

**RSU 56 Board of Directors Minutes
Amended School Board Meeting Agenda
September 22, 2020- 6:30pm**

(This meeting will be held virtually. The board meeting will also be available via livestream on the RSU 56 Facebook page.)

School Board Members Present: Barbara Chow, Carl Lueders, Don Whittemore, Angela Cushman, Samantha Noyes, Brad Dyer, Joe Brissette, Natalie Sneller, Larry Whittington, Konstantin Aslanidi, Angela Varnum, Bruce Ross (6:37)
Connor Weston (Student rep)

School Board Members Absent: None

Staff Attending: Pam Doyen, Cathy Arsenault, Mary Dailey, Kenny Robbins, Brian Keene, Gena Cloutier, Jess McGreevy, Earl Couture, Kathy Wilcox, Jason Long, Charlie Swan

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Barbara Chow, Board Chair, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30pm and welcomed everyone on livestream and on Facebook live.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

1. Motion to adjust the agenda to include:

VI: New Business: #3 Elect delegate to MSBA conference

XI: Executive Session

Motion: D. Whittemore Seconded: N. Sneller
Passed

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the September 8, 2020 RSU 56 Board Meeting

Motion: N. Sneller Seconded: D. Whittemore
Abstain: C. Lueders, L. Whittington
Passed

PUBLIC COMMENTS

B. Meehan-Poulin said Thank you & shout out to all Administration for closing so quickly. Also to the Nutrition staff for all the meals.

COMMUNICATIONS

RSU 56 has received communication that all Title fund grants as well as Local Entitlement grants have been approved.

A letter was received from Let's Go! Recognizing DHS, TWKDM (both gold) and DES (silver) as 2020 Let's Go Smarter Lunchroom award recipients. The program honors school lunchrooms that are

implementing best practices to reduce waste and increase participation. One sentence read, “The work of the school nutrition staff has been incredible.” I thank Gena and her wonderful staff for this honor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on COVID 19 and the process used to move to remote learning for 14 days. (Earl Couture, COVID 19 Coordinator for RSU 56, Kathy Wilcox, School Nurse TWKDMS/DHS, Pam Doyen, Superintendent of RSU 56 and DHS Principal)

Earl began the informational process stating how the district came up with the approved plan. We started with basic guidance from the CDC. The state devised it's plan as to whether we were a green, yellow or red county. When the county was Green we could come back full time. We implemented their plan on how we would come back. Full time, Hybrid (if went yellow), and entire distance learning (if went red). If one individual tested positive we would shut down for 72 hours, if at anytime during the next 14 days that there was another individual that tested positive we would shut down for 14 days. As of right now Oxford county is still green but we will wait till Friday to get new information.

Kathy Wilcox then spoke on how all of this unfolded for RSU 56. On Sept. 11 we had a student that was tested for COVID. On Monday, Sept 14th the mother contacted the school that it was a positive result. That information needs to be confirmed by the CDC. The case was confirmed as positive. At that point, a person was assigned as an investigator. It was looked into how we were handling procedures, such as social distancing, masks, hand washing and such. It was determined that any classmates and teachers were considered in close contact with “Student A”, the infected student. It was then requested of the school to give the names of the close contacts to the CDC and the CDC would begin the process of contact tracing. Even though we had been doing everything right, it is the amount of time spent in the classroom in contact with other students and teachers. Per our guidelines after Student A has been confirmed as positive all classes were moved to remote learning for 72 hours. Then on Sept 15th we were informed that 2 more students had tested positive. At that point, the consultant for the DOE and also the contact investigator was notified again. Then a second COVID investigator was assigned to us for Student B & Student C. Then as per our framework, we went into the 14 days of virtual learning. Sept 16th no other known cases have come up. Contact tracing is proceeding and making appointments for testing. Sept 17th or 18th no further positive tests, even full known families were getting tested. Then on Sept 19th we were informed that Nine Dragons were dealing with an outbreak which potentially could affect our community and students. Sept 21st had a situation where there was a crossover of a student but that student tested negative.

Before opening to questions from the Board, Pam spoke that she was incredibly pleased that RSU 56 had a clear board approved plan to follow in this situation. Additionally, the CDC has been responsive to our questions and needs. Both of our CDC assigned investigators have indicated how impressed they have been with the district's response.

The administrative team as well as our COVID 19 Coordinator and school nurses met to reflect on the RSU 56 Return to Instruction Framework, which is always a responsible practice after implementation. We would recommend the plan continue as outlined, although if the board has

concerns around the 14 day remote period, the administrative team has worked on alternate wording that could, under specific circumstances, allow for moving to remote learning in an affected school instead of all three schools. If it is the board's pleasure, we could outline those possible changes at the next board meeting along with the pros and cons of doing so.

Questions:

- A. Cushman- commented that she has a niece with children in another school district and she and other children's parents are concerned that their districts have not been shut down as ours have been-hearing from a lot of parents that we are happy we had a plan in place that we did
- B. Dyer- not to argue with you Angela but I'm hearing the opposite. I'm wondering when the next shut down is going to happen, predicting that it's soon. How long can we sustain a shut down and continue to do this? 72 hours, 14 days? How long can the parents sustain? A lot of upheaval for child care/work issues?
- P. Doyen- don't know that there's a good answer for that. Whenever I am interviewed by the news I say there's not a good answer. We have an outlined plan and we continue to do so. We know how important education is and we have teachers we are trained to teach. It's much easier to have kids in school but it's a balance and keeping our community safe. It's a polarized case...we have some staff and parents who believe we should be in school full time and we have some parents/staff that are afraid to send their students and themselves to school. I feel we stay the course. I can't predict the future, I hope the community and Nine Dragons can help mitigate the spread and get down to being one of those counties that is Green with very few cases. It would be nice to get back to school and stay in school but I just can't predict.

There were multiple other questions and comments from Board members. There was some talk around the Technology piece of going virtual. One board member asked if there was any training done, to which Pam replied there has been training happening. Barbara commented that it might be good to have a teacher show the Board what virtual learning entails.

2. Fall sports update and discussion (Jess McGreevy)

Where we left off (09/08/20):

Phase 4 Conditioning Practices

Boys & Girls Soccer

Field Hockey

Football

Cross Country

Golf

MPA Guidelines- Regular PreSeason began Sept. 14, 2020

Due to school closure-our first day of practices can begin on Sept. 29, 2020

MPA Sponsorship

MPA is sponsoring golf and cross country

Regional and State Championships

Golf-State Championship 10/10

Cross Country-State Championship-TBA

MPA is sponsoring soccer and field hockey and 7v7 flag football

No playoffs

Schools play in their county or adjacent counties

MPA Guidelines: All Sports

If County is Designated Yellow or Red-no sports practices or games can happen

If a school moves to remote learning due to an outbreak-no sports practices or games can happen

All participants/coaches/personnel/volunteers/officials must prescreen for symptoms before attending a practice or game

Everyone must maintain 6' distancing whenever possible (during warm ups, stretching, etc)

Face covering must be worn when not engaged in active play

No fist bumping/high fives/hugs/back slaps

Coaches/ball runners/officials/game personnel must wear face coverings at all times

Limit attendees to stay within guidelines

Use volunteers to ensure guidelines are being followed

COVID-19 Waiver signed by all participants

MPA Guidelines-Highlights

Golf- Follow course restrictions around COVID-19

Cross Country-

Courses widened (our home course meets restriction)

Space team tents

Waves at starting line to allow for distancing

Pack running discouraged

Widen finish corral

Soccer-

Expanded bench area to allow for distancing

Substitutions limited to one player at a time in the substitute box

Stoppage at 20:00 to sanitize hands and game ball

Slide tackling is suspended

5 player max in penalty box (per team) on throw ins/corner kicks

Players must maintain 3' distance on direct/indirect kicks (no walls)

No ball drops

Field Hockey-

Teams provide all balls for warm ups

Expanded bench area to allow for distancing

Substitutions limited to one player at a time in the substitute box

No chairs in penalty area

Football-

No fall tackle football. Possibility of Spring Tackle Football

7v7 flag play. 15 minute quarters

No blocking or tackling

MVC Conference

Developed Regional Schedules

With later start to season, Dirigo will be able to start games 10/5

Golf can start exhibition matches on 9/29 (scheduled for 9/30 currently)

No Spectators allowed across conference (senior night game exception)

Need Board Approval

Follow MPA and State Guidelines to play fall sports

Motion: B. Ross made a motion to proceed with offering approved fall agenda sports at MS/HS

Seconded: N. Sneller Abstain: S. Noyes, B. Dyer, K. Aslanidi No: L Whittington

Passed

3. **Elect a delegate to the annual MSBA meeting**

Motion: B. Dyer made a motion to elect N. Sneller as a delegate to the annual MSBA meeting

Seconded: J. Brissette Abstain: N. Sneller

Passed

OLD BUSINESS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's Report:

A flurry of activity- calls with the CDC and supporting teachers.

Governor Mills set aside Cares Act money to help with child care for parents during COVID. RSU 56 submitted an application and funding was secured for before school student care at DES and TWKDMs, up to 25 students at each location. The grant covers the cost of an adult and two HS students as well as supplies and technological needs. This will start on Wednesday, September 30. This is being done on a first come, first serve basis. The registration form will go live Thursday morning at 8:00

Administrator's Report: Kenny Robbins

After the delivery of meals ended at the end of June the BGT staff immediately went to cleaning classrooms, for a couple reasons. One because the desks had to be moved out and arranged for 6' distance and also to thoroughly clean all the rooms. The cleaner that was used is used to help kill the virus and then another product was found that helps kill the virus for 90 days. It's called Omni Shield, it is something a lot of the hospitals use. It does not transfer to the skin or anything. Put in a lot of work putting in hand sanitizer stations in/around the classrooms, hallways and other areas. Brought in the company that the products are bought from to make sure the products were being used correctly. Once we closed the schools the crew went in and thoroughly cleaned and sanitized again. Bought Flexann sheets and cut them to put around by secretaries, cafeterias, library people, etc. We brought in the people this summer that we bought our products from and did some training to make sure we were using all our products correctly. Brought in people to check all our induction systems, checked all the filters. We

wanted to be sure we were getting all the clean, fresh air into our buildings. Through the CARES ACT money we were able to bring in some extra help to be cleaning in all our buildings. Anything the students may touch, doorknobs, water fountains, etc. get extra cleaning.

Through transportation and a survey that was sent out we have worked on how many students will need transportation. We are following Maine guidelines on how many students per bus and seat depending on if they are family members. Each bus is cleaned after each run. Some of the same products we're using in the buildings we're using on the buses. Bus drivers are wearing masks and shields and we also have the Flex shields up in all the buses. As each student gets on the bus the driver gives each student a small squirt of hand sanitizer. When they get off the bus there are hand sanitizer stations at the schools and they do another squirt then before going in the building. Have done assigned seating for each of the students. That has worked out well knowing where the students are sitting. We began delivering meals again on Tuesday, will do that again on Wednesday. Hope to be back in school next Tuesday, September 29th. B. Dyer has a question regarding exposing employees and others to all the chemicals being used all the time. Have we had discussions about how safe all these chemicals are? Kenny replied that they had many discussions around this and brought in the people we had brought the chemicals from. It is EPA approved and since it doesn't transfer we felt it was safe.

B. Dyer asked about any respiratory issues? Kenny: There are districts that are using mechanical sprayers or foggers. We chose not to do that. We're putting it on with a microfiber rag or a small spray bottle.

When the custodians put this on they have all the protective equipment on, shields, gloves, etc.

B. Chow asked if the state had been in to check on the chemicals used or what we are doing? Kenny: No, can't seem to get an answer back from Augusta so we've been going with the guidelines we were given.

B. Ross: Are the buildings all ready to go for Tuesday? Kenny: Yes they are

B. Ross: Are there any concerns we have in any of the buildings? Kenny: No, the day we went out we started right in the next day cleaning and doing everything again. The buses as well and our vans also.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Student Representative Report- C. Weston: 1st week in school when everyone came in went smoothly. Have picnic tables outside to use, that was nice. Then we went into remote learning. That seemed to go smoothly. There is a box outside the building that if any students needed to pick up work or drop it off they could place it there.
2. Policy Committee-Have a few policies to go over. Hope to meet before the next board meeting
3. Finance Committee- Haven't met recently. Not sure when the next one is. Glad to see we're making good use of the CARES ACT money. Glad to see we're making good choices on the things we've purchased.
4. Curriculum Committee- Haven't met since our last meeting. Owe potential dates for meetings to Mr. Long and once they're able to confirm those dates work I will share them with the committee as well as Pam & Cathy to get them on the schedule.
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Kenny was our presenter and as he said we are working to make our buildings as safe as possible. I think we're doing everything possible to things up to par,,air quality and such. I think we're ready to go.

6. Negotiations Committee- Have a meeting September 30th
7. Personnel Committee- Nothing new to report

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

N. Sneller- As we've talked through framework and policies I think we need to speak on people. Thank You to all the staff, really in all the buildings. We were impacted by DES staff, they provided a smooth transition from in-person to remote learning. It's not easy but they were prepared. Communication was good. Appreciate the communication that comes from the district. Please continue to do that. It is really important.

B. Ross- Listening to this whole meeting I don't feel there's anyone that isn't concerned about our students. The main perspective everyone has in their mind is the safety of our students. If we all keep that in mind I think we'll make it through this.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. subsection 405 6A(1) for discussion and consideration of the duties of the school board.

Motion: B. Ross Seconded: S. Noyes

Passed

Entered into executive session @ 8:10 pm

Exited executive session @ 8:54pm

ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: B. Dyer Seconded: L. Whittington

Passed

Meeting adjourned @ 8:55pm