

RSU 56 Board of Directors Minutes
Board Meeting Amended Agenda- November 22, 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: Bruce Ross, Don Whittemore, Larry Whittington, Elizabeth Kelly, Tom Kelly, Deanna Dolloff, Angela Cushman, Carl Lueders, Marianne Young, Natalie Sneller

School Board Members Absent: Barbara Chow, Vacancy (Peru), Joe Conron (Student Rep)

Staff Attending: Pam Doyen, Jared Hodgkins, Cathy Arsenault, Jay Nicholson, Nick Karavas, Gena Cloutier, Heidi Broomhall, Kelly Porter, Shawn Murphy, Andrea Palmer

Also Attending: Marianne Hutchinson, Sue Brennan

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Motion to add the following:

VI New Business #5 Substitute Rates for 2023-23: Requests for overnight trips

VII Supt. Report: Reporting the retirement of Brad Conant

Motion: T. Kelly **Seconded:** D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the November 8, 2022 Board Meeting

Motion: L. Kelly Seconded: T. Kelly

Not Voting: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

No new communications

NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on the Adult Ed Program at Region 9 (Sue Brennan)
Sue spoke on the Adult Ed - July 1- Sept 30 approx **16-20 year old students**:
Dixfield: 2, Rumford: 6, Mexico: 3

Total Enrollment: Andover: 2, Canton: 1, Dixfield: 6, Lewiston: 2, Mexico: 7, Newry: 1, Peru: 3, Rumford: 17

Enrollment by Program:

ML (Multi Lingual Learner “ML”): 1, College Transitions: 5, HiSET: 37, Welding: 5, Crochet: 10, Estate Planning: 17, Fiction Writing: 4, Quilting: 8, Card Making: 12, Medicare & You: 5, Yoga: 16, Substitute Teacher Training: 4 (8 enrolled), next class is Dec 15 (5-7:30)

Statewide AE News:

7 AE College Success Coordinators place on each of the 7 Community Colleges Job in a nutshell: To help students succeed in college.

4 AE Career Success Navigators: We have one of them for our Hub #6 (Lewiston, Auburn, Mechanic Falls, Turner, Bethel, Oxford Hills, Sacopee Valley, Oak Hill, Mexico)

Job in a nutshell: To help employers and job seekers in order to address the worker Shortage in Maine.

Current Plans:

1. Hire an Administrative Assistant
 2. Hire a teacher
 3. Hire a Workforce Trainer
 4. Continue with adult workforce trainings like welding
 5. Hire a new director (? Status of AE moving??)
 6. Offering a CNA class in March but need a teacher
- Not hiring staff will hurt our subsidy from the state.

2. First Reading of Policy JLCD- Administering Medication to Students

Motion: M. Young

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Marianne was asked to ask a question for someone: For all medications given by the school nurse is it always signed off by the parents? Pam replied that Yes, all medications given have to be signed off by the parents before being given.

Motion Carried

3. First Reading of JICJ- Student Use of Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices

There was some discussion around the need to change the policy. Liz Kelly didn't feel it needed to be changed as most teachers have rules on their board of the cell phone use in their classrooms. Larry W agreed with Liz. Pam explained that Brian Keene suggested that the computers bought by the taxpayers have a firewall that they can't get past. This is not as true for cell phones. Natalie Sneller said she appreciated how the policy was worded but questioned in "A" "as determined by the administration". She said she felt it should be determined by the teachers. Pam explained that the administration could give a blanket permission to teachers.

Motion: T. Kelly

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Opposed: L. Whittington, M. Young

Motion Carried

4. First Reading of Policy BEDH- Public Participation at Board Meetings

Larry raised the question if someone from Portland were to come to our meeting can they speak?

A. Cushman reported that the referendum vote did pass on Nov 8th. There is a 15 day appeals period that is now passed. They are now at the 6-10 days for the contracts to make it through the in-house process or view due to the size of the awards. There is holiday light show, that is an

annual event for Region 9. That is scheduled for Dec 13th & 14th weather permitting, 5-8 pm each of those nights. They are encouraging Region 9 seniors to finish their FASFA paperwork. If they do so by Dec 30th they will receive a Region 9 t-shirt and be entered in to win a gift card. Region 9 water tests results came back. There were 12 water sources that tested over the 4 PBB's and 0 that tested over the 15 PBB's. The results were posted on the Region 9 website and Facebook pages. Letters were mailed to the homes as well. After the Thanksgiving break they will be talking about the budget and recruitment work.

C. Lueders asked about the water tests that did not pass.

B. Ross-said they were looking into what it was, whether it was fixtures or faucets. None of them are drinking fountains...most are sinks & labs.

B. Ross- Region 9 received grant money and on the referendum all the towns voted to accept it. They will move ahead with the three projects that they are looking to do. It is a very good thing for the communities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent's Report: Pam Doyen

Pam met with Alicia Conn, Dixfield Town Manager. We reviewed the Harlow Park agreement as it has not been revisited/updated since 2010. Alicia also asked about holding voting at DHS as the Legion is closing. Pam is in favor of supporting that request and believe that DHS can either lock down that section of the building (gym) or have a remote day on voting days to ensure minimal impact to our students' education.

The Maine Department of Education offered Mobile Computer Labs to all schools, utilizing remaining ESSER funds at the state level. The labs were designated 1 lab per 100 students; therefore, DES received 3 computer labs, TWKDMS received 1 computer lab and DHS received 2 computer labs. DES and TWKDMS opted for the Coding and Hardware Lego labs while DHS opted for one of the Lego labs and one Robotics lab. The labs have been ordered. The MDOE is also offering professional development and training for each school. We are working on determining who has the capacity in each building to take the lead with the labs.

Reminder that Wednesday, December 21 will be an early release day. We will not have a late start that morning. School dismissal will begin at 11:30.

DES Drama- Grades 4 & 5- presented "A Dragon in the Mix" in the DHS SCC on Friday Nov 18 & Saturday Nov 19th. A very cute elementary play. They did a great job.

When an employee at RSU 56 gets injured on the job, we typically have sent them to the Swift River Clinic in Rumford or Concentra in Norway for their initial review. Moving forward, SmartCare will complete the initial evaluation, unless the injury is clearly in need of stitches, a broken bone, etc. This change will, hopefully, expedite the process for our employees.

Administrator's Report: Nick Karavas, Dirigo High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Sportsmanship (Across all of our sports)

Soccer update (Next year projection)

102 events scheduled for Dirigo High School; 8 canceled; 74 athletes at DHS

27 events scheduled for TWKDMS; 2 canceled; 50 athletes at TWKDMS

Great seasons overall for both DHS and TWKDMS:

DHS: Field Hockey and Football made it to the Regional Championship game but both fell short and were named the Runner ups for the 2022 season.

TWKDMS: Cross Country had an undefeated regular season and are looking forward to coming to the high school.

Movement of fields has gone well other than the lighting at TWKDMS field for football;

Field Hockey for MS was incredible at DES (Officials commented on it as well and we need to throw a shout out to the grounds crew for that.)

BGT crew for getting all of the trips to and from safely and having a smooth transition with reds and such;

Boosters helped out in many ways and we appreciate their continued support and participation within Dirigo Athletics.

Winter season is already shaping out.

TWKDMS Boys Basketball program has been split between two JV teams. They have identified practices and games that they will be in attendance; total participation is approximately 32-35 athletes.

Girls Basketball program is currently sitting at approximately 21-23 athletes.

Nordic Ski will begin in a couple of weeks and projections are around 12;

Wrestling will begin in the later part of Winter towards the end of January;

DHS winter athletics began for many teams yesterday.

Girls Basketball around 15 athletes (more have approached regarding how to join so projecting around 20);

Boys Basketball around 27 athletes;

Nordic Ski will begin next week and project to have around a dozen individuals.

Cheering is around 15-20 athletes based on this week and projections.

Wrestling has increased to approximately 12 athletes with potentially more joining based on individuals that are approaching myself about information related to Wrestling;

Unified Basketball will happen at TWKDMS and we are working on applying for a grant to help with the introduction of Unified Basketball at the high school level.

Resignations/Retirements:

Brad Conant, DHS Social Studies Teacher, at the end of the contract year

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Student Representative Report- N/A- J. Conron absent
2. Policy Committee- Did 1st Readings at board meeting
3. Finance Committee- D. Whittemore: met with Mary and went over the reports from the auditors. B. Ross: went through all the figures. Business office is looking into getting new software. Mary went through all the revenue/expenditure reports, reviewed the initial state subsidies. She went through the carryover and how that is going to work for the district, suggesting putting more money aside for the bus garage. Mary questioned whether the board wanted the auditor to report out to the finance committee or to the full board. Both have been done in the past. B. Ross asked what the preference was of the board. Did they want the auditors to report to the whole board or to the finance committee

and the committee report back to the board. The consensus seemed to be to have the auditors report to the finance committee. M. Young pointed out that any board member can attend any committee meeting of the board if someone wanted to go to the finance committee and hear the auditors report.

4. Curriculum Committee- Not met, Will meet 12/13 5:15-6:15 at DHS library- will be going over the 9-12 language curriculum material, web and accu studies and upcoming requirements that the district will need to do. PE & Health standards & VPA standards.
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Not met- will set up a time to meet with Kenny to go over things that have been done in the buildings
6. Negotiations Committee- Nothing this year
7. Personnel Committee- Not met since the last board meeting
8. Ad-hoc Committee- Will meet Dec 1st at DHS library at 5:30

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Liz Kelly asked if there are cameras in the upstairs hallway that shows who goes in/out of the bathrooms?

Pam responded: Yes..

L. Kelly: So if anything happens in either the boys/girls bathrooms you can pretty much narrow it down? I understand there was some flooding going on not to long ago?

Pam: That is accurate

L. Kelly: was there any damage? I also understand there has been some smoking in the bathrooms also?

Pam: There was no damage. It has been reported and we are working on narrowing it down.

L. Kelly: Do you have anything in the bathroom, like we do at home, smoke detectors, that would let you know if someone was smoking in the bathroom?

Pam: So smoking isn't the key issue, it's vaping. We have installed a couple vape detectors. We are working on the situation for sure.

Carl Lueders apologized to Pam, Mary Dailey, Bruce Ross & Don Whittemore for missing the Finance committee meeting. He got tied up in work and forgot it.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: L. Whittington

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm