff Development
4. Vouchers and Education Savings Account
5. Administrative Skills
6. Student Visas for Public Schools

Revisions

1. Administration of Medication
2. State Assessments
3. Legislative Mandates
4. Scheduling of Career and Technical Education Programs
5. Alternative Certification
6. Teacher Preparation Programs

New- Proposed 2022

1. School Board Meeting Public Comment Period
2. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
3. Free-Reduced Lunch Qualifications
4. Funding of the Universal School Meals Act of 2021
5. Social Security: Repeal of Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision

9. Motion to approve a revolving renovations application

Pam explained some of the concerns regarding the bathroom situation. She spoke with the GTSA group here at the high school about this concern. A lot of the students prefer using the gender neutral bathrooms due to the privacy. The law states they can use whatever bathroom they want. The best route would be to have single use bathrooms if at all possible, per the attorney. It will be complicated to make the current bathrooms meet those specifications. She and Kenny met with an outside architect to see what it would take at Dirigo HS to make it happen. It is not in the current budget nor is it something that would be brought to the board to come up with money at this time. Currently, have a quote from the architect for the “group” bathrooms upstairs and down of just over \$211,000. Taking what we have for stalls now and making them private single stalls. If the board is interested in pursuing it, it would be a revolving renovation grant. The application would go to the state, the state would need to approve it and before we got the money it would need to go out to the towns for a referendum vote. She wanted to publicly say that the students who this impacts the most in the GTSA group have been very gracious. They said that they would use the gender neutral bathroom and there is a backup plan if they are busy while trying to figure this all out. Thank you to them. It’s complicated. We need to figure out how we move forward. Notification of getting the grant wouldn’t happen till spring so the work would not begin until summer. Pam expressed that legally we cannot tell anyone that they have to use a specific bathroom. She is hoping we can work through this so that everyone feels comfortable. There was board discussion regarding this issue and motion. If the board chooses to move forward with the application, that would be applied for. If the district were to get the revolving renovation then it would go to the four towns for a referendum vote in June. Natalie Sneller made a motion to approve submitting an application for the revolving renovations loan/grant. Seconded: L. Whittington Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent’s Report: Pam Doyen

Last week Pam went to Wisconsin for the Advancement of Rural Education. It was an outstanding conference. There was a lot of good content. It ranged from across the nation how to deal with the teacher shortage to increase diversity in rural schools by supporting the exchange student program. The time was very well spent and she appreciated the conference being paid for by the Western Maine Education Collaborative.

The auditors will be working with us, predominantly Mary, next week. The start of the audit that is completed each year on the school budget.

Barbara was planning on attending the annual MSBA conference. She is going on Thursday but no longer available to go on Friday. Due to the extenuating circumstances they will allow us to sub someone else in so if anyone would be available to go on Friday please let Pam know. It would be greatly appreciated if someone from the board could go.

Administrator's Report: Jason Long

TWKDirigo Middle School- Fall 2022 Building Report

Enrollment Update:

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Total
Enrollment	52	56	65	173

Since July 1st, TWKDMS has had 12 students withdraw/move and 15 students enroll. Enrollment is steady, although the exiting 8th grade is larger than the entering 5th grade by 8 students.

Attendance Data:

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Total
	F22/F21/F20	F22/F21/F20	F22/F21/F20	F22/F21/F20
Tuant, Paused or Resolved	0/0/4	0/0/4	0/0/4	0/0/12
Tuant, Active	0/0/1	0/0/0	1/0/0	1/0/1
Warning, Improved or Resolved	0/1/6	0/2/6	1/2/7	1/5/19

Currently, TWKDMS has 1 truancy cases and 1 student received A warning. However, 36 students appear on track to be recorded as chronically absent with at least 4 excused absences.

Course Completion Data

Summer	Criteria	Eligible	DNC
Summer 2020	Students needing to recover a T3 grade in ELA, Math, Science or Social Studies	23	6
Summer 2021	Students needing to recover a T1, T2, or T3 grade in ELA, Math, Science or Social Studies	54	5
Summer 2022	Students needing to recover a T1, T2 or T3 grade in ANY class at TWKDMS	34	3
Summer 2023	Students needing to recover a T1, T2 or T3 grade OR standard in ANY class at TWKDMS	?	?

Academic Response to Interventions (Rtl) @ TWKDMS

Tier One: Schoolwide and classroom level

Eligibility: Schools-de bi-weekly eligibility checks with incentives (such as dances)

Universal screening assessments with NWEA and EasyCBM Grade Level Benchmark assessments

Tier Two: Additional regular education support

Tutoring is available outside of the school day

45 minutes DAILY for all students via small Rtl groups across grade 6

ELA and Math interventionist working with students identified using assessment data

Tier Three: Highly specialized

Alternative Education Program (11 students enrolled)

Improvements in special education scheduling, progress monitoring, and professional development

Fall NWEA preliminary results: MATH

School Achievement: Math K-12

MATH	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	State "Meets" Range Spring
Grade 6	209.6	204.9	206.2	205.41-240.35
Grade 7	210.7	213.3	209.6	208.13-245.33
Grade 8	213.6	218.8	219.1	210.35-245.33

TWKDMS EasyCBM Math Risk Fall 2022

Among high risk students tested, 21% (8) have an IEP and 79% (30) do not, and as a cohort the 6th grade has the most High Risk students

Fall NWEA preliminary results: ELA

School Achievement: Reading

ELA	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	State "Meets" Range Spring
Grade 6	208.4	208	205.4	199.33-231.39
Grade 7	209.2	213.1	208.6	201.98-234.74
Grade 8	213.8	214.2	216.7	204.79-238.53

Jason was hoping to present the spring NWEA results but the state hasn't released the spring data results at this time.

TWKDMS EasyCBM ELA Risk Fall 2022

Among high risk students tested, 14% (3) have an IEP and 86% (19) do not, and as a cohort the 6th grade has the most High Risk students

Fall SWIS preliminary data: Ave Referrals Per Day

12 students are currently on a Tier Two CICO Plan, twice as many as last year this time.

Fall SWIS preliminary data: Ave Referrals Per Student

13 students (less than 8% of school) are responsible for 65% of all referrals

Fall Clubs & Activities

Student Council	Yearbook
Speech & Debate	8th Grade Class Helpers
Early Act Club (Rotary)	Drama Club
Civil Rights Team	Technology Club
Positive Cougar Club (RVHCC)	Field Hockey
Chorus	Cross Country
Band	Boys Soccer
Craft Club (unofficial)	Girls Soccer

School Events

Orientation and Activity Fair
 Open House (85% present)
 Student Council Elections
 Alt. Ed & Region 9 at Bryant Pond
 Coordinated ALICE Drill
 State of Maine Mock Election
 Spirit Week (this week)

Upcoming

Autumn Dance
 Scholastic Book Fair
 Baker's Bingo
 PTO/Booster Clothing Fundraiser
 Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - In-person 11/03
 - Via Zoom 11/07
 - Sign Ups ONLINE
 River Valley Rising Presentation

Veterans' Luncheon and Assembly

22-23 TWKDMS School Goals

Improve academic performance in reading and math by at least 5% as measured by the Spring NWEA (fall-to-spring)

Improve positive indicators of school climate and student engagement by at least 5% as measured by student behavior data (SWIS, fall-to-spring)

Improve academic progress in reading and math for struggling students by at least a half-grade as measured by EasyCBM (fall-to-spring)

22-23 TWKDMS Professional Development Priorities

Rigor = Deeper Learning (not just more work and harder)

Relationships = Pedagogically Centered Strategies (not just more caring and nicer)

Rtl = Prevention and Intervention Across Tiers (not just more help and time to complete the same assignments)

22-23 TWKDMS Professional Development Activities

Combined PD on Deeper Learning with DHS staff (15 sessions)

School Committees on Family Engagement, PBIS/SST, and Staff Wellness (9 sessions)

Published school assessment calendar and School Data Committee focusing on Academic Tier II (9 sessions)

Resignations/Retirements:

Brittany Wardwell, Spec Ed Ed-Tech III at DES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Student Representative Report-Joe reported that the high school cross country team is sending 3 athletes to the state championship. Field hockey has a home game on Thursday which is quarter finals of the playoffs. Football has an away semi final game against Maranacook on Friday. On Monday there is a Halloween costume contest put on by the student council. Last week we had NWEA tests for some grades.
2. Policy Committee- Meeting Nov 8th prior to board meeting. Nurses put in the recommendations on the medicine policy. Barbara had a staff member that wants to discuss the cell phone policy because she uses it a lot for education.
3. Finance Committee- Not met. Carl not attending. Mary said she would work with Carl to meet as the auditors come and go. There are going to be 2 bid openings on Thursday Nov 3rd at 1pm. One bid opening for the bank proposal on the new bus. Thurs Nov 10th there'll be 3 bid openings on the buses being sold. The ad went in the Rumford Falls Times and they are to see Kenny if they want to see a bus. The auditors are remote.
4. Curriculum Committee- Not met
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Not met
6. Negotiations Committee-Nothing
7. Personnel Committee- Tues. Nov. 1st @ 6:30pm in DHS Library. One job description to discuss. Natalie said it would be good to meet as a group to talk about roles and responsibilities of the personnel committee.
8. Ad-hoc Committee- After some discussion, the meeting was today October 25th. Larry went over the survey and adjusted it so it's more user friendly and gave a lot of information.

BOARD COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: N. Sneller

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 9:44pm