

RSU 56 Board of Directors Minutes
Board Meeting Agenda- January 16 17 , 2024 -6:30pm
(Postponed from January 9, 2024)

(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, Don Whittemore, Kathleen Szostek,
Joy Bradbury, Brad Dyer, Elizabeth Kelly, Larry Whittington,
Natalie Sneller

School Board Members Absent: Carl Lueders, Tina Courtway, Deanna Dolloff

Staff Attending: Gena Cloutier, Pam Doyen, Cathy Arsenault, Jared Hodgkins, Brandy Borgeau,
Kelly Porter, Gina Puia, C/M Araujo, Kaitlyn Woods, Stacey Gilbert, Heidi Broomhall,
Brianne Johnston, Beth Edwards, Nicole Witas

Also Attending: Ryan Borgeau, Sherman Bradeen, Jen Bradeen, Marianne Hutchinson, Joe Scott,
Students (HS & MS), Chassidy Ty?

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Barbara Chow, Board Chair, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:31pm. Audience introductions were made. Everyone on zoom and YouTube were welcomed.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

1. Motion to add the following: **Changed Date of Meeting, Reporting of New Hires, Student Report (moved up)**

Motion: B. Dyer

Seconded: J. Bradbury

Motion Carried

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the December 12, 2023 Board Meeting

Motion: B. Dyer

Seconded: J. Bradbury

L. Whittington wants his comments put in the minutes. He did send Pam a copy of the comments and he would like to see them reflected in the minutes. The minutes will be updated.

Abstain: T. Kelly

L. Whittington: Opposed

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

B. Borgeau- I think we can all agree we want our children safe. I believe most of us can also agree that it is unsafe for a 13 yr old girl and a high school boy to be in the same bathroom. We had a situation where both students did not feel comfortable in our building. We can change this. I have a couple ideas I would like the board and the community to consider. #1 would be installing doors or locks on our bathrooms. What this looks like is some of our bathrooms are single use with a door, some are a line of stalls and a line of sinks. Some of those have a door already on them, all we'd have to do is put a lock. One person in

there at a time. At the elementary school they are all open with no door. We'd need a door and a lock. The other idea is what Jason Long is already doing sometimes, he is sitting at the bathroom and letting one person go in at a time. This won't be a solution for all the areas, this is just a start. Would like parents, grandparents, community members, aunts, uncles please bombard RSU 56 with meetings, calls, emails and let's make All children safe.

B. Chow commented that she received an email that for after school activities the bathroom will have locks on them and be single use.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. The board received a letter from the Maine Library Association, which Pam has forwarded to all board members. The letter was imploring the RSU 56 School Board to not move forward with restricting library books in the district.
2. Pam received two emails from parents, Brandy Bordeau and Sherman Bradeen, with concerns regarding the bathroom use at TWKDMS. Both were responded to with the information that RSU 56 will follow the laws concerning bathroom choice and that athletes can utilize the locker rooms during games. Additionally, like all public restrooms, parents can escort their children to the public restrooms if they feel it necessary as they would in any public setting. Additionally, the district has added the locks at the middle school, because that is where the issue is coming from. The locks are in, they are not on the doors yet. They will be single use for after school activity time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion concerning requesting a waiver for missed school days
Pam brought to the board a request to ask the state for a waiver for the missed days of school. She would ask for this in three parts, 2 days for the mass shooting in Oct and then the 2 days for the flooding in Dec. If the days were waived this would mean the days are waived completely and would not have to be made up. We would use it only if we went past June 14th.
The only concern with bringing this forward now is it is only January and we have missed a number of days already. She is worried that we would extend beyond June 14th, because graduation cannot be moved. Graduation is June 6th and seniors have to be within 5 days of graduation and the end of school. We could wait till closer to spring to ask for the waiver but thought it might be prudent to come to the board and see if they want her to ask to see about having the 4 days waived. If it extended us beyond June 14th, then the days would be waived. If we can get the days in then we would not have to waive them.
2. Motion pertaining to waiver, if applicable
Motion: B. Dyer made a motion to have Pam request the waiver for the 4 days as she stated.
Seconded: T. Kelly
Motion Carried
3. Review of Board Self-Evaluation
Pam and the board reviewed and discussed the Board Self Evaluation.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Region 9 Updates (Bruce Ross/Brian Keene/Wayne Thurston)
No report- There will be a report out at the next meeting on Feb 13th
2. Strategic Planning Update (Pam Doyen)
Strategic planning forum will meet January 22nd 5:30 HS Library

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent's Report: Pam Doyen

Happy to note that I was able to attend both the choir and band concerts in December. We have 48 students in choir and 56 students in band- from DHS and TWKDMS combined. Huge shout out to Mr. Hamalainen who provides music at DHS and TWKDMS and Mrs. Webster who develops the love of music at DES. It's exciting to see music returned to RSU 56!

Per the direction of the RSU 56 Ad-hoc Board Committee, Diversity Day occurred at both DHS and TWKDMS yesterday, Tuesday, January 16, 2024. We were excited about the array of speakers we had- from Operation Reboot to the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Agency on Aging to Penobscot Nations. We had fourteen different sessions scheduled at DHS as well as a keynote and endnote to start and end the day. Unfortunately, with the early release, we were only able to have the keynote and two sessions. Even with a shortened day, the experience was worthwhile.

Brian Keene and I worked to have trial vape detectors installed at DHS. They have been working better than any other ones we have tried previously. I would like to designate fund balance money towards installing a full set in all of the bathrooms at DHS, approximately \$15,000 worth. Might the board approve that under general consensus?

B. Dyer asked the ongoing cost once they are installed? Pam will get that answer from Brian. Pam found that this cost is for the first 5 years. The board did a consensus to approve Pam to designate fund balance to purchase a full set of vape detectors.

I have received a few calls about the sign at DES. It looks like a political sign. It's required from the PFAS grant.

Some discussion ensued regarding the sign, the wording and the placement of it.

No board meeting next week. Neither Barbara, board chair nor Carl, vice chair, are available. Our next meeting will be on February 13th.

Administrator Report: Gena Cloutier, Nutrition Director

School Nutrition Programs

National School Breakfast Program
National School Lunch Program
Child and Adult Care Food Program or CACFP
Fresh Fruit and Veggie Program
Smart Snack A la Carte Program
Summer Feeding Program
Food Distribution Program

National School Breakfast Program

Breakfast served as of 1/16/2024 27,527 or 344 meals per day at no cost to parents/guardians
We are required to offer milk, grain, and fruit-protein is optional, students are required to take three items with one being a fruit or vegetable in a minimum of ½ cup
Reimbursement rate of \$2.50 per meal served

National School Lunch

Lunches served as of 1/16/2024- 38,471 or 480 meals per day again at no cost to parents/guardians

Meal requirements- 5 components- milk, fruit, vegetable, grain and meat/meat alternative. Student must take three different component with at least one being a full serving of either fruit or vegetables.

Reimbursement per meal \$4.34

- 2024 -					
JANUARY					
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
DIRIGO MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL Choice of Pizza, assorted sandwiches, Chef Salads and/or Yogurt Parfaits available daily. Also Available Monday- Chef's Choice Option Tuesday- Soup & Sandwich Option Wednesday- Italian Inspired Option Thursday- Mexican Inspired Option Friday- American Inspired Option Fresh Fruits and Vegetables available daily		2 Chicken Nuggets Seasoned Rice Green Beans Baked Beans Applesauce	3 Cheeseburgers or Hamburgers Sweet Potato Fries, Steamed Peas, Chilled Pears	4 Maxx Pizza Sticks w/ Dipping Sauce Crisp Corn Carrot Sticks Apple	5 Pulled Pork Sandwich, Steamed Broccoli & Ranch Roasted Broccoli, Caesar Salad, Orange Wedges
	8 Rice Bar Steamed Peas Red Pepper Strips Hummus, Warm Apple Slices	9 Baked Chicken w/ Garlic Butter Pasta Baked Beans Quick Pickles Apple	10 Pasta Bar Crisp Corn Tossed Salad Orange Wedges	11 Italian Dunkers w/ Zesty Meat Sauce Steamed Broccoli Carrot Sticks Chilled Pears	12 Chicken Alfredo w/ Breadstick Diced Carrots Cuke Slices Applesauce
		16 Bosco Sticks w/ Dipping Sauce Steamed Peas, Carrot Sticks, Pears	17 American Chop Suey w/ Breadstick Diced Carrots, Roasted Garbanzo Beans, Apple	18 Chicken Parmesan Sandwich, Steamed Broccoli & Roasted Cauliflower Celery Sticks, Banana	19 Muffin, Yogurt, <u>Cheesestick</u> Or Ham Hoagie, Baked Beans, <u>Wango</u> , Mango Juice, Applesauce
	22 Chicken Quesadilla Corn & Mexican Street Corn, Sweet Potato Fries, Carrot Sticks, Hummus, Apple	23 Baked Potato Bar w/ Roll, Steamed Broccoli, Buffalo Cauliflower, Salad, Pineapple Tidbits, Cookie	24 Mac & Cheese or <u>Pepperjack</u> Mac w/ Ham Slice & Garlic Breadstick, Peas, Cucumber Coins, Chilled Pears	25 Chicken & Stuffing Casserole w/ Roll, Green Beans, Caesar Salad, Banana	26 Meatball Subs Honey Diced Carrot, Celery Sticks, Orange Wedges
	29 Orange Chicken w/ Rice Steamed Broccoli Caesar Salad Raisins	30 Grilled Cheese w/ Tomato Soup, Green Beans & Pizza Green Beans, Broccoli & Carrots w/ dip, Apple	31 French Toast Scrambled Eggs Potato Wedges Dragon Punch Applesauce		

CACFP- Dirigo Super Snacks

Afterschool snack offered to students in conjunction with enrichment programming- DES afterschool program
1264 meals served as of December 2023 at a reimbursement rate of \$4.54
Meal requirements align with lunch with stricter guidelines on whole grains, yogurt and juice offering.

JANUARY 2024 DIRIGO SUPER SNACKS					No Afterschool Programming on Fridays
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
 1 WG Graham Crackers Cheese Cubes Lowfat Yogurt, Raisins Carrot Sticks Milk Choice	2 WG Pretzels Chicken Salad Raisin Wango Mango Juice Milk Choice	3 WG Goldfish Crackers Hummus, Wow Butter Apple Celery Sticks w/ Dip Milk Choice	4 WG Cereal Sunflower Seeds, Banana, Hard Boiled Egg, Wango Mango Juice Milk Choice	5 SuperSnack is provided with funds from the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program and rules require these meals be eaten on site	
8 WG Muffin Lowfat Yogurt Cheese Stick Fruit Cup, Dragon Punch Milk Choice	9 WG Muffin Lowfat Yogurt Cheese Stick Fruit Cup, Dragon Punch Milk Choice	10 WG Goldfish Cracker Hummus, Wow Butter Apple Celery Sticks Milk Choice	11 WG Uncrustable Cucumber Slices Apple Milk Choice	12 We offer your choice of 1% white or Chocolate Milk with Each meal	
 15 WG Giant Goldfish Hardboiled Egg, Cheese Slice, Fruit Cup Broccoli & Dip Milk Choice	16 WG Giant Goldfish Hardboiled Egg, Cheese Slice, Fruit Cup Broccoli & Dip Milk Choice	17 Yogurt & Fruit Parfaits w/ WG Granola Dragon Punch Milk Choice	18 Chef Salad w/ WG Breadstick Kiwi Wedges Milk Choice	19 All grains served are whole grain as indicated as WG on the menu	
22 WG Bagel w/ Wow Butter Orange Wedges Wango Mango Juice Milk Choice	23 "Lunchable" Sliced Cheese, WG Crackers Meat Slice, Celery Sticks Dip Cup, Applesauce Milk Choice	24 WG Muffin Lowfat Yogurt Cheese Stick Fruit Cup, Dragon Punch Milk Choice	25 WG Pasta Salad w/ Ham Slice Orange Wedges Milk Choices	26	
29 WG Banana Bread Peach Cup Veggie Juice Cheese Stick Milk Choice	30 WG Super Pretzel Cheese Cup Salsa Cup, Hard Boiled Egg Apple Milk Choice	31 WG Animal Crackers Sunflower Seeds Cheese Cubes Banana, Dragon Punch Milk Choice			

This institution is an equal opportunity provider
 Fresh Milk Choices available daily
 Menu Subject to change without notice



Fresh Fruit and Veggie Program

Happy to say that we were selected once again to be able to offer the fresh fruit and veggie program at Dirigo Elementary and Middle schools.

This program is funded by the USDA and geared to qualifying 50% or higher free/reduced status schools to introduced fruits and vegetables to those that may not otherwise get to try a variety of produce.

Our students have been able to sample a wide variety of offerings this year such as Star Fruit, Dino Melons, Dragon Fruit, different varieties of apples, pears, citrus and grapes.



Smart Snacks or A la Carte

Both the middle and high schools offer snacks for an extra cost.

We offer a variety of drinks, chips, homemade cookies, ice cream products.
All snacks need to meet federal guidelines to be offered.

Summer Feeding Program

We served 819 breakfast
1296 lunches
with 30 children utilizing the weekend meal option

Supply Chain Assistance

Due to the rapid increase in cost for supplies the USDA offered each state funds to help schools defray costs. We have opted into this program and have received a total of \$66,786.16 since March 2022

These funds are to be spent on minimally processed foods produced in the US. We have been able to use these funds to pay milk invoices.

Local Foods Funds Federal & State

Local foods for schools- Federal \$3925.77 fully reimbursed.
Local foods for schools- State \$5500.00 for every \$3 spent we can file for \$1 back
Must be minimally processed and produced or grown in Maine

Commodities Food/Monies

We received \$25,855.32 in commodity funds to be spent on brown box items, DOD fresh or NOI items.

Brown Box- Meats, cheeses, vegetables, canned and frozen fruits.

DOD Fresh- Fresh produce we are able to order once a week from a central carrier

NOI (Net off invoice)- a discount applied to a final product- breakfast items, chicken nuggets/ patties, premade pizza, pizza sauce.

Staffing

Director

Elementary- 3 staff- 5 ½, 6 ¾, 7 hours per day

Middle- 3 staff- 4, 6 ¾, 8 hours per day (production kitchen)

High- 2 staff- 4 hrs & 6 ¾ hours per day

Fully staffed- a few subs to fill in but could use more

Equipment Assistance Grant

We were very fortunate to receive \$10,000 from the state of Maine equipment assistance grant to help defray the cost of a new dishwasher for Dirigo Elementary school. This grant will cover roughly half the cost of a new dishwasher for this school. Over the last few years we have had to put thousands of dollars into the current machine to keep it up and running.

The dishwasher is ready for delivery, we just need to make arrangements for installation.

Training for Staff

As a staff we were able to attend a day long training at Mount Blue High School arranged by their director. Training varied from knife skills to fire extinguisher training.

Within our department 9 employees; 8 hold a SNA certificate and 4 are ServSafe Certified.

All Nutrition staff are required to complete continuing education annually depending on the amount of hours they work and position they hold. The hours required vary from 6-12 hours.

Most of our staff exceed training requirements annually.

Per contract they can use a remote learning day to complete online training provided the content is pre approved. This can be counted as hours worked and training hours completed.

Training Grants

We were very fortunate to receive funding for a week long culinary skills training for myself and two other employees. I chose Ellen Kimball as she is the production manager and by luck of the draw Katrina Nutt.

This was a week long skills training with Chef Sam Cowens-Gasbarro and Catharine Powers in South Portland. Each day was centered on a different part of the meal. Vegetables, sandwiches, salads, grains along with nutrition education and basic culinary skills added in.

<https://youtu.be/0hxD6ebDZ3M?si=KP278UOrHNx1CckR>

A couple board members had a few questions for G.Cloutier

D. Whittemore brought up about negotiation money for the three contracts for one of the contracts. He would like to put a proposal out that everything that is voted on has to have dollars and cents and everything included.

Pam & Barbara explained how the increases affect the budget and not compound.

There was continued discussion regarding the raises.

Pam stated that she & Mary have come up with a solution. They have a new sheet that they will show moving forward with a total dollar amount. They are trying to be as clear as possible.

Reporting of New Hires:

Chelsea Jackson, Spec Ed Learning Facilitator, DES

Cindy Matthews, DHS School Secretary

Resignations/Retirements:

Resignation of Nick Karavas, AP/AD at the end of the contract year

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Student Representative Report- The semester ends on Friday for students. Sports are going well. Girls Basketball 2-6/ game against Spruce Mtn tomorrow, Boys Basketball 6-2 game against Boothbay tonight. Wrestling & Nordic skiing are going well.
2. Policy Committee- Met today, will meet again soon. Working on revision and having discussions.
3. Finance Committee- No date set yet for meeting
4. Curriculum Committee- Meeting scheduled for Jan 23rd. Additional discussion around social studies/ history curriculum. Some additional discussion around math resources.
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Had a meeting with Kenny. Have some figures for diesel & fuel but holding off in case they go down. The buildings have all been inspected by the state. All passed. March 21st, next meeting.
6. Negotiations Committee- Executive committee for results. One group left to negotiate, have not heard from them yet.
7. Personnel Committee-Next meeting is Feb 13th
8. Ad-hoc Committee- No date set

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

B.Dyer- Regarding B. Bordeau's request earlier, we had said that parents can take their child into the bathroom. If a dad comes with his daughter does he take them into the men's room or the women's? The other is I would hope we are not going to put locks on the elementary school bathroom doors.

This is an issue that needs to be addressed in this community.

B. Chow- We may have policies and procedures but above all we have to follow laws.

L. Kelly- Asked what Jason was doing at the middle school in reference to the bathrooms? Barbara: Jason sat outside the bathroom to monitor.

L. Whittington- We are following the law federal and state. Civil rights code of 1964: students have the right to use the bathroom of their choice, unfortunately (Pam is trying to rectify) we don't have the structures in place right now, but they do have that right under law.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. subsection D to discuss the Ed Tech/Speech Assistant contract.

Motion: B. Dyer

Seconded: L. Whittington

Motion Carried

Entered into executive session at 8:03pm

Exited executive session at 8:26pm

1. Motion pertaining to executive session, if applicable

Motion: B. Dyer made a motion to approve the Ed Tech/Speech Assistant Contract as agreed

Seconded: L. Whittington

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn

Motion: B. Dyer

Seconded: D. Whittemore

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm