

**RSU 56 Board of Directors Minutes**  
**Board Meeting Amended Agenda- March 14 21, 2023- 6:30 pm**  
**(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, Tim Kelly, Carl Lueders, Bruce Ross, Elizabeth Kelly, Larry Whittington, Marianne Young, Deanna Dolloff, Natalie Sneller, Dianna Cayer ( Student Rep)

School Board Members Absent: Don Whittemore, Angela Cushman, Vacancy (Peru)

Staff Attending: Pam Doyen, Mary Dailey, Heidi Connelly, Kenny Robbins, Charlie Swan, Brian Keene, Gena Cloutier, Jason Long, Jay Nicholson, Shawn Murphy, Jared Hodgkins, Stacey Gilbert, Cathy Arsenault, Brandy Bordeaux, Andrea Palmer, Beth Edwards, Gina Puiia, Heidi Broomhall, Tom Kelly, Aaron Arsenault, Michelle/Chris Araujo, Brianne Johnston, Heather Bishop, Libby Irish, Kaitlyn Woods, Robert Robbins

Also Attending: Marianne Hutchinson, Michelle Boucher-Ladd, Theresa Cyr, Jason Dolloff, Frances McLeod, Emma Campbell, Jesse Pelletier, Crystal Duguay, Jen Bell, JMG-Mitch Donar, Matt St. John, Kathleen & Brad Szotek, Vawn Daley, Kaitlynn Daley, Students: Liam Poulin, Brenden Dubai, Skylar O'Connor

**CALL TO ORDER THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Motion to add the following:

**VII Supt. Report and Correspondence: new hires: reporting of new hires; resignations  
(New hires to be acted upon at the start of the new business.)**

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: L. Whittington

Motion Carried

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the February 14, 2023 Board Meeting

L. Whittington asked for clarification in New Business #4 article F surrounding the market correction of \$6,250. He questioned where/when it was voted on. He wondered if it was ever voted on because the public deserves the transparency. Also if it is there will it be included in this year's budget? Barbara explained that the last meeting was an overview of the budget and when the full budget is presented the board would vote on it.

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: M. Young

D. Dolloff- Not Voting  
Motion Carried

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kathleen Szotek spoke on 2 articles she has seen that have disturbed her about Maine education. She read excerpts from one regarding academic learning that takes a back seat to social, emotional, gender & race. In part , traditional learning like reading, writing and math should be a lower priority in Maine schools than social, emotional learning & programming on race & gender. In part on gender, this is telling young students there are dozens of potential gender identities they can choose from. Gender is a social construct unrelated to biological sex. It includes telling students that sometimes doctors make the mistake when observing the gender of a new born child. This also includes telling students that white students have inherent privilege and telling non-white students they have inherent victimhood. 77% of the Maine voters said schools should be focused on the basics rather than spending time on how gender, sexuality & race impact the lives of everyday Americans. Another article she spoke about the Mills administration removing the ability of the public to see how students and schools are doing. In the removal of the standardized test, it leaves parents, taxpayers, school boards and the public at large no longer have any measures to gauge the progress or lack thereof in the public schools to know how students are doing and to compare them to other schools. It leaves our Maine school at risk of losing federal funds. She would like to know on both of these fronts how this school board stands. Do they support these two initiatives, articles? She has heard it said that we need to provide a safe environment for all. She feels the board is very well run. If teachers can't control their classrooms, that needs to be handled but she doesn't feel we need gender, sexuality & CRT to have a safe environment.

Frances McLeod- She spoke that she has a daughter that goes to Margaret Murphy and a son that goes to an out-of-district placement. Her daughter is non-verbal. She is about a 3-4 year old though she looks 12, she is not. She wants to talk about why her daughter has to go an hour away when other districts in the area have self-contained classrooms. She is very happy to be in this area. She really hopes that the board would consider giving special education more of a chance here in the district. It would help give families the resources that they need. She would like to see services here. For some special services it can be a 2 year wait list. Here in Oxford County there are not many case managers. She feels the school could do more, as well as the town. Give a chance to the great special education teachers and the director as well as the Superintendent who are amazing to give them the tools they need to make a better place for these kids that don't have a voice.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

No new communications

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. JMG Presentation- Mitch Donar(Central Regional Director) & Matt St. John (Chief Operating Officer)

#### **JMG Impact Dirigo High School- Program Highlights**

#### **High School Core Program (2018 to present)**

**\* 100% Senior Graduation Rate** of all students who took JMG as a senior (14 currently rostered seniors)

\* **73% of students** enrolled within the JMG Dirigo High School program since its existence have been economically disadvantaged

\* **36% of students** enrolled within the JMG Dirigo High School program since its existence have been identified as having a disability

\* **77 currently rostered JMG students**, making up **36% of the student population**

### **Student Career Exploration Opportunities**

#### **Maine Career Exploration Badge**

\* An opportunity for JMG and non-JMG high school juniors and seniors to take part in **meaningful paid work experiences** resulting in a **\$500 academic award** upon completion

\* 34 Dirigo High School juniors and seniors enrolled in badge program

#### **Workplace Experiences**

\* Students visited JD Irving Sawmill in Dixfield and saw firsthand how logs are turned into lumber and learned about the materials the sawmill produces. The students interacted with Dirigo alumni, family and community members who work at the mill.

*JMG partners with public education and private businesses to offer results-driven solutions to ensure all Maine students graduate, attain post-secondary credentials and pursue meaningful careers.*

Three students spoke on how JMG has affected their lives and how much it has helped them.

They spoke of how much Ms. Bell has helped them and many other students. Two of them were current students and one was a graduate student of a couple years. The students were: Skylar O'Connor who read something on behalf of Kaylin McLean who was not able to be present at the meeting, Liam Poulin & former student Kaitlynn Daley, Dirigo Class of 2021.

Both Mr. Donar & Mr. St. John spoke regarding JMG.

Matt St. John shared that JMG serves the students beyond their time in high school. College success program. There are JMG specialists at some college/community college campuses.

They have been able to provide a level of support whether it be economic, social, financial.

Hoping to be able to expand the level of investment to colleges. When the program started back in 2018, they were able to start about 25 programs from DHHS funding. The funding was such that it was able to be at no cost to the districts for the first few years. This was important because they were able to prove the program works and show some of the results they have had. The funding source is coming up for renewal and the funding source is asking that JMG gets a matching fund from the schools. By helping to fund the program it shows that the schools really want to continue the program. They are hoping to get to the \$27k standard level over the next couple of years.

B.Chow asked for clarification on how much was budgeted for this year. Pam explained the amount that is proposed and that it is listed as an add-on. She wanted to be clear that JMG is really important for DHS. The process in the district is when additional money is asked for it has to be put as an add-on to the budget. JMG is at both Mtn. Valley & Telstar so the career readiness program is no longer at Region 9. It would be a big gap at DHS to not have JMG at this point.

N. Sneller- Asked the folks from JMG- As they are looking to bridge the funding gap from DHHS is there an opportunity to partner with the larger employers in the state and align with some of the workplace programs and perhaps have them contribute as well?

Matt St. John -Absolutely some of the revenue sources do come from the private sector. It is some

of those employers that we look to to have some of the JMG students involved and that do invest back into the organization. There is a great relationship between JMG and some major players in the workforce.

N. Sneller- Also asked as they look 3 years or 5 years down the road, what percent of contribution does JMG expect that will come from the state, from local districts and then from private industry approximately? Matt St. John - In terms of the school contribution, the school contribution represents a little less than 33% of the overall operating cost for a JMG program. The two major funders are DHHS & DOE.

2. Representative to the Region 9 board

Pam explained that there is a need for a new representative from our four towns to fill a vacancy on the Region 9 board. B. Ross said that Region 9 meets once a month, usually the first Wed of the month. He stated it was a laid back atmosphere. During the meeting Brian Keene told Pam he would be interested in serving on the board. It will be brought to the RSU 56 school board at the next meeting for a vote.

3. Revolving Renovations Fund for DHS Bathroom renovations

Pam wrote a revolving renovation grant, trying to get the bathrooms at DHS to be private stalls. The grant was approved. It is for \$214,750. The portion that will be forgiven is \$147,168, goes through the same formula as the ED279. The district would be responsible for \$67, 582, which is 31.47% of that total. The board needs to make a decision on whether or not 1) whether they want to move forward with this & 2) how they want to move forward with it. Two options if the board decides to move forward. 1) Put it on a referendum vote, so it would go with everything else for the towns to approve it and we would pay it over a 5 year period, 2) In talking with the attorney if it was decided to go with the loan it could be paid with carryover funds. Tonight a decision needs to be made because it impacts how the ballots are done and how to move forward. First, is it wanted and second how do we proceed with it?

B. Ross- Asked if this was interest free for 5 years? Pam said yes it is zero percent.

L. Whittington- A constituent contacted Larry and he read a portion of the letter he was sent, along with a list of questions he was concerned about. The taxpayer has some major concerns as does Larry. Larry read the questions and said that these need to be answered before the board votes on this.

B. Chow- Asked if the carryover money was used would it be on the referendum? Pam said it would still go to the people to vote at the Validation meeting.

L. Whittington-Asked if Pam could answer the questions of the taxpayer before the meeting for the vote. Pam replied she could answer most of them, she would like them sent to her so she can look at everything and have the answers clear.

B. Chow asked which bathrooms this loan would renovate. Pam said the quote is doing all the bathrooms, upstairs and downstairs at DHS.

L. Kelly asked if it included the locker rooms. Pam said it does not include the locker rooms.

C. Lueders asked if this was a requirement, is it something we have to have? Pam responded that there is nothing in the law that says we have to redo the bathrooms. The law is clear that gender expansive and transgender students have the right to use the bathroom of their choice. This is an attempt to make sure everybody is comfortable. Whoever walks in that bathroom they are

Motion Carried

4. Budget Overview for Special Education Services (Heidi Connelly)

**Mission of RSU 56 Special Services Department**

To prepare each child from birth through 22 to contribute to their communities in meaningful and positive ways, by providing specialized instruction, allowing for individual differences and learning styles, and developing independence.

The proposed budget reflects both materials and staff to support all students identified through the IEP team referral and meeting process. The budget for the upcoming school year continues to include funds for academic intervention programs, extended school year services, occupational, physical, and speech therapy, psychological services, social work services, supplies, professional development, behavioral and restraint training for staff, and the salaries/benefits of staff.

**A. Enrollment:** Total enrollment in special education services at the end of the 21-22 school year was one hundred and twenty-four. Current enrollment is one hundred and thirty one district wide which reflects a 1.06% increase from last year. This number fluctuates a lot. We currently have seven students in the referral process. Four students have met their Individualized Education plan goals and have graduated from special education services joining their same age peers in the general education environment full time.

**B. Staffing:** There are currently 8 Special education teachers and 24 Ed Techs providing daily services to students. In addition, there are related service providers that are contracted or employed by the district to meet all needs identified in student IEPs. Based on student needs there has been a half day reduction of physical therapist time. The lines that are controllable in the budget is down by 19,412 dollars. The other levels of staffing will remain the same to meet regulatory requirements associated with identified IEP service needs.

**C. Out of District Placements:** The 23-24 school year budget will reflect a decrease in out of district placements to the regional program due to one student successfully transitioning back to the middle school and another leaving the district. There is a projected 6% increase to the daily rate for MMCC impacted partially by the recent announcement that MaineCare funding will not reimburse for time when a student must be restrained for safety purposes.

5. Budget Overview for Building, Grounds and Transportation (Kenny Robbins)

**Mission:**

The mission of the RSU 56 Buildings, Grounds and Transportation department is to maintain safe, clean buildings and athletic fields and to provide safe and reliable transportation for students.

There are 12 daily bus runs in-district, 3 daily van runs to deliver students to the Western Foothills Regional Program in Rumford, and 1 daily bus run to deliver students to the Margaret Murphy facility in Auburn. Two mechanics maintain the fleet of 21 buses, 5 passenger vans, 1 food van, 2 plow trucks, and 3 tractors used for mowing and snowblowing. The district has 23 acres of athletic fields to maintain.

**Transportation Budget (overall proposed budget increase of \$5,875.00)**

A. Our insurance company (Maine School Management Association) has estimated a 25% increase for vehicle insurance for 2023-2024. However, the bid prices came in lower last year than what was budgeted for 2022-2023 so this actually results in a decrease to the 2023-2024 budget.

B. We have locked in the price for diesel fuel for 2023-2024 at \$3.239 per gallon which is higher than the bid price of \$2.859 per gallon for 2022-2023 (budget increase of \$26,025.00).

C. The amount budgeted for parts has been increased \$10,000.

**Add-ons to be considered:**

1. We have received permission from the state to purchase a new bus in 2-23-2024 with a three-year note. Due to the increased cost of buses, the amount that would have to be added to the 2023-2024 budget for the first year principal and interest payment would be \$54,000. If the board chooses to add this on to the budget, the voters of our four towns will be asked to approve the borrowing at the budget meeting in May.

2. GPS system for buses at a cost of \$20,000. The district may be able to obtain a grant (Homeland Security grant, for example) to purchase this system.

**Maintenance Budget (overall proposed budget decrease of \$346.00)**

A. Our insurance company (Maine School Management Association) has estimated a 25% increase for property and liability insurance. However, the bid prices came in lower last year than what was budgeted for 2022-2023 so this actually results in a decrease to the 2023-2024 budget.

B. There is an increase in the electricity (\$28,632.00) and heating oil (\$9,545.00) lines in the budget. We have locked in for oil for 2023-2024 at \$3.089 per gallon as compared to \$2.859 per gallon for 2022-2023. We have locked in for electricity at 10 cents per kilowatt hour which is an increase over the 6 cents per kilowatt hour that the district is currently paying.

C. Reductions have been made to other lines, including site improvements, to offset the increases. There are no site improvements included in the proposed 2023-2024 budget.

L.Kelly asked about a leak on the gym wall. Kenny said they would take care of it and seal it up this summer.

6. Budget Overview for Technology (Brian Keene)

**Goals of the Technology Department:**

The RSU 56 Technology Department has four specific goals:

1. Improve parent and community involvement in our students' education through the use of our digital platforms.

2. Continue to improve students access to online educational programming, assessments, and other online content through the district's secured high-speed data network.

3. Increase the effectiveness, quality, and reliability of the technology equipment that teaching staff are using in their classrooms every day.

4. Continue to provide a quality 1:1 device to all students in grades PK-12.

**Pre-K to Grade 12**

The proposed budget reflects both materials and support staff to provide the digital tools and 21st-century skills necessary for students to be lifelong learners while supporting all departments. The budget for the upcoming school year continues to include monies for equipment, software maintenance, software license agreements, repairs and maintenance, internet service, and salaries/benefits of Technology Department staff.

A. **PowerSchool:** Over the last 15 years, the 3 schools in RSU 56 have used the PowerSchool SIS to house our student data. In the current data-influenced world of education and as state reporting requirements increase we need to utilize the programs we have to their fullest potential and continue to fund the professional development so our staff knows how to get everything we can

out of the system. PowerSchool is now partially funded by the MaineDOE.

**B. Cyber Security:** The 23-24 Technology budget includes funding for Cyber Insurance, Sophos Internet Security, Backup and Restore Software to protect our network and data from cyber attacks.

**C. Staffing:** The Technology departments budget covers a Technology Director, and two IT Support Specialists. The third IT support specialist is covered by ESSER 3.

**D. Devices:** This year we will be replacing the Grade 3 iPads and swapping them to Macbooks. We will cover most of the cost by expanding the MLTI 2.0 program to another grade level, and then use a combination of ESSER funding with a small amount out of our regular budget to cover the rest.

**E. Training:** There are funds in the 23-24 Budget to cover staff professional development, and PowerSchool University.

The Technology budget for the 2023-2024 school year will be an increase of \$9,397 from the 2022-2023 years budget.

B. Ross- asked how old the iPads were that would be replaced in Grade 3 and how many? Brian replied they are about 3 years old and there are approximately 60

B. Chow-How is camera security? Are they all in? Brian- DES has 1 more camera, which we have in stock, to put up when the weather is better. DMS 2 additional cameras to be installed, which we have in stock. There is money in the current year budget to start doing DHS. There is more money in the proposed budget to do more.

L. Whittington asked about artificial intelligence. Will our cybersecurity help keep it out of the school? Brian- in terms of keeping the bad stuff out of the school, Yes...artificial intelligence, No. In talking with a lot of the directors around the state it doesn't make sense to block it. It would be a daily job to block as some are always popping up. It's more of a learning/teaching opportunity for our staff.

## 7. Budget Overview for Nutrition (Gena Cloutier)

### **Mission:**

The mission of RSU 56 School Nutrition Department is to contribute to student academic success by providing well balanced nutritious meals, promoting life-long healthy eating habits, served by caring professionals in a pleasant environment.

### **Staffing:**

Dirigo Elementary School- 3 staff, one person in charge for 7 hours, two helper positions at 6 ¼ hours and 5 ½ hours daily.

Dirigo High School- 2 staff, one person in charge at 6 ¾ hours and one helper at 3 hours daily.

TWK Dirigo Middle School- 3 staff, one Production Manager at 8 hours, two helper positions at 6 ¼ hours and 4 hours daily.

One Full Time Director

No changes to staffing

### **Budget:**

The school nutrition budget is a zero-based budget. All funds needed to cover the expenses by the nutrition department are expected to be raised by reimbursement of meals served in the National School Breakfast program, National Lunch program, CACFP afterschool meals, sales by catering and a la carte. The SY 2023 RSU 56 Nutrition budget has been subsidized by the District budget.



I am asking for continued support with a \$25,000 decrease in funding.

**Vision:**

The vision of the RSU 56 school nutrition department is to offer nutritional, visually appealing meals to students and staff leading to increased participation by offering more scratch cooked meals.

Continued improvements in regards to equipment needs and to utilize new ideas to gain student access to meals. For example, the procurement of meal vending machine at the high school and middle levels, giving students access to meals while freeing up staffing restrictions.

B.Ross- asked if the district is all set for equipment. Gena- asked the board to consider replacing the DES dishwasher. They have changed out some parts. She has some quotes on a new one.

8. Budget Overview for All Other Areas (Pam Doyen/Mary Dailey)

<b>Cost Center</b>	<b>2022-23 Budget</b>	<b>2023-23 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Board of Directors	\$86,810	\$88,659	\$1,849	2%	Increase budgeted amount due to increased cost of annual audit.
Board-Election Service	\$2,000	\$1,200	(\$800)	(40%)	Decreased budgeted amount for printing of ballots to be in line with actual expenditures.
Office of Superintendent*	\$20,283	\$20,493	\$210	1%	Increased amount for dues & memberships & employee travel to cover MSSA conf. Decreased office supplies to offset increase.
Business Office**	\$20,168	\$21,134	\$966	5%	Increased budgeted amount for software maintenance annual fee & dues & memberships.
Teacher Certification	\$200	\$200	\$0		
Food Service	\$210,000	\$185,000	(\$25,000)	(12%)	Decreased amount in budget for food service salaries & benefits to be more in line with actual expenditures.
Major Capital Debt Service	\$798,688	\$767,947	(\$30,741)	(4%)	Decreased as less interest on DES will have to be paid in 2023-2024
Out-of-District Transportation	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$0		

English Language Learners (ELL)	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0		
Health Services	\$12,500	\$7,533	(\$5,017)	(40%)	Decreased as less course reimbursement has been requested.
Gifted & Talented	\$9,692	\$11,616	\$1,924	20%	Increased K-8 contracted services to include field trips in budget.

**Total "All Other" \$1,179,891 \$1,123,282 (\$56,609) (5%)**

**Amounts shown in budget columns above do not include payroll and benefit lines, except for Food Service.**

**\*The Superintendent payroll line will be increased \$6,250 as previously discussed.**

**\*\* The Business Office salary and benefits lines will be increased a total of \$10,000. Cathy Arsenault plans to retire on June 30, 2024 so her replacement will have to be hired by May 1, 2024 in order to have two months of training.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Met on the first Wednesday of March. Most of the meeting was on finances and how things will be paid out. The finance committee came back with a proposal of what they wanted to do. The Director looked at everything and it went back to the finance committee for them to redo some of the questions the director had. Staff reports were done. They are going through and seeing how many applications they have for the next coming year. At the present time there are 65. It changes all the time. They are doing recruitments for the freshman/sophomores. The staff has been helping students that are graduating to help with applications for community colleges if they are interested. Most of the programs they currently have are doing well. Bruce has always been an advocate that they won't support a program that doesn't have adequate students. There needs to be a certain number of students for a program to be funded through their ED279. Working forward a little more with the grant they received. They received grant money for 3 major projects. One project for the culinary arts program has gone out to bid. A big discussion at the board meeting was they were potentially losing the adult education director. It was again looked to see about Region 9 continuing with Adult Education. Do the schools want to take it over? At that time RSU 10 came in and made a proposal, saying if they chose to have it moved from Region 9 running the program to RSU 10 running the program. RSU 10 did not have space to do the program, they were still going to do it through Region 9. It made things unclear how it was going to move forward. It was left up to RSU 10 & RSU 56 along with the other constituents to figure out which would be the best option for Adult Education. Had a special meeting on Monday night, March 20 to find out if Region 9 would continue to do the adult ed. It was voted on to approve Region 9 to do it. Region 9 would then hire a director. At the meeting a tentative number for the draft budget was voted on. A draft amount was also voted on for the Adult Education

program. Also at that meeting CWT, Inc was voted on for the grant for the outside kitchen and greenhouse project.

B. Chow asked when is the Region 9 vote for the taxpayers? Bruce- there was a hearing tonight and there are upcoming dates that will be listed in the paper. Pam- she emailed it out to the board and will resend it out if they would like her to.

M. Young asked Bruce if the Adult Ed would open up any offerings such as, CNA, Culinary to the adult learners to maybe have some revenue? Bruce said he would have to ask the new director of Adult Ed and also approved through the director of the building. It's always an option. Most of what the adult ed does is to help the adult learners get their diplomas.

M. Young said she was asking because she has had people ask if any of those programs will be opened up to other learners beyond just high schoolers.

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

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

Pam has called each of our four town's town offices to officially invite the selectboard members and anyone interested to attend the next RSU 56 Board meeting. The March 28 board meeting, next Tuesday, will be a budget workshop.

Pam was asked by a board member how many superintendent's agreements we have in RSU 56. We have 43 students with agreements coming into RSU 56 (two of which we are waiting on parents to complete paperwork) and 32 students going out with agreements to other districts. The GPA (General Purpose Aid) for each student follows the students to the school in which they attend. The calculated EPS rate per pupil is \$6,969 per student in grades PreK-8 and \$7,435 per student in grades 9-12 for the current school year. In terms of the FY24 budget, it appears we will be around a 3.1% increase, without the addition of the bus, JMG costs and civil rights stipend at DES. This has insurance still at 10% increase. The administrative team has made cuts to absorb as much of the uncontrollable costs, such as payroll, benefits, diesel, gas, heating fuel, etc. It would be incredibly helpful to know if the board feels comfortable at that percentage.

B. Chow- At the meeting on March 28th the board would give direction to the Administrative team on a percentage for the budget they would be comfortable with.

### *Administrator's Report: Kenny Robbins (BGT Director)*

Report on things that were done in the summer and finished up this fall.

Update on Heating and A/C- DHS the boiler room, the pony boiler was added this year for the hot water. Was able to cut back on a percent of oil for this next year knowing the big boilers would be shut off this summer. The AC for the SCC room is complete so when that is needed this spring that will be able to be utilized. When DES was built there was a portion that had air conditioning, with the ESSER money they were able to completely air condition the rest of the building. There is one more unit on the roof, waiting for it to dry up, to finish the wiring. That should be up and operating for summer school and before if needed. The units put in over there would be able to be used to heat some of the rooms upstairs as well.

DMS Freezer- That is up and operating

Lead and PFAST Tests- The lead testing in all the buildings is complete. The PFAST test is being worked on now. The state has set the limit at 20,000 parts per trillion. Initially came in at 19.8. In order to be eligible for state funding for filtration they required a second test. The second test came back at 17.9. We've been recording the amount of water used each day, which will determine the type of system that

they will need. They are working on a price to see what would be needed. The state hasn't said at this point how much they will help but that is in the works.

Gym Floor- Having a little trouble with the gym floor. The very corner there is a little bit of a wave on the floor. Kenny has contacted the flooring company, they will come this summer to see what they can do.

They feel the cement floor was a little wavy when they put the floor down. They have a fix for it.

Diesel Depot Update- There is a new fire marshall at the state. He came over and gave Kenny a few things that needed to be done. They are working on getting those done. It is looking like a new tank may have to go in at some point. Kenny believes he will give the district 2 years to do that so it can be budgeted.

New Garage dates- There was a pre bid meeting a few weeks ago. Kenny was pleased that there were a number of local contractors looking at it. It looks like there are 5 or 6 contractors interested in it. Monday will be the bid opening so they will know where they will stand.

Fertilizer and Paint for Spring- The grounds crew has been getting some things ready, moving snow around and getting the fields ready for spring sports.

B. Chow- asked how old is the current tank that they are saying needs to be replaced? Kenny replied it was before his time so it is quite old. They have changed the regulations on the tank. The new tanks they require now are called Safe Guard Tanks. It has a cement liner in it. It's a fireproof tank. It's still in good shape but the rules/regulations have changed.

B. Ross- asked if there would be a way to utilize the diesel tanks from C.N.Brown to get our diesel instead of purchasing our own tank.

C. Lueders- Asked why the price was different from heating oil to diesel. Kenny said he didn't know why it was different this year.

L. Kelly-Asked if we sell to the town of Dixfield? Kenny responded that we do, as well as the fire dept and Carthage has asked to buy also. We charge 6 cents because we treat our own. He tells them that upfront.

*Administrator's Report:* Charlie Swan

### **Dirigo Elementary School Administrator's Report- March 21, 2023**

**Current Enrollment:** 354 (3 New students started 3/20/23) Total of 6 new students-2 have left this week so up a total of 4 students this week.

### **2023/23 Dirigo Elementary School Anticipated Student Enrollment per Grade**

<b>Grade</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b># of Teachers</b>	<b>Ratio</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Pre-K</b>	Unknown	2		Will not have this until the registration process in March
<b>K</b>	35	3	12/1	Currently have 4, but one moving to grade 4
<b>1</b>	52	3	17/1	
<b>2</b>	41	3	13/1	
<b>3</b>	56	4	14/1	This grade has SIGNIFICANT social emotional behavioral and academic needs. They lost two Important developmental years during COVID
<b>4</b>	64	4	16/1	
<b>5</b>	61	3	20/1	

**Attendance:**

Category	#	Description
Truancy Cases	6	Students have more than 7 total unexcused Ab.
Pending Truancy	3	Truant students where I am reviewing Attendance Records
Truancy Warnings	20	Students who have 3-6 Unexcused Ab
Chronic Absenteeism	57	Missed 10% of School Day (13 Days)

**Office Referrals****March 17, 2022****March 17, 2023**

#	# of Students	% of Total Population	# of Students	% of Total Population
0	265	74%	242	69%
1	29	8%	48	14%
2	24	7%	14	4%
3	11	3%	10	3%
4	4	1.1%	10	3%
5	3	.8%	5	1.4%
6	5	1.4%	2	0.5%
7	4	1.1%	5	1.4%
>7	14	4%	15	4%

**Total # of Referrals - 94 (3/17/22)- 109 (3/17/23)**

**Referrals by Grade:**

Mr. Swan did a graph to show the number of referrals per grade.

It seemed Grade 2 & 3 had the highest number of referrals. This was from Aug 1, 2022- March 17, 2023

**Winter NWEA Data (Winter 2023):****Category:**

% of students who Grew in Math (Fall to Winter)	83%
% of students who Met their Math Growth Goals (Fall to Winter)	36%
% of students who Grew in Reading (Fall to Winter)	70%
% of students who Met their Reading Growth Goals (Fall to Winter)	33%

**March 17 Workshop Day:**

\*Pre-K - Grade 5- LETRS Training

\*Special Ed- TCI Training

\*Title 1- Assessment & Data Meetings

\*Specials- Arts Alive & PLC Meetings

**Grade 5 Students Participating in Middle School Sports**

Sport	# of Grade 5 Students Participating
Nordic Skiing	5
Basketball	5
Wrestling	4

### **Upcoming at DES:**

Read Across America Activities March 27-31

PTO Dessert Bingo- March 29

Arts Alive- May 10 (K-2), May 11 (3-5)

N. Sneller asked about the % of students not meeting the Math/Reading NWEA. Charlie said he would always like to see it higher. The tendency is the numbers are usually higher from Fall to Spring.

B. Ross asked about Truancy/Absenteeism. Charlie said there has been a lot of sickness. We have done a lot of training over the last couple of years about staying home when you are sick so we are seeing more absences around sickness. Some of it is a lot of other issues going on in homes with families. Chronic absences are both excused and unexcused.

M. Young asked if it was possible for students who were chronically absent or sick to be able to do zoom/remote? Charlie said they try to do that as often as they can especially with students who may have extended stays and not able to come to school.

### *New Hires:*

Emma Campbell, DES Teacher

Charlie Swan introduced Emma Campbell and gave some of her background. Emma has been working as a long term substitute for RSU 56 for the 22-23 SY while finishing student teaching work & her coursework for her degree. Very busy year & very excited to bring her onboard.

Motion: T. Kelly

Seconded: B. Ross

Motion Carried

### **Michelle Boucher-Ladd, Special Education Teacher at TWKDMS (Starting 2023-2024 school year)**

Jason Long introduced Michelle Boucher-Ladd and gave some information to the board regarding her background. C. Lueders asked about her having grant writing experience. She said that she has written some grants in the past.

**Motion:** T. Kelly

**Seconded:** B. Ross

Motion Carried

### **Theresa Cyr, Social Studies Teacher at TWKDMS (Starting 2023-2024 school year)**

Jason Long introduced Theresa Cyr, through zoom, and gave information about her background. She is moving to the area from Aroostook county after her husband took a job at Irving Mill.

**Motion:** L. Whittington

**Seconded:** T. Kelly

Motion Carried

### *Reporting of New Hires:*

Andy Arsenault-Part-Time, Temporary Ed Tech I in Technology- Funded by ESSER for Asset Management

### *Stipended and Coaching Positions:*

#### **Dirigo High School:**

**Baseball Varsity Coach-** Gavin Arsenault

**Baseball Junior Varsity Coach-** Reggie Weston

**Softball Varsity Coach-** Scott Robbins

### **TWK Dirigo Middle School:**

Baseball Junior Varsity Coach- Cole Brown

Softball Varsity Coach- Tasha Chapman

Softball Junior Varsity Coach- Katie Morse

### *Resignations/Retirements:*

Ami Greco, DHS Social Worker at the end of the contract year

Theresa Bishop, TWKDMS Alt Ed Teacher, at the end of the contract year

### *Transfers:*

Dave Buck from TWKDMS to DHS starting the 2023-24 school year. Mr. Buck will be moving into the ½ science/ ½ social studies position.

Meg MacFarlane from special education to regular education at TWKDMS

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Student Representative Report- Barbara Chow introduced the second student rep. Dianna Cayer- Spring Fling dance was last Saturday. It was not well attended. The classes did enjoy the spring fling events that happened during the week. The Sophomore class is hosting a breakfast with the Easter bunny on Saturday. March 25th at Region 9 8am-10. Spring sports begin next week. The high school unified basketball team lost against Mtn. Valley on Monday, but they played well and had fun.
2. Policy Committee- Not met
3. Finance Committee- Will have a meeting 3/24 @ 1pm. The audit will be discussed and the accounting firm will zoom in for the report. The bus garage bid opening will be 3/27 @ 3pm
4. Curriculum Committee- Not met
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Bus garage bid will be 3/27 & BGT meeting will be 3/31 @ 9am
6. Negotiations Committee- Nothing
7. Personnel Committee- Not met but they have had the opportunity to interview some really strong candidates, some of which were brought forward tonight.
8. Ad-hoc Committee- Not met

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

L. Whittington- Verified that there will be a DropOut Prevention Committee Meeting March 28th at 5pm  
L. Kelly- One of the DMS 8th grade students presented something to the town selectmen a few nights ago. It was on her idea on how to fix up McGouldrick park. She did a very good job and they are going to do something with her proposal. It came through from Mr. Buck.

B. Ross- As everyone probably already knows our Dirigo Boys brought home the Gold Ball. Accolades to the team. They did a really good job. This core of kids have been playing ball for a lot of years, the sad thing is this team was senior heavy. Kudos to them for doing it two years in a row. It will be a rebuilding year but it was an awesome game to watch.

B. Chow- To follow up the community was so supportive of this team. These kids are really good kids. It shows how much they care about the community and the community cares about them. You see when

you're at the receptions and at the games. She spoke to a ref the next day..He said both teams were excellent. They were good kids. They played ball. There were no issues. It's nice to see how respected that team was. They were t-shirts that say they are Family.

N. Sneller- I would like to echo that..Great kids, great community support, great role models for our little cougars which I really appreciate as a parent of a few of them. One question, where are we at in terms of budget process, timeline? When do we need to decide for sure what we are going forward with? Pam: March 28th- budget workshop where we invite the constituents from all four towns. The board will see the whole budget next week. 1st meeting in April the board will be voting on the budget and we're back on track.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: B. Ross

Seconded: M. Young

Motion Carried

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm