

**RSU 56 Board of Directors Minutes**  
**Board Meeting Amended Agenda- May 9, 2023- 6:30pm**  
**(This meeting will be held at Dirigo High School.**  
**The board meeting will also be available via zoom and live streamed on YouTube.)**

School Board Members Present: Barbara Chow, Larry Whittington, Elizabeth Kelly, Bruce Ross,  
Don Whittemore, Deanna Dolloff, Natalie Sneller, Marianne Young

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

Staff Attending: Shawn Murphy, Pam Doyen, Mary Dailey, Cathy Arsenault, Nick  
Karavas, Jay Nicholson, Heidi Broomhall, Michele/Chris Araujo,  
Gena Cloutier, Gina Puia, Brandy Bordeau, Beth Edwards, Peggy  
Morse

Also Attending: Marianne Hutchinson, Jon Holmes, Kathleen Szotek

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Barbara Chow, Board Chair, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:35 pm. Audience introductions were made. Everyone on zoom and YouTube were welcomed.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Motion to add the following:

**VI New Business: #6 Request by Poodunck Snowmobile Club**

**VIII Supt. Report: Reporting of stipend position**

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the April 25, 2023 Board Meeting

Motion: L. Whittington

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**COMMUNICATIONS**

No new communications

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Motion to approve the revenue anticipation bid note

Mary went over the information for the 2023-2024 Revenue Anticipation Note. \$500,000 on a draw down basis.

14 banks were sent an invitation to bid. 4 bids were received.

**Partners Bank:** 4.75% with a “commitment fee of \$750.00”

**First National Bank:** 5.2%

**Androscoggin Bank:** 5.87% with a “non-utilization fee of \$500 charged to the RSU at loan maturity. Should RSU 56’s finance charge due at maturity be equal to or greater than this fee, the fee will be waived in its entirety.”

**Bangor Savings Bank:** 5.99%

Mary recommended accepting the bid from First National at the next to the lowest interest rate rather than Partners Bank at the lowest interest rate because of Partners Bank’s commitment fee. The district has only had to borrow the required \$25,001 on the loan closing date each year except for the first year of the RSU. The \$25,001 is paid back within two weeks so the difference in the amount of interest charged will be minimal. Below is the amount of interest the district has been charged in each of the prior years.

2017-2018: \$2237.74

2018-2019: \$21.33

2019-2020: \$30.77

2020-2021: \$23.29

2021-2022: \$22.17

2022-2023: \$16.88

Motion: B. Ross made a motion to move that the vote entitled, “Vote to Authorize Issuance of a \$500,00 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note,” be approved in form presented to this meeting and that the Secretary file an attested copy of said vote with the minutes of this meeting.

**VOTE TO AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF A \$500,00 TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE**

1. That the offer of **First National Bank** (the “Bank”) to purchase tax and revenue anticipation note(s) of Regional School Unit No. 56 (the “RSU”) in the original principal amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,00) with an interest rate per annum on the outstanding principal amount thereof equal to **5.2%**, be and the same hereby is accepted and approved;
2. That the School Board of the RSU hereby authorizes a borrowing in the amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) from the Bank on behalf of the RSU, with interest on the principal amount thereof at a rate of **5.2%** per annum, principal and interest to be paid no later than the scheduled maturity date on June 30, 2024, which borrowing is in anticipation of tax and other revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024;
3. That under and pursuant to the provisions of sections 1490 and 15695 of Title 20-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, the Chairperson of the School Board and the Treasurer of the RSU are hereby authorized to borrow in anticipation of tax and other revenues from the Bank in the name and on behalf of the RSU the sum of up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) at the per annum interest rate of **5.2%**, and that the Chairperson of the School Board and the Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized to issue general obligation securities of the RSU in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) and to execute and deliver a note or notes under the seal of the RSU attested by the Secretary, dated on or about July 1, 2023, in such form as the Chairperson of the School Board and the Treasurer may approve (the “Note”); and that the appropriate officials of the RSU be and hereby

are authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the RSU such other documents and certificates as may be required in connection with the issuance of the Note; and that no part of the proceeds of said Note shall be used, directly or indirectly, to acquire any securities and obligations, the acquisition of which would cause the Note to be an “arbitrage bond” or “private activity bond” within the meaning of sections 148 or 141, respectively, of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”); and that the Note be designated as qualified tax-exempt obligations within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3) of said Code; and that the Chairperson of the School Board and the Treasurer be and they are hereby authorized to covenant on behalf of the RSU to file any information report and pay any rebate due to the United States in connection with the issuance of the Note, to take all other lawful actions necessary to ensure the interest on the Note will be excludable from the gross income of the owners thereof for purposes of federal income taxation and to refrain from taking any action which would cause interest on the Note to become includable in the gross income of the owners thereof; and

4. That the RSU establish written procedures with respect to the Note for the purpose of ensuring timely “remedial action” for any portion of the Note that may become “non-qualified bonds,” as those terms are defined in the Code and regulations thereunder; and monitoring the RSU’s compliance following the issuance of the Note with the arbitrage yield restriction and rebate requirements of the Code and regulations thereunder; and that the Treasurer is designated to implement and follow these written procedures.

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

2. Motion to designate funds for the DES water heater repairs

Pam explained that this was something that came up unexpectedly this year. It cost \$24,317. It was a required replacement due to a failure. Looking to use some of the balance forward money as opposed to overspending the BGT line.

B. Ross made a motion to designate funds for the DES water heater repairs in the amount of \$24,317.

Seconded: D. Whittemore

B. Ross asked if this water heater has a better warranty. Pam said she would have Kenny look into that and find out.

Motion Carried

3. Motion to designate Funds for the bus garage plans and specs

Pam explained this is \$20,000 that is being asked for. It is work that needed to be done in preparation for a warrant to go out for the bus garage. These costs have already been incurred. To be used from balance forward as opposed to over spending BGT line.

B. Ross made a motion to approve the designated funds for the bus garage plans and specs for \$20,000.

Seconded: L. Whittington

Motion Carried

4. Motion to move the Vote entitled, “Vote to Call School Construction Referendum and Approve the Warrants and Public Hearing Notices for that purpose” be approved in form presented to this meeting and a copy of this Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting. (see paperwork provided)

B. Ross made the motion and read from the paperwork provided as was written.

That the Vote entitled, "Vote to Call School Construction Referendum and Approve the Warrants and Public Hearing Notices for that Purpose," be approved in form presented to this meeting and that a copy of this Vote be included with the minutes of this meeting.

**VOTE TO CALL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION REFERENDUM AND APPROVE THE WARRANTS AND PUBLIC HEARING NOTICES FOR THAT PURPOSE**

VOTED: That the warrant and notice of election of Regional School Unit No. 56 presented to the meeting be approved and that a referendum election for the RSU be called for June 13, 2023 for the purpose of approving a school construction project as described therein.

FURTHER VOTED: That the Notice of Public Hearing presented to the meeting be approved and that a public hearing on a proposed school construction project be held on May 23, 2023 at 6:30pm as provided therein.

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

5. Motion to move the Vote entitled "Vote to Call and Approve Warrants for the Budget Meeting and the Budget Validation Referendum and to Authorize the Notice of Amounts Adopted," be approved in the form presented to this meeting and that a copy of said Vote be included in the minutes of this meeting. (See paperwork provided)

B. Ross made the motion and read from the paperwork provided as written.

**VOTE TO CALL AND APPROVE THE WARRANTS FOR THE BUDGET MEETING AND THE BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE NOTICE OF AMOUNTS ADOPTED**

VOTED: That the warrant for the Regional School Unit No. 56 (the "Regional School Unit") Budget Meeting presented to the meeting be approved and that a Regional School Unit budget meeting be called for May 23, 2023 for the purpose of voting on the annual budget for the Regional School Unit for the 2023-2024 fiscal year;

That the Warrant and Notice of Election for the Regional School Unit Budget Validation Referendum presented to the meeting be approved, and that a Regional School Unit budget validation referendum be called for June 13, 2023 for the purpose of approving the budget adopted at the Regional School Unit budget meeting for the 2023-2024 fiscal year;

That the form of Notice of Amounts Adopted at Budget Meeting presented to this meeting be approved, and that the Superintendent of Schools of the Regional School Unit be authorized and directed to complete said Notice in accordance with the Regional School Unit budget meeting on May 23, 2023, and to cause copies of said Notice, as completed, to be delivered to the municipal clerks of each municipality of the Regional School Unit for posting at the polling places for the June 13, 2023 Regional School Unit budget validation referendum; and

That the Budget Meeting Warrant, the Warrant and Notice of Election, and the Notice of Amounts Adopted at Budget Meeting shall each be signed by a majority of the School Board, and that such signatures may be made electronically, by execution of counterparts, or in person at the convenience of the members of the School Board.

Seconded: L. Whittington

Motion Carried

6. **Consideration of Poodunck Snowmobile Club request to construct a building to store the groomer at 33 Nash Street**

Jon Holmes spoke on behalf of the Poodunck Snowmobile Club. They are trying to get a new groomer which cost about \$350,000. They are working on getting some grants. One of the requirements is to keep it undercover. They have a place currently to keep it undercover but it is small. They would like a building big enough to store it and do repairs if needed. There is a trail right out by the softball field so it would be good access. There is a cement pad down already so that would be helpful. Looking for a 60 x 30 piece of land to build a groomer garage on.

B. Ross asked if the club would insure it? Jon replied that Yes they would.

B. Ross also said if we were to move forward with this we would like to see blueprints of the plan for the building.

B. Chow commented that the club would own the building and insure the building but the district would own the land and how that would affect the district's liability? Mary will check with the insurance. Mary also stated that the town doesn't tax the district for our school buildings but not sure how that would affect taxes with a building for the club. B. Chow then asked if the club was non taxable. Jon replied that it is so they would not have to pay taxes, same as the school.

L. Kelly asked if they would lease the property, rent the property or just use the property?

Jon replied that it would be great if they could get a deed for the property but the club is open for suggestions.

B. Ross stated as long as he's been on the board the district is not in the business of selling any of the land. He is all for moving forward to putting some type of a building on it once more information is available. He said he could see giving a long term lease to it. Sometimes areas/groups do a lease for \$1 a year just so there is something.

L. Kelly commented that the property could be accessed from both Nash St & Park Ave.

B. Chow stated that from what she's hearing there is a lot of information that is still needed. They are not saying no but not sure if the board wants to vote until Tom Child and Dave Berry can meet with Kenny and figure out what can be done and what they are looking to build. Mary may need information for the insurance, such as, what is it made of? Will it be movable? There are still a lot of details needed.

B. Ross- Do they have any building plans yet? Jon is not sure, they are in the beginning process of this.

L. Whittington- Stated there are questions that need to be answered. He made a motion that the board table this until they get more information.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Region 9 Updates ( Bruce Ross/Brian Keene)**

Brian not available and Bruce was not at the meeting to report.

B. Chow - She did go. Their budget form is very different. It's hard to read. The budget did pass. She didn't ask what the increase was. The Adult Ed barely passed. It was interesting. She was surprised about that. Barbara asked Pam if she gets board minutes from Region 9. Pam replied that she does get the minutes and will pass them on to the board. Bruce responded that the Region 9 board gets them both written form at the meeting and digital.

L. Whittington tried calling 4 times and he got hung up on 4 times when he asked for the minutes. The transparency of Region 9 and the budget they passed was at the very least pale.

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

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

Pam attended the "free" Drummond Woodsum annual superintendent informational and luncheon meeting last Friday. It was well done, with a variety of attorneys providing information covering numerous areas. Administrators across the district have been reminded that all employees need to have annual (or with continuing contract teachers, every three years) evaluations completed.

End of year events are in full swing. Pam attended Arts Alive at DES last night. The artwork and musical performances were fabulous. Well worth visiting. They have another Arts Alive tomorrow (Wed) night. There will be a choir performance at the Church on the Hill Thursday evening this week. Band performance will be next Thursday at DHS.

Graduation is June 9. Please let Pam know if you would like a ticket to attend as board members are certainly welcome.

As always, we will host an end of the year luncheon for all RSU 56 staff on Wednesday, June 14 starting at 12:30 at DHS. Board members are welcome to attend. We do random drawings on that day so if you have anything you would like to donate, please let Pam know. More importantly, we recognize our retirees after the luncheon as we have amazing employees who have dedicated many years of service to RSU 56.

All residents should have received the annual Budget Newsletter.

### *Administrator's Report: Nick Karavas*

AP- as Pam shared with you at the last meeting, the SWIS data, the #1 issue at DHS is skipping. Nick is working on a plan to help with that. He has had some conversations with Charlie Swan & Jason Long as well as other administrators. Looking at other techniques on what we can do to try to crack down on that a little bit more.

Nick has finished his AP course work and still continuing on to get his principalship. He should be done with that within the next year. He has finished his supervision/evaluation courses so he will be taking on more of the responsibilities and evaluations mainly within the Math department for next year, which is where his expertise is.

B. Chow asked, when talking about skipping do you know the numbers? There are a lot that seem to skip class. Nick replied: Learning labs seem to be where most of the skipping typically occurs. It is kind of scattered throughout and also throughout the ages.

B. Chow asked the purpose of the learning labs. Nick: the purpose is to get caught up on work, have an opportunity to have a teacher that is in the classroom to help out with anything, or to give students an opportunity to work independently to get work done. A good portion of students take advantage of learning labs.

B. Ross: do you have any idea where they're going when they are skipping? Nick: It depends...Nick stated he is finding himself going anywhere within the school, as well as the fields, roads just to see who & when he can locate. It might even be a student he's not even looking for and he finds them. It's hard to locate. Once they crack down on one spot another one opens up. When they're found they get directed back to where they are supposed to be.

D. Whittemore: Approximately how many skips a day? Nick: Over extend how many. It could be handful, could be more than a handful...could be less than a handful. If it's less than a handful, feel pretty good with how the day started. A lot of repeat offenders.

L. Whittington: Do you have any consequences for skipping? Nick: Yes but it feels like it doesn't fix the problem. It feels like we've had this ongoing issue for years. In speaking with Jason & Charlie, it was the number one thing that was happening then. Unfortunately, with some students once you get to the OSS they are happy with an early weekend. He is hopeful that they can get a better system and get in place to help get them back on track.

L. Kelly: in learning lab they are allowed to go off campus if they want? Nick: if they have Open campus. L.Kelly: you said sometimes their teacher is not available because they're teaching another class, is that the normal time they go to a teacher for help? Nick: They have their learning lab teacher, but if they need help with "say their English project" they can't necessarily go see their English teacher at that time because the English teacher is teaching another class.

L. Kelly: So the biggest problem is skipping class not skipping school? Nick: I would say skipping as a whole....not sure he can say a specific class, specific part of the day,,,Skipping in general.

Athletics: The winter season went extremely well. We opened up our doors to everyone including away fans because of the restrictions that were lifted.

Nordic Ski had a successful state meet up at Fort Kent. They did have to come back a day early due to weather. They were still able to participate in most of the events. They reported they had a great time, they even said that their favorite memory was the bus ride to/from Fort Kent.

Wrestling also had an outstanding season. They had a great experience at Noble HS, their overnight trip that was approved. They are hoping to go back there next year.

Cheering had a great year as well with being the MVC Runners. Nick will make sure that they are in attendance at more home events in general next year.

Girls Basketball had a good year especially with their team communication. We are hopeful to have an increase in numbers so our JV program will still be able to be strong.

Boys Basketball had a great year with being the Back to Back State Champions. Even when the weather wasn't agreeing and they were on a bus heading to Bangor, that's when Nick was able to make the call to say the game was canceled, because he was not allowed to say anything per the MPA. The team was still able to go there, use the facilities and were able to return there the following Tuesday and become the state champions.

Unified Basketball Program, this was the first year that it was offered at the high school level. There will be more games both home and away next year with getting the grant in earlier and getting a schedule set up earlier. The experiences they did have were phenomenal.

Overall we had 91 total events at the high school, with only 10 being canceled. We had 22 participating seniors within all of the winter athletic programs. It was incredible to see but it is also going to be hard come graduation and see them all leave.

Shout out to the High School Boosters for all they're doing, parents, custodians, field staff, staff here at the HS, the coaches, athletes and always the community support.

DMS Winter Athletics: went extremely well also. This was the first season that we opened up to 5th graders. The participation across all the sports have been incredible. The JV programs for both the girls/boys basketball was pretty large to the point that JV Boys Basketball had to be split into two separate teams. This is something that Nick feels is going to stay consistent. He is going to get ahead of the curve and have more JV games available when possible with some of the nearby schools, just because they didn't get as many games as he would have liked because the schedule had to be split.

Nordic Ski had an increased participation. They were able to practice at Thurston's Farm. It went extremely well, things were very well managed. It was a great experience for the kids.

Wrestling also did amazing. Had 2 wrestlers, Fulton Bradeen & Kaden Swan, who were back to back champions.

Unified basketball was offered and played Mtn Valley a couple times. The amount of Middle school Unified basketball across the state is limited and travel is alot.

A total of 48 Middle school events, with only 3 canceled.

Spring Sports: As much as I love that brand new gym, it is so nice not to see the 4 walls of the gym and see sunshine. A huge shout out to Jay, Aaron and anyone who has helped out with the fields. They look incredible. When some teams come to play us they are appreciative and say we have the best fields in the MVC. We have JV teams for both baseball and softball at the high school. They are able to have more JV games this year than last because of the amount of teams that have JV teams within the MVC. Tennis is going well. Hoping we get more participation next year at the high school level. Boys tennis dipped down from last year because we had 5 seniors graduate. Track & Field is going well. They had an increased participation to about 18/19 this year.

MS: Baseball/Softball both have JV teams. The middle school conference does not have as many JV teams so Nick is trying to find as many dates as possible to get some nearby schools. The track & field has had probably the largest increase. We went from having 12 last year to having 36, which is why we hired Sara Thurston as Assistant coach.

*Stipended and Coaching Positions:*

**TWKDMS Track Assistant Coach- Sara Thurston**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Student Representative Report- N/A- D. Cayer absent-tennis match
2. Policy Committee- Met today- reviewed 3 policies needed for our insurance. These will be brought forth for 1st reading
3. Finance Committee- Not met
4. Curriculum Committee- Not met
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Not met
6. Negotiations Committee- Nothing this year
7. Personnel Committee- Nothing new
8. Ad-hoc Committee- Will meet May 18th -4 pm at DMS

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: M. Young

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm