

RSU 56 Board of Directors Minutes
Board Meeting Agenda- October 10, 2023- 6:30pm
(This meeting will be held at Dirigo High School.

School Board Members Absent: Carl Lueders, Tina Courtway, Larry Whittington, Don Whittemore, Natalie Sneller, Dianna Cayer (Student Rep)

Also Attending: Bruce Ross

Barbara Chow, Board Chair, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:34pm. Audience introductions were made. Everyone on zoom and Youtube were welcomed.

None

1. Minutes of the September 26, 2023 Board Meeting
K. Szostek noted that her proposed motion regarding masking was written incorrectly in the minutes. She meant to say that there is no consensus that masks even work for COVID. This will be fixed and updated.
Motion: T. Kelly
Motion Carried

None

MDOE has notified Pam that all three schools are considered Tier II schools. The three principals attended an informational webinar concerning Tier II. The three principals will organize and present to the board the information on how a school gets identified as Tier II and plan of action. Previously, DES and TWKDMS were Tier III schools, a higher level of need. DHS was never scored before as no Title 1 funds were allocated to DHS.

Pam: There are multiple things that are looked at, attendance, sub groups (Spec Ed, economically disadvantaged). All the schools have different data and that will be shared with the board. We are very fortunate that all 3 schools have taken steps to get out of the Tier with what the DOE is looking for, such as DES & DMS just got a new reading program and a new math program. DHS will be identified because the BARR program is identified as a positive program to put into high schools for academics, attendance & behavior.

B. Dyer: Is there a consequence identified to be in a certain tier? Pam: We are Tier II. We were identified as having some concerns. We are supposed to write some plan of action of how we would do corrective actions but we do not have to submit them to the DOE, they just have to be written and have on hand in case the dept asked for them. There is no money attached to Tier II. You get told you're Tier II and you should come up with a plan. We don't feel hindered by this, this is what we already/always do.

T. Kelly: How is this assessment done? Is it on-site or something that is sent in? Pam: It is off-site, calculated by our truancy and different things.

B. Chow: The high school doesn't get Title 1 so how did they get accessed as Tier II? Pam: They changed how they access everyone. They do all buildings and use the NWEA's as well as other things.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to plan an international travel experience (Rachel Buck, Beth Edwards)

Rachel represented to the board a proposal for international travel. Have not traveled since 2019. She reached out to eftours. Proposing to go to Spain, Spanish is the language we offer at DHS. Proposing for trip to happen over April vacation 2025. It is a 12 day trip, so it would expand over the strict borders of April vacation. The current price would be \$4,439 for students which would include travel insurance. She will propose doing fundraising. Whole program proposal enclosed with the minutes.

D. Dolloff: Would this be open to all students or just the students who take Spanish? Rachel: It would be open to anyone who would be a student in high school in 2025 and anyone who is currently in high school. Students up to the age of 20 can still travel on the student fee and current 8th graders would be offered to participate.

B. Dyer: In reading the proposal, it says it is an educational tour and it's beyond sight seeing. What are we talking about for education? Rachel: A lot of that really depends on where we go and what the specific experiences are. This trip has us going to 2 museums, so there is an art tie in for students interested in art. We visit a lot of historical spaces, cultural experiences. There is a lot of castles, palaces and getting a sense of the culture.

B. Dyer: Are there any plans to visit anywhere in America or just internationally? Rachel: This trip I'm looking at the international experience. In the past there have been some American based trips, NYC/ DC.

T. Kelly: Is there a minimum number that is needed? Rachel: We need at least 6 people to go for the trip to be established. They are hoping for about 30 people to go to have their own bus. If we don't get our own, they would match us with another school...such as we might have 15, another school has 15, they would put them together.

Motion: T. Kelly

Seconded: K. Szostek

Opposed: B. Dyer

Motion Carried

2. Motion to approve PEPG committee recommended changes to the district PEPG plan
This is about the changes Charlie Swan went over at the last board meeting.
Motion: B. Dyer to approve the changes as written Seconded: T. Kelly
Motion Carried
3. First Reading of Policy JLCD Administering Medication to Students
Motion: K. Szostek Seconded: B. Dyer
Motion Carried
Question regarding staff trained in administering an epie pen. Pam stated that staff is trained and the office staff trained more in depth and are able to administer.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Region 9 Updates (Bruce Ross/ Brian Keen/ Wayne Thurston)
On August 14th the board had a short special meeting for some new hires. Hired 3 new staff for open positions. 1st meeting in Sept..how the staff reports were, how enrollment was. At this stage we have the largest enrollment Region 9 has had. We have 1 student from Buckfield, 55 from Dirigo, 119 from Mtn Valley and 34 from Telstar. Some of our programs had a wait list which the board hasn't seen in years. The only program that did not get any people interested was the plumbing program. In the process of changing that program to make it more lucrative, maybe include HVAC or something. They were able to fill all the positions. The personnel committee was busy this summer. Oct 4th meeting started to talk more with the people about the grant program. The engineers talked about the designs for the new building, new welding lab. Along with that grant money for the culinary arts program to build some type of a greenhouse. 3rd project is some type of outdoor rec, all grant money. Received a good presentation. Currently at an enrollment of between 200-204 students. Able to take the students that were on wait list and move them into some program. Things are working really, the school is really busy and new staff on board.
2. Strategic Planning Update (Pam Doyen)
Pam sent out an invitation for the first meeting of strategic planning. It will be held on Oct 16, 2023 at 5:30. Still needs a second board member to serve, we have a representative from each of the schools, 2 administrators, and looking for 3 committee members.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent's Report: Pam Doyen

Homecoming week went well at Dirigio High School. The juniors won overall.

We did have a hold and secure at DHS. Don't want to go into details because if anything went further the board would have to consider it. Want to clarify a rumor that's been pretty rampant. There was a pocket knife, it was never wielded as a knife. Noone was ever threatened or anything like that. I just want to be clear that there was never a point in time where anyone was in physical danger. It was just decided at that time we should do a hold and secure because we did have police coming and we wanted to clear the hallways. Wanted to be very cautious with emergency people walking in and people in the hallway.

B. Dyer: He mentioned in an email to Pam that we don't get notified as a board. There's usually like a robocall or text message or something that goes out?

Pam: Sent an Alert call to parents to let them know that we were in a hold and secure, it was cleared and everyone was safe. As soon as she does that she typically, copy what was sent in the robocall and email it to the board members to keep them aware of a situation that is happening at the school. That is typically how that is handled.

B. Dyer: It would be helpful if we were notified at the same time through that robocall. Not everyone looks at their email. There is nothing like getting messages and calls from people about what is going on and they have no idea.

There was further discussion about the logistics of having the board added to Alert now and the reasons behind needing and feeling the board should get it immediately. Some other board members spoke up and shared their thoughts.

B. Keene: Currently on the list would be all the students, multiple parents, multiple devices. We would have to go in and make a separate list. Concern would be having multiple lists. Question was asked how many robocalls go out in a week. Brian said it varies and depends on the time of year. Adding the board to the list everyone's phone would go off at 5am with the call. The difficult part of that is that in order to add them to the list they would all have to be imported as staff into PowerSchool. Powerschool is what runs the calls. B. Dyer: I can appreciate the technical issues/ concerns, it doesn't change the concerns for not getting the updates. It would be good to see if there was a way for us to get the calls. Maybe look and see if there is a reasonable solution that would give us a more prioritized notification like the parents are getting.

The question was asked how difficult it would be to add the board as staff. Brian: the process is pretty easy, the problem is looking at staff count and see where we are with licensing. If we go over a certain number we have to pay additional costs.

A board member said they still didn't know the details about what happened. Pam: This is where it comes down that I can't give specific details especially in an open setting. These types of things I can't really give details. In this situation I don't see it moving beyond what she can provide for disciplinary actions but if it did and it had to come to the board, the board should go into those situations without having any details. They would be explained to you that night and you are judge and jury. Just wanted to make it clear that at no time was there a knife fight or anyone in danger.

B. Dyer: The board feels really disconnected. We are the administrators of this school district. It would be equivalent to the principals being aware or not needing to know this because you're going to be the next level of decision making. I don't like that we're out of the loop of things. I do think we need a fair update. Maybe I missed an email that gave some of the details or dispelled some of the rumors. That would be helpful to be proactive and save the administration a lot of time. I think it's a very fair request for the board members to have more insight than less insight.

The workshop day on Friday was productive at all three schools. To give a little glimpse of what was happening: at the elementary school, they did some more LETRS training. There was Math training for the interventionist, there was information on growth mindset for both teachers and students. A Lot of good things happening. All three schools are preparing for fall NWEA's, the state testing that happens in the fall and in the spring.

Additionally Pam attended the New England Association of School Superintendents last week. It was a great conference with a lot of strong speakers. Andrew Doloff was there to speak further on his book, The Trust Imperative, which we will be using as a guide for our strategic plan. It was a great conference and I really appreciate going. Pam is the rep for the New England Association of School Superintendents, one of the reps from Maine. She did not ask for the school to pay for any part of that conference.

Administrator's Report: Brian Keene

Staff: The Technology department is fully staffed with a technician in each building, and a director. One technician is funded through ESSER 3.

Devices:

Dirigo Elementary School: Grades PK-3 1:1 iPad's Grades 4-5 1:1 13" Macbook Airs- 2020

Dirigo Middle School: Grades 6-8 1:1 13" Macbook Airs - 2021

Dirigo High School: Grades 9-12 1:1 13" Macbook Airs- 2023

Professional Development:

RSU 56 sent four staff members to PowerSchool University in Nashville in July. Spent 4 days doing training and learning the upgrades that will be coming out.

ACTEM Conference later this week - Brian

Projects:

Student Data Privacy- 72 different privacy agreements with vendors across the country

Security Cameras-will be working on the interior upstairs at DHS, a couple exterior left to do at DES

MLTI Cyber Security Grant- was approved. A one year grant, will be bringing in \$54,828 that is going towards to pay for MDR for all 6-12 devices and including staff district wide. It was a grant Brian wrote back to in the summer and should help keep our devices and network more secure.

Enrollment Update: *Draft (Official October 1 Counts will be given in November)*

	9/13/21	9/13/22	10/10/23
PreK	37	25	32
Kindergarten	46	51	41
Grade 1	51	44	53
Grade 2	60	56	47
Grade 3	55	66	57
Grade 4	54	61	61
Grade 5	50	57	64
Dirigo Elementary School	353	360	355
Grade 6	56	51	57
Grade 7	62	55	53
Grade 8	53	64	57
T.W. Kelly Dirigo Middle School	171	170	167
Grade 9	56	59	62

Grade 10	53	59	59
Grade 11	63	55	53
Grade 12	47	58	59
Dirigo High School	219	231	233
RSU 56 Total Enrollment	743	761	755

B. Chow asked about the sale of the devices, if that was figured out.

Brian: Have not, hoping for around Christmas time but not sure right now.

Administrator's Report: Charlie Swan

Current Enrollment: 356 - 47 Students moved in, 12 Moved out

Grade	Total	Pre-K	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
2023/24	356	32+	41	54	47	57	61	64
2022/23	359	26 (13)	50 (13)	43 (14)	56 (19)	66 (17)	61 (20)	57 (19)
2021/22	348	37	46	49	58	55	53	50
2020/21	356	31	47	55	61	58	51	53
2019/20	390	39	60	64	53	54	56	64

Office Referrals						
	October 2021		October 2022		October 2023	
#	# of Students	% of Total Population	# of Students	% of Total Population	# of Students	% of Total Population
0	316	90.8%	324	90%	327	92%
1	26	7.5%	17	4.7%	18	5%
2	3	0.9%	12	3%	3	0.8%
3	1	0.3%	2	.5%	3	0.8%
4	0	0%	2	.5%	0	0
5	1	0.3%	0	0%	0	0
6	0	0%	0	0%	0	0

7	1	0.3%	0	0%	0	0
> 7	0	0%	2	.5%	5	1.4%
Total # of Referrals - 46 (10/21) - 41(10/22), 154 (10/23)				121/154 = 79% of the referrals are by 5 students.		

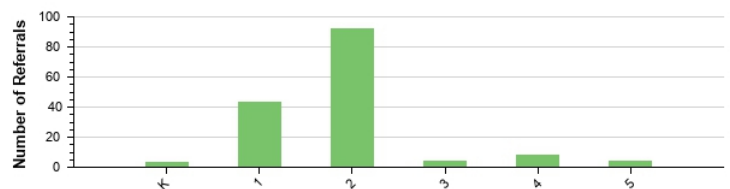
DES SWIS Grade Comparison 2022 vs. 2023

October 6 Workshop Day:

Pre-K - Grade 5 - LETRS Training - All Day
 Title 1 & Special Education - Connecting Math Concepts (AM), Number Worlds (PM)
 Specials Teachers - TCI (AM), PBIS (PM)

Referrals by Grade

All, Aug 1, 2023 - Oct 3, 2023



Upcoming at DES:

NWEA Testing - Oct 11 - 13
 Halloween Dance - October 25
 Veterans' Day Celebration - November 9
 Book Fair - November 13-17
 Parent Teacher Conferences: November 15 & 16
 Holiday Concert - December 11-13 (Tentatively)



COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Student Representative Report- N/A -D. Cayer Absent
2. Policy Committee- Will schedule a meeting to go over some that didn't get covered in last meeting
3. Finance Committee- Nothing to report
4. Curriculum Committee- Will have a meeting Oct 26, 5:15. Jason has some materials for a curriculum to use

5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Nothing to report
6. Negotiations Committee- Will meet Oct 11th 5:30
7. Personnel Committee- N/A
8. Ad-hoc Committee- N/A

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

L. Kelly: When the committees meet, could the board get notices for all the meetings? She went to the curriculum last time. If we could get the notices it would be helpful.

Pam will work to try to get it on the agenda next time. Also, each person that sends out the agenda for the committee meetings can send it out to the full board.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: J. Bradbury

Seconded: K. Szostek

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm