

**RSU 56 Board of Directors Minutes**  
**Board Meeting Updated Agenda- January 24, 2023 - 6:30pm**  
**(This meeting will be held at Dirigo High School.**

School Board Members Absent: Angela Cushman, Peru (Vacancy), Joe Conron (Student Rep)

Also Attending: Kaitlyn O'Connor, Tom Virgin, Heidi Broomhall, Michelle/Chris Araujo

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

## None

- Minutes of the January 10, 2023 board Meeting  
Motion: B. Ross    Seconded: T. Kelly  
Not Voting: M. Young, N. Sneller  
Motion Carried

## None

## None

1. Mini workshop on board responsibilities and committees (Barbara Chow)  
Barbara went over the board committees. The policy committee enacts policies, sends them to the board for recommendation or brings them to the whole board for discussion. They get recommendations from MSMA from the state. Sometimes they get them from Drummond Woodsum. Sometimes the DOE sends some policies. One of the jobs of the Superintendent is to enforce policies.  
Personnel committee- Do the job descriptions. Anyone from the board can be in on interviews. If possible a member of the committee sit in on interviews, if not anyone from the board can be.

Buildings & Grounds/Transportation Committee- Bruce is the chair for that. Meet a couple times a year. Allows the committee to oversee how the buildings & grounds are doing, as well as the transportation fleet.

Finance Committee- Carl is the chair. By policy and law there have to be meetings. To be legal the warrants have to be signed by two people. Mary spearheads the finance committee. Carl went over a few of the semantics of the finance committee. School budget has it's own unique things.

Negotiations Committee- No negotiations this year. Work on the contracts for staff. Currently only Barbara, Bruce & Natalie on the committee.

Curriculum Committee- This is to have meetings to go over the curriculum. The board needs to approve the curriculum. This is when curriculum changes or new books, etc need to be changed. This committee is vital. Anyone can join.

Wellness- Natalie is chair.. Has not yet been able to attend a meeting. Meet once or twice a year. Gena Cloutier is the chair for the district. She puts tips out weekly.

Drop-Out Prevention- Angela Cushman & Larry Whittington- Had a meeting today. What does the plan look like? They will bring information to the March 28th meeting around absenteeism. Will continue on how to make a plan to combat drop outs.

Ad-Hoc Civil Right Committee- Another meeting is scheduled. Pam will look into when that is. We have a very active board. It helps the board to be aware of what's going on in the school district.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Region 9 Updates ( Bruce Ross/Angela Cushman)**

They have a meeting the first Wednesday of every month. Nothing new

### **2. Bus Garage Update (Kenny R)**

Kenny had a blueprint drawing of the new bus garage up on the screen. The building that the district is renting currently is 40 x 70..the new one would be 40 x 80. The added space would be an office, a tool room. He explained where the garage would be located in terms of the current parking lot/ fields. The site design is done, the septic design is done. The building specifications and drawings are done. The company making the design has a little bit to do with heat, plumbing, etc. Currently we're looking at \$950,453 for the building. There are a few other things that added up to \$53,000. When speaking with the company doing the design Kenny has asked that our local contractors can do the work. When the general contractor is put out to bid, he would keep that in mind. Kenny feels if we use some of our local contractors, some of the prices might come in a little less.

Barbara asked what kind of heat is being looked at?

Kenny replied that it would be propane. Propane cost has stayed down really well.

Barbara asked if they would do a new slab and tear down the old?

Kenny said they would do a new slab but it would be a separate building. Originally thought of adding on to what they have there but the cost went way over by the time they did the site design and lose a lot of parking for the buses.

Barbara asked currently how much money was there to put towards this project?

Kenny replied that \$500,000 has been put aside so roughly about halfway to what is needed. The idea now is it might be time to go out to bid and see what it actually does come in at. We might be

able to do it this year with a little more carry-over money or we may have to wait a little bit longer.

Liz Kelly asked if Kenny thought it was big enough.

Kenny replied that it's about the same as what we have and they'll make it due. The 40 x 80 figured out to 3200 sq ft...and \$298 a sq ft. If we start adding on it adds up quick.

Liz responded and asked if Kenny thought they would be happy with the size.

Kenny replied that yes it would be good.

Larry Whittington asked if Kenny had looked at doing solar versus propane.

Kenny responded that he had and as we get into it that can be looked at further, but the initial thought was propane.

Larry responded that right now they are giving rebates, refunds for solar. Right now propane is high and solar is there. He suggested Kenny did some more research into solar.

Don Whittemore asked if they would have a used oil boiler in there as well?

Kenny replied that they just went with a straight propane. They don't really produce enough for what they would have to put in for a used oil boiler. He explained that with the newer buses the oil is only changed out about twice a year. For the amount that they get it didn't seem feasible but he can get a price for that also if the board would like.

Pam spoke and said she wanted to be clear that this money would have to be voted on by the voters. Right now there are upfront costs. The money was designated for those.

Carl asked if it would be heated on weekends?

Kenny said it would be set back

Bruce: to respond to Liz's thought, if anyone has seen where the bus garage is now, this will look like a palace. This will be a state of the art for the mechanics on our own site. We are currently sharing things...now we would have our own facility. Currently we can only have 1 bus in at a time, now we would be able to have 2 buses in at a time. There are many options we could go with so when we send it out for bid that's when we will see what is the best way to go. There are a lot of things to still look into. This is all preliminary right now. When we move forward will depend on what we come up with and the cost. The voters could very well turn it down. We don't know. We're putting all the ducks in the right row, we haven't moved on anything haphazardly. What Kenny has been doing and what we've been putting together has been working out real well.

Marianne asked what we are paying for the garage we are in now. She didn't remember.

Pam stated that the increase has started. It will be \$26k a year to lease the space that we are currently using. Barbara stated it was \$18k ,,it went up \$8k and that's not including the share of utilities. We pay half of all the heat, electricity, water/sewer on top of the lease. Kenny stated that the efficiency would be huge with the new building.

Liz stated she thought it was a great idea, and feels it's needed. Just wanted to make sure that they weren't cutting themselves short.

Carl and Kenny discussed that we pay the town of Dixfield for salt/sand. Kenny mentioned the possibility of getting our own salt/sand in the future.

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

### *Superintendent's Report: Pam Doyen*

We have had 3 traditional snow days so now have transitioned to remote days, actually this week. The reason for moving to remote days is to keep us from moving into the week of June 20th to finish school. Our current last day is Wednesday June 14th. That give Pam 2 days that could be traditional storm days if there were to be large power outages and students wouldn't be able to be online. Students that graduate are supposed to go to school until within 5 days of when they graduate. Graduation is June 9th so that following Friday would really be the end of when our students. It's really important to try to stay to the June 16th end date.

Larry W. asked what happens if Pam calls a remote day and later power is lost.

Pam explained that she and Kenny listen to a lot of weather forecasts days in advance and if it is looking like a lot of power outages usually it would be a typical snow day. If the power were to go out after a remote day is called, she would leave it because when the power is restored students would have their assignments and still be able to log into their classrooms. It gets very confusing to the community if it is called a remote day and then changed to a snow day.

### *Administrator's Report: Mary Dailey*

The audit for fiscal year 2021-2022 is almost complete. The auditors didn't come onsite in October but instead Mary uploaded all the necessary documents to the firm's secure portal. The audit report is now going through the approval process by the auditing firm. That process should be completed by the end of February and Mary will provide the full audit report to the board as soon as it is available.

As for an update on COVID funding, ESSERF 1 had to be completely spent by September 30, 2022. The reporting of those expenditures has been completed. The district is continuing to spend the ESSERF 2 and ESSERF 3 funds which have to be spent by September 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024, respectively.

The last time Mary reported out, Kenny and her had just submitted an application to the United States Environmental Protection Agency lottery for the funds for two electric buses. We were notified this fall that we were not awarded any of these funds.

Besides the usual budget process, this spring Mary will be working on the accounting software conversion with a go-live date of July 1, 2023. The district has signed a contract with Harris School Solutions for their AptaFund product which will replace ADS Profund. The Apta Fund implementation team will be meeting with Brian, Cathy and Mary for the first time next week to start the process.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Student Representative Report- Joe is retiring..Pam had a student approach her earlier in the year and said they were interested. Pam told them when Joe got done she would reach out to them.
2. Policy Committee- Not met
3. Finance Committee- Not met
4. Curriculum Committee- Not met
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Will meet Friday 1/27 @ 1pm
6. Negotiations Committee- Not met

7. Personnel Committee- Nothing new
8. Ad-hoc Committee- Pam will notify the committee of the next meeting

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

D. Whittemore- he had a parent call him to ask if teachers have to take attendance to see who's there and who's skipping?

Pam replied Yes they do. They do attendance each class and they do calls home if a student skips class.

Don said he would speak to the parent and let them know because that isn't what he heard.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: L. Whittington

Meeting adjourned @ 7:12 pm