

with the distinguished service award for 2021. I was thrilled with their selection as our school nurses have been going above and beyond to complete their regular responsibilities as well as all of the responsibilities associated with COVID 19. It was refreshing to see MSBA recognize that level of professionalism and commitment being completed by the school nurses. We are fortunate to have Erin Wainwright, DES, Kathy Wilcox, TWKDMS and Devan Melcher, DHS in our district. Congratulations to all three of them as they truly deserve the award.

I also wanted to mention that it has been an incredibly emotional and challenging week both at the Middle school and at the high school with the death of a student. That student did move in starting in middle school, so all of the teachers and many of the students knew him as well as the high school. It has been a challenging week emotionally, but I will say again the communities have really stepped up and supported the schools and family as well. I was very impressed and pleased with what the communities have been able to do.

NEW BUSINESS

1. COVID cases update (Pam Doyen)

Pam went over the numbers of cases or students/staff out on quarantine

(9/1/21-9/14/21) “strongly recommended”

Total # of students out of school: 189

Total # of staff out of work: 6

(9/15/21-9/28/21) “masks mandatory”

Total # of students out of school: 21

Total # of staff out of work: 1

(9/29/21-10/12/21) “masks mandatory”

Total # of students out of school: 11

Total # of staff out of work: 1

(10/13/21-10/26/21) “masks mandatory”

Total # of students out of school: 31

Total # of staff out of work: 3

(10/27/21-11/09/21) “masks mandatory”

Total # of students out of school: 87

Total # of staff out of work: 4

(11/10/21-11/23/21) “masks mandatory”

Total # of students out of school: 21

Total # of staff out of work: 0

There were some questions as to why the numbers may have spiked over a few weeks. Pam explained that Oxford County had some high transmission and though numbers were higher within the district it seemed to be from community spread and not from spread in the schools. Close contact and quarantine forces more students to be out of school than positive cases. Have a few more that are in the pool testing but still a small percentage taking part.

2. Preparing for the 2022-23 School Budget, initial conversation

Pam wanted to get an initial thought from the board on what they might be thinking about as

budget season is approaching for the administrative team. Some thoughts to take back on how to begin.

The overall consensus would be to try to stay low. One comment was 0% but probably that is unrealistic. The thought was to have the admin team look at what they really need and most thought to try to stay at 3% or below. One board member thought 1.5%-2% but need to take care of the students, taxpayers as well as employees. A lot of things are going to cost a lot more. Pam felt she had what she needed to go back to the administrative team to begin the process.

3. Review Mission, Vision and Core Values

We will review these and then over a few board meetings we will go over the goals.

Would like to review and see if these are still applicable or if we should make any changes.

Mission: The mission of RSU 56 is to prepare our students to become purpose-filled, skilled members of the local and global communities.

Vision: In RSU56, our vision is to be a nationally recognized, innovative, learning district where students, staff, families, community members and supporters are excited to work, learn and grow together.

Core Values: 1. We do what's right for all kids.

2. We are proud of our Cougar community.

3. We value integrity.

There was a suggestion that the wording "global community" come out of the Mission. The reply was that students might not always be and stay in Dixfield and/or Maine but would go to other places and for them to be skilled members/learners wherever they might go. That was the intent of the wording when it was created. The consensus was that the Mission, Vision & Core Values remain as written.

OLD BUSINESS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent's Report: Pam Doyen

Pam was very pleased to announce that the gym at DHS is complete. She told the basketball coach that when the meeting is over the board who would like to go in to see the gym. Huge thank you to our custodial staff as they supported each vendor as well as cleaned up all the dust and made it shine. They went above and beyond to help and make it all ready for the reveal. Winter sports are underway at the middle school and started on Monday at the high school.

Administrator's Report: Nick Karavas

Fall season: Approx 68 HS events across 6 sports, 24 MS events across 3 sports

Overall even with some hiccups we were able to reschedule some things and have all our events.

We had a good fall season. Good seasons for boys & girls soccer, cross country. Field hockey went to playoffs. Golf- Wyatt Smith was player of the year in our MVC conference. He was also invited to the New England Golf Championships, which was a great thing. Football ended as

Runners up to the Southern Region 8 man Football.

MS sports came along. We had a lot of participants that have not played sports in the past few years.

Our Keegan Awards for Fall were: Field Hockey- Alyvia Perreault; Boys Soccer- Hunter Berry; Golf- Keegan Foreman; Girls Soccer- Abigail Thibodeau; Cross Country- Abby Theriault; Football- Trent Holman

Our winter sports will be Boys & Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Cheering & Nordic ski.

At MS Boys & Girls basketball have started, nordic ski will be starting soon & wrestling is a later season.

We will be doing live streaming at the MS events. Working with WOXO radio for the live streaming at the HS.

Reporting of New Hires:

Ann Mayo, 4 hr/day nutrition worker

Stipended and Coaching Positions:

Karolyn Buotte- TWKDMS Nordic coach

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Student Representative Report- Pam has a strong lead for student rep, waiting to get his license so he can get to and from
2. Policy Committee- Barbara attended a 45 min zoom with Drummond and Woodsum. There were 26 policies that were affected by laws that were changed in Oct. Meeting hopefully in Dec to review.
3. Finance Committee- Met last week. We talked about some improvements that we did, what we could do with carryover & ESSERF funds. The district financially looks in very good shape.
4. Curriculum Committee- Met tonight, 11/23. We went over NWEA diagnostic testing and also ELA scores. Looking into a reading program so we can get online with the math program we have currently. Went over some other programs such as IXL.
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- The committee has not met. More details will be coming up if we are going to look at doing anything for our own type of bus garage. More information to come once we have more information to give.
6. Negotiations Committee- Tentatively meeting on Dec 14 as a first meet & greet and set up date
7. Personnel Committee- Nothing new to report
8. Ad-hoc Committee- Met the beginning of the month. Mostly like a meet & greet. We have a wide variety of constituents from the community, including sheriff, probation officer, teachers, civil rights leaders from MS & HS. There was talk if there should be anything at DES. Not looking at that at this point. Charlie has sent out an email to the staff to see if there would be a volunteer for this year. There was a request for data for the school principals to give a better view of the atmosphere in the schools and the behaviors that might be occurring. Will have another meeting next Thursday 12/2 at 5:30 via zoom to get some more information and delve deeper into some of the aspects we want to talk to and take care of on this committee.

BOARD COMMENTS

B. Ross- As Carl alluded to in his report for finance, I'm just amazed at how well we've done to improve our facilities. It's the best shape that I can recall, and I've been on the board for several years. Between the custodians, the outside contractors and everything we've done we have 3 buildings that are going to be in very good shape for years to come. It's the hard work from the custodians and the commitment from the communities to maintain & be proud of them.

B. Chow- I reiterate that. I came to the gym reveal and it's amazing to see the gym floor and the dead spots are gone and the new bleachers. It's good to see the kids participating in fall sports. Students are being strongly encouraged at the middle school to participate and try something new.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: B. Dyer

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm