

The board meeting will also be available via zoom and live streamed on YouTube.)

School Board Member Absent: Don Whittemore, Tim Kelly, Deanna Dolloff

Also Attending: Marianne Hutchinson, Ryan Bordeau, Miki Dyer, Bruce Ross, James Rangel, Pamela Rangel

No adjustments were made to the agenda

1. Minutes of the January 17, 20**24** Board Meeting
Motion: L. Whittington Seconded: N. Sneller
Not Voting: C. Lueders
Motion Carried

Brandy Bordeaux- Wanted to address a couple of comments made at the last meeting from some board members after my comments on wanting single use bathrooms in all of the buildings. One was, 7 year old locking themselves in the bathroom. She wanted to explain how the school is set up. The lower grades at this time have their own bathroom, they are single use. They can lock themselves in there already. She wanted to talk about our buildings and how they are shared for a lot of different things. She had a few examples, shared one. Late arrival Wednesdays at DES, there is a child care type program that is happening for the hour. Kids are in the building, they are 5-18 and they can use any bathroom they want. The other statement was: it was not Mr. Long's job, this was referring to him allowing one person in at a time. She feels it's everyone's job at RSU 56 to keep kids safe. He is being a leader at this time for kids safety, she commends him for that. She would like the other administrators to please do the same thing. Some

thoughts she was having was about safety, particularly about parents keeping their kids safe...the silly things we do “just in case.” The little bumper things on the corner of a table, they’re not going to bang their head everytime,,,”just in case.” Do not think that every person going into a bathroom is going to be malicious, but “just in case” I’d like to keep our kids safe. Urge everyone to talk to the school board, call, email, let’s take care of our kids so all kids are safe and comfortable in our bathrooms. Side note, the sign at DES has been moved.

COMMUNICATIONS

RSU 56 received a response from the MDOE concerning the request for a waiver for four days. The MDOE has approved the two days requested due to the mass shooting in Lewiston. They did not approve the two flood days requested but indicated that RSU 56 could make a new request in the spring if needed after trying to make up the days. Currently the last day of school is June 13th. As long as we didn’t go past June 14th no days would be waived.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Overview of Budget Process (Pam Doyen, Mary Dailey)

FY 25 Budget Process Overview

Key Considerations:

1. What’s best for our students?
2. How do we support our current employees?
3. How do we respond to community concerns?

Process:

1. Administrators/Directors prepare budgets for their building/department.
2. Administrators/Directors meet with Superintendent and Business Manager to review budgets.
3. Business Manager will compile full budget.
4. Board will provide the administrative team a target.
5. Administrative Team will review full budget and adjust if needed.
6. Board to review full budget and “add ons.”
7. Board votes on FY 25 Budget to move forward to voters.

FY 25 Budget Timeline

March 26, 2024- Budget Workshop. Full budget to board

April 2, 2024 (if needed)- Budget Workshop, DHS 6:30

April 9, 2024- Board to vote on Budget

April 23, 2024

May 14, 2024- Board to Sign Warrants

May 28, 2024- Budget Hearing/Validation Meeting

June 11, 2024- Budget Referendum Vote in all four towns.

Positives:

1. Remain at 55% of EPS costs covered by state.
2. We have our \$277,500 for balance forward for the FY 25 budget.
3. Increase in our ED279
4. Most contracts have been negotiated

Uncontrollable Increases:

Water, Sewer, Heating Oil, Diesel, Gasoline, Propane, Negotiated contract increases, Classroom

supplies, Electricity, Potential New FMLA tax, Health Insurance Insurance:

March 26- release maximum increases

April 10- release specific increase for district

Initial board direction and thoughts on the FY25 budget?

2. Budget Overview for Dirigo Elementary School (Charlie Swan)

Dirigo Elementary School (DES)

To: RSU56 Board of Directors

From: Charlie Swan

Date: 02/13/2024

Re: Executive Summary



Mission of Dirigo Elementary School:

Dirigo Elementary school prepares ALL of our students to be safe, respectful, and responsible citizens who are motivated to be lifelong learners.

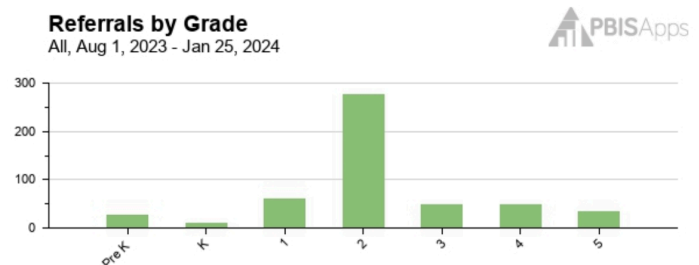
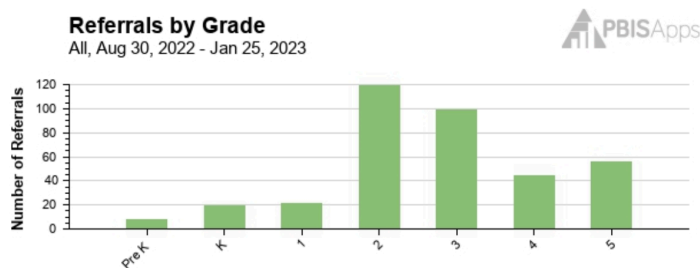
Grades Pre-K through grade 5:

The proposed budget reflects both materials and staff to support regular instruction. The budget for the upcoming school year continues to include funds for classroom supplies, the DES library, salaries/benefits of staff, etc.

A. ENROLLMENT: Total enrollment at DES has bounced back to approximately 360 students. Based on current and projected enrollment this should stay pretty consistent for the next several years.

B. STAFFING: The budget being presented reflects the elimination of one teaching position (currently paid with ESSER funds). The impact of that will include:

a. In ability to spread out students in one of our high referral grades.



b. 20-23 per classroom in Grade 5.

c. Shifting of position from 3-5 to K based on projected K enrollment.

C. CO- and EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: Our co and extra curricular activities are supported

through our afterschool program. Continue to support this program through transportation and paying for staff tutors (currently paid through ESSER - Looking to shift this to Title 1 for the 2024-25 school year).

D. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES: Maintain our current staffing with a full-time Guidance Counselor and having contracted social work from OCMH 3 days a week.

E. OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL: Continue with Principal and office secretary.

- a. Would like to continue with the Dean of Student Stipend (explained in Additional Requests below).

F. ADDITIONAL REQUESTS (not reflected in proposed budget):

1. Third Pre-K - we had a waiting list of 6-7 students this year. Looking to add a third program with 1 teacher and up to 8 students. **Projected Cost:\$65,000 (Some already added to our ED 279 from the state)**
2. Dean of Students - this stipend was created this year (using money saved from the cost difference of teachers who left DES and those who came in). This position has been a tremendous help in the areas of truancy tracking, minor discipline, and parent contact. . **Projected Cost: \$6700**

Dirigo Elementary School Staffing					
Grade:	Current # of Staff	Projected	# of Students	Funding	Notes
Pre K	2 Teachers, 2 Ed Techs	3 Teachers, 2 Ed Techs	?	Ed Techs - Title 1, Teachers Reg. Ed Budget	
K	3 Teachers	3, potentially 4	?	Regular Ed Budget	
1	3 Teachers	3	45-50	Reg Ed Budget	
2	3 Teachers	3	50-55	Reg Ed Budget	
3	4 Teachers	3	45-50	Reg Ed Budget	
4	4 Teachers	3	55-60	2 Reg Ed, 1 from Title 1	
5	3 Teachers	3	60-65	Reg Ed Budget	
Specials	Art (1) PE (1) Music (1) Library (1)		X	Reg Ed Budget	

	Guidance (1)				
Title 1	1 Coordinator, 5 Ed Techs		80-90	Title 1 Budget	
Nurse	1		X	Separate Cost Center	
Secretary	1		X	Reg. Ed Budget	
GT	.8		X	Separate Budget	
Administration	1		X	Reg. Ed Budget	

RSU #56

FY 24-25 Budget – New Proposal

SCHOOL/DEPT: Dirigo Elementary School	SUBMITTED BY: Charles Swan
PROPOSAL NAME: Added Pre-K	
PRIORITY RANK ORDER: 1 OF 2 SCHOOL/DEPT PROPOSALS	
<p>STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL (DESCRIPTION):</p> <p>We previously created a second Pre-K program to eliminate our waiting list. This has been successful in both removing a waiting list and better preparing more students for kindergarten. This past year we had a spike in our Pre-K enrollment forcing us to again have a waiting list. This added position of one teacher would eliminate this waiting list and allow us to serve up to 8 more students.</p>	
<p>JUSTIFICATION (SUPPORTING DATA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students that are enrolled in our pre-k are better prepared both academically and socially for kindergarten. - Kindergarten teachers continually report that students who have our Pre-K are more prepared at the start of the school year and show better understanding of Kindergarten level academic and social expectations. 	
<p>GOALS AND EXPECTED BENEFITS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate our Pre-K waitlist. 2. Provide academic and social support to more 4 year olds. 3. Help close the academic gap that exists with students who are not able to enroll in our Pre-K program. 	
<p>CONSEQUENCES OF NON-APPROVAL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will have 4 year olds in our community that are not able to get Pre-K instruction here at DES. 2. There will continue to be an academic and social gap for more students as they transition to our K program. 3. Delayed identification and support for students need special education services. 	
LOWER COST ALTERNATIVE (IF APPLICABLE):	

- None
RESOURCES REQUIRED (LIST AND COST OF STAFF/MATERIALS/SPACE): -
BUDGET AREA: Local - Pre-K:65,000 ACCT #:
WHERE IN THE EXISTING 2024-2025 BUDGET WILL THE FUNDING FOR THIS COME FROM? Added to the total local.

RSU #56

FY 24-25 Budget – New Proposal

SCHOOL/DEPT: Dirigo Elementary School	SUBMITTED BY: Charles Swan
PROPOSAL NAME: Dean of Students	
PRIORITY RANK ORDER: 2 OF 2 SCHOOL/DEPT PROPOSALS	
STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL (DESCRIPTION): We created the Dean of Students Poisition during the 2023/24 school year to assist the building principal with: Truancy, minor discipline, parent contact, and supervising students. This position has provided more opportunities for the building principal to be in classrooms supporting and supervising staff.	
JUSTIFICATION (SUPPORTING DATA): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our attendance concerns were communicated much more efficiently with parents this year. 2. Better classroom support for teachers who have students struggling behaviorally. 	
GOALS AND EXPECTED BENEFITS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better Communication with parents regarding attendance and truancy. 2. More efficient in dealing with minor discipline issues in the building. 	
CONSEQUENCES OF NON-APPROVAL: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Truancy and attendance tracking is significantly impacted. 2. Less opportunities for the administrator to be in classrooms supervising and supporting staff. 	
LOWER COST ALTERNATIVE (IF APPLICABLE): - None	
RESOURCES REQUIRED (LIST AND COST OF STAFF/MATERIALS/SPACE):	

- Stipend - \$6700 - no added cost for materials.

BUDGET AREA: Local - ACCT #:

WHERE IN THE EXISTING 2024-2025 BUDGET WILL THE FUNDING FOR THIS COME FROM?

Added to the total local.

Question regarding the after school program and who is eligible. Charlie explained how some of it works. Pam explained how the state reimburses for Pre-K. The state is advocating for a Pre-K program. They put out an early ask if anyone is adding a Pre-K program. It was felt that the district could potentially add a teacher. They filled out the application. They will most fund it after year 1. They fund it in year 2. They put in the cost of the additional Pre-k program in the ED279. If we don't add one then it gets backed out. They have paid for it upfront.

3. Budget Overview for TWKDirigo Middle School (Jason Long)

T. W. Kelly Dirigo Middle School (TWKDMS)

To: RSU56 Board of Directors

From: Jason Long

Date: 02/13/24

Mission of T. W. Kelly Dirigo Middle School:

The mission for T. W. Kelly Dirigo Middle School is to foster the full development of each child's intellectual, emotional, cultural, creative, and physical capabilities, and to educate each child to live and work effectively and cooperatively with others.

Grades 6 through 8

The proposed budget reflects both materials and staff to support regular instruction. The FY25 budget continues to include funding for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, classroom supplies, the TWKDMS library, the main office, and the salaries/benefits of staff. Any TWKDMS "controllable" academic line increases were addressed by reductions elsewhere, however there is a budget-to-budget increase in the extra-curricular account due to higher fees and 5th grade numbers.

- A. **ENROLLMENT:** Total enrollment at TWKDMS has fluctuated around 170 students for several years (currently 168).
- B. **STAFFING:** The recommendation for 2024-2025 is to continue to have 9 full-time regular teachers at the middle school, 2 interventionists, and shared staff. TWKDMS offers ELA, Math, Science,

Social Studies, Health and Physical Education, Gifted and Talented Services, Music, and Visual Arts. A full breakdown of positions is offered on the back of this page. TWKDMS FY25 budget includes a staff reduction due to the loss of ESSER funds, plus the reduction of a shared World Language position that was part of the regular budget until FY21 when it became funded by ARP. This total reduction does present a hardship, (especially the loss of the .5 position previously part of the regular budget). We are prepared to make changes to the use of interventionist time to mitigate the losses.

- C. **CO- and EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Maintain level of activities. Fees and numbers have increased. The school board voted in FY24 to open middle school sports up to 5th grade student athletes. There is no athletics budget at the elementary level, so the costs are reflected in the middle school cost center.
- D. **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:** Maintain social work services and shared librarian ed-tech III. TWKDMS will share a nurse with DHS, due to the reduction of an ESSER-funded nursing position with the end of funding.
- E. **OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL:** Continue with Principal/Curriculum Coordinator and Administrative Assistant to the TWKDMS Principal and Curriculum Coordinator. Looking for other funding sources for professional development.
- F. **ADDITIONAL REQUEST (not yet reflected in proposed budget):** None requested, third consecutive year.
- G. **OTHER FUNDING SOURCES:** Federal COVID relief funds are ending. Other grants, donations, and PTO fundraising continue to enhance instruction, sponsor events, purchase supplies, and support families.

T W Kelly Dirigo Middle School School Staff Recommendation FY 25

Role	# of Staff Members	Funding Source
English Teacher	2.00	Regular Ed Budget
Math Teacher	1.50	Regular Ed Budget
Science Teacher	1.50	Regular Ed Budget
Social Studies Teacher	2.25	Regular Ed Budget
Social Worker	0.75	Contracted Services
PE/Health Teacher	1.50	Regular Ed Budget
Music Teacher (shared)	0.50	Regular Ed Budget
Art Teacher (shared)	0.50	Regular Ed Budget

School Nurse	0.50	TWKDMS Health Budget
Gifted and Talented Teacher	0.25	Gifted and Talented Budget
Library Ed-Tech	0.20	Library Budget
Guidance Counselor	0.00	Guidance Budget
Principal	0.75	TWKDMS Administration Budget
Athletic Director	0.15	TWKDMS Co-Curricular Budget
Clerical (Office and Guidance)	0.75	TWKDMS Administration Budget
Interventionist Ed-Techs	2.00	Regular Ed Budget

T W Kelly Dirigo Middle School School Staff Reductions with end of ESSER funds

Role	# of Staff Members	Funding Source
World Language Teacher	.50	ESSER-F (removed FY24, used to be part of Regular Ed Budget)
School Nurse	.50	ESSER-F
Teacher	1.00	ESSER-F
Ed Tech I	0.75 (part year)	ESSER-F (removed FY24)

** TWKDMS phased out these planned reductions knowing that COVID-relief was temporary

There was some discussion amongst the board about if Jason needed to request any additional position. Jason and Pam said they would put something together as an “add on” list.

Jason later came back and told the board he was ready with an “add on” proposal. He proposed to replace a position and reconfigure a full time teacher for the AM and Dean of Students for the PM. The board asked him to get some numbers of what that cost would be.

4. Budget Overview for Dirigo High School (Pam Doyen)

Dirigo High School (DHS)

To: RSU56 Board of Directors
From: Pam Doyen
Date: February 13, 2024
Re: Executive Summary

Mission of Dirigo High School:

The mission of Dirigo High School is to be a safe and respectful community with a rigorous and diverse curriculum that offers opportunities for students to develop skills, gain knowledge, and aspire to make lifelong productive choices.

Grades 9 through 12

The proposed budget reflects both materials and staff to support regular instruction. The budget for the upcoming school year continues to include funds for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, classroom supplies, the DHS library, and the salaries/benefits of staff. Overall, the DHS budget is up due to the need for textbooks, added academic field trips, and contractual services (JMG). Course reimbursement is substantially increased.

- A. ENROLLMENT:** Total enrollment at DHS has fluctuated around 230 students this year.
- B. STAFFING:** Maintain current staffing at DHS. This includes 2.0 - 2.5 teachers in each of the three major content areas: ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies. This also supports the continuation of future perspectives, foreign language, health/PE, music and art. Course reimbursement requests are up substantially.
- C. CO- and EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** In order to maintain current level of co- and extra-curricular activities, there is an increase in extra curricular due to increased cost of officiating, stipends and transportation.
- D. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:** Maintain Academic Dean of Students (guidance), guidance secretary and social work positions at DHS as well as the part time librarian ed-tech III. DHS will no longer have a full-time nurse paid for with ESSER funds. The nurse will be split between DHS and TWKDMS.
- E. OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL:** Continue with Superintendent/Principal, full time AP/AD, and office secretary.
- F. ADDITIONAL REQUESTS (not reflected in proposed budget):** 1.. Add an ed-tech to the DHS Alt Ed program to support the diverse needs of students.

Dirigo High School Staff:

Role	# of Staff Members	Funding Source
English Teachers	2.15	Regular Ed Budget
Math Teachers	2.5	Regular Ed Budget
Science Teachers	2.5	Regular Ed Budget
Social Studies Teachers	2.5	Regular Ed Budget
World Language Teacher	1.0	Regular Ed Budget
Social Worker	1.0	Regular Ed Budget
PE/Health Teacher	1.0	Regular Ed Budget
Music Teacher	0.5	Regular Ed Budget
Art Teacher	0.6	Regular Ed Budget
Alternative Education Teacher	1.0	Alternative Ed Budget
Gifted and Talented Teacher	0.05	Gifted and Talented Budget
Library Ed-tech	0.80	Library Budget
Academic Dean of Students	1.0	Guidance Budget
Principal	0.50	DHS Administration Budget
Assistant Principal/Athletic Director	0.85	DHS Administration Budget
Clerical (DHS and Guidance)	2.0	Regular Ed Budget and Guidance Budget
Regular Education Ed-techs	0.0	N/A
Outside the budget (grant funded)		
SRO	1	School Safety Grant

RSU #56

FY25 Budget – New Proposal

SCHOOL/DEPT: DHS/Alt. Ed.	SUBMITTED BY: Pam Doyen
PROPOSAL NAME: Alternative Education: Ed Tech.	
PRIORITY RANK ORDER: 4 OF 6 SCHOOL/DEPT PROPOSALS	
STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL (DESCRIPTION):	

In order to maximize the DHS alt. ed. programming, ed-tech to support the program would be highly beneficial.
JUSTIFICATION (SUPPORTING DATA): Alternative Education is increasingly necessary in our attempts to reach all students at DHS. In addition to ACEs and mental health issues faced by our high school student population, factors related to substance abuse, transportation and social issues outside of school have an adverse impact on attendance. A second staff member would effectively double the odds of being that one trusted adult needed who is able to help mitigate the impact of trauma. This staff member would also make it possible to have timely conversations with students and parents about absenteeism while allowing class to continue for those students who are present.
GOALS AND EXPECTED BENEFITS: Improved student engagement, increased graduation rates; access to a wider range of post-secondary options by this population of students.
CONSEQUENCES OF NON-APPROVAL: Alt. ed. program might not reach its capacity for improved student outcomes.
LOWER COST ALTERNATIVE (IF APPLICABLE): The plan to add an ed. tech. is the least costly other than going back to one Alt Ed Teacher without ed-tech support.
RESOURCES REQUIRED (LIST AND COST OF STAFF/MATERIALS/SPACE): Ed. Tech.: approximately \$50,000 (salary and benefits)
BUDGET AREA: ALT. ED. ACCT #: 1000-4200-1000-510200-990
WHERE IN THE EXISTING 2023-24 BUDGET WILL THE FUNDING FOR THIS COME FROM? New budget item. Would not be able to replace other FY 24 budget items.

5. Budget Overview for Curriculum and Instruction (Jason Long, Pam Doyen)

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

To: RSU56 Board of Directors
From: Pam Doyen and Jason Long
Date: 02/13/2024
Re: Executive Summary

Mission of RSU 56 :

The mission of RSU56 is to prepare our students to become purpose-filled, skilled members of the local and global communities.

Grades K through 12

The proposed budget reflects both materials and staff to support curriculum, instruction and assessment for grades PreK-12. (PreK assessment is in the PreK budget.) The budget-to-budget change in controllable costs below includes a small which is still less than the FY24 reduction, meaning we remain below FY23 levels. We are exploring more effective progress monitoring assessment platforms that will also remain within the budgeted figures (and possibly result in a reduction for FY26). The budget for the upcoming school year continues to include funds for the following:

- A. SUMMER SCHOOL:** Flat funding summer school for DHS and TWKDMS.
- B. STUDENT ASSESSMENT:** Covers AP exams and all assessments not funded by the state (All K-2 assessments as well as K-12 screening and progress monitoring tools)
- C. IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION:** Flat funding curriculum work wage, and continue with 25%-time Curriculum Coordinator, 25%-time Admin Asst. to Curriculum Coordinator (25%), WMEC membership, flat funding curriculum resources, maintain dues, etc.
- D. OTHER FUNDING SOURCES:** Federal COVID relief funds are ending, however there are additional grants that remain available for purchases of items receivable before September of 2024 (meaning, we cannot use the funds for ongoing subscriptions but we can purchases physical items deliverable before the end of the final grant's window). RSU56 is submitting a grant request to the MDOE for additional literacy instructional and assessments materials as well as professional development that align with the school board approved reading program Amplify CKLA.

Other areas - Health Services, GT, ELL, etc. will be reviewed under All Other categories.

6. Discussion concerning DHS Administrative Configuration
Possible Options for DHS Administrator Configuration:
Please note: *estimates

Option A: Two positions 1. Superintendent/Principal 2. Assistant Principal/Athletic Director	Pros: Costs remain more stable.
Supt./Princ. \$156,000* plus benefits	Cons: Time management for each employee = potential burn out = potential turnover.
AP/AD - \$85,000* plus benefits	Not all stipend positions get evaluated. (Sports staff get evaluated, others would not.)
Estimated total: \$241,000 plus benefits	AP/AD cannot be in the building all day and cover evening events = fewer hours to do AP work.

Option B: Three positions 1. Superintendent 2. Principal 3. Athletic/Activities Director	Pros: Distinct focus in each area. Time management of each job. No shared positions = better focus and less burnout = reduced turnover.
Supt. \$143,000* plus benefits	AD can cover both extra and co curricular activities. All stipend positions could be evaluated.
Princ. - \$100,000* plus benefits	Cons: More costly. Another transition for DHS
Athletic/Activities Director - \$70,000* plus benefits	Potential for fewer applicants.

Estimated total: \$313,000 plus benefits	
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Option C: Three positions 1. Superintendent/Principal 2. Assistant Principal (DHS) 3. Athletic/Activities Director	Pros: AP could (hopefully) become Princ. with mentoring from Supt./Princ. which would allow for easier transition at DHS. Fewer shared positions = better focus and less burnout = reduced turnover. Potential for more applicants. AD can cover both extra and co curricular activities. All stipend positions could be evaluated. Cons: Supt. less able to be in other two schools and to focus on RSU 56 growth overall. Costs more than current configuration.
Supt./Princ. \$156,000* plus benefits	
AP - \$85,000* plus benefits	
AD/Activities Director - \$70,000* plus benefits	
Estimated total: \$311,000 plus benefits	

Option D: Four positions 1. Superintendent 2. Principal (DHS) 3. Assistant Principal (DHS/DES) 4. Athletic/Activities Director	Pros: Distinct focus in each area. Time management of each job. Reduce shared positions = better focus and less burnout = reduced turnover. AD can cover both extra and co curricular activities. All stipend positions could be evaluated. AP can support appropriate behavior in both schools. Cons: More costly.
Supt. \$143,000* plus benefits	
Princ. - \$100,000* plus benefits	
AP (DHS/DES) - \$85,000*	
AD/Activities - \$70,000* plus benefits	
Estimated total: \$398,000 plus benefits	

7. Motion pertaining to DHS Administrative Configuration

There was much discussion around what was the best way to configure the DHS administration.

Motion: B. Dyer made a motion to approve option B, if necessary we would then pivot to Option C depending on the candidate. Seconded: T. Courtway

Motion Carried

8. Motion to approve the 2024-25 RSU 56 School calendar
Our school calendar aligns with Region 9
Motion: N. Sneller made a motion to approve the school calendar as presented.
Seconded: B. Dyer
Motion Carried
9. First Reading of Policy BEDB-R Board Agenda Format
Motion: B. Dyer
Seconded: T. Courtway
Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

1. Region 9 Updates (Bruce Ross/Brian Keene/ Wayne Thurston)
Bruce Ross gave the Region 9 report:
They meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month. They are following through with 3 different projects. Quite a few people went through the light show that Region 9 had in December. It was a good way to showcase the facility.
Jan- Adult Ed- Dr Dave Murphy is doing a great job.
Feb- Seeing that RSU 56 has been able to get 2 days waived for the Oct incident, Region 9 will need to look into doing that as well. Bruce is on the finance committee for Region 9 and they are going through the budget and looking at their programs. All programs are doing well. Things evolve every year. Things can change and evolve with programs. It is amazing to see what the school offers. It is a valuable school.
T. Courtway- Where do the kids get the applications for Region 9? Bruce replied that they can get them from the guidance office at their school.
Pam stated that in early March all freshman and sophomores have a day at Region 9 so they can see all the programs and receive applications to attend.
2. Strategic Planning Update (Pam Doyen)
We have not met since the last report out. Our next meeting will be March 18 at 5:30 in the DHS Library

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent's Report:

Dirigo High School students will be involved in a full day of community service, called Caring Cougars Day, on Friday, April 12 with a rain date of Friday, April 26. If anyone knows of someone who could use assistance, please contact the high school. This could include raking lawns, yard clean up, etc.

Mr. Long would like to have the board approve the use of balance forward funds to purchase and install vape detectors for TWKDMS. This would mean the board could, under general consensus, approve designating funds to purchase the vape detectors.

The board took a general consensus to agree for Pam to designate funds to purchase the vape detectors for middle school. It was unanimous.

Met with an SRO candidate last week. Hoping he will start the Monday after February break.

Administrator Report:

Ken Robbins, Director

New Garage Update: The materials are in Fairfield, CMP has installed the pole, gone to the planning board in Dixfield and everything is set there. This week Kenny will receive the final drawings. The new wheel lifts are in. Start date for construction is April 1st.

PFAS at DES Update:

DES Heating:

DHS A/C and Controls: Last week he signed off on the AC for the 2nd floor and part of the 1st floor. There will be all new controls.

DHS Gym Floor: Gym floor repair is done

Diesel, #2 and Propane: Prices are lower than last year but Kenny is still watching them. He has not locked in yet. New garage will be propane. That price is not as high as heating oil.

Personnel Update: Full staff right now. New mechanic will be starting soon.

Grounds Update: Slice seeding complete. Aerate and fertilized and the fields are ready to go

Mary Dailey, Business Manager

The audit for fiscal year 2022-2023 is almost complete. The auditors didn't come onsite in October but instead I uploaded all the necessary documents to the firm's secure portal. I have a little more information to submit to the auditors. Then the audit report will be going through the approval process by the auditing firm. That process should be completed by the end of March and I will provide the full audit report to you as soon as it is available.

As for an update on COVID funding, ESSERF 2 had to be completely spent by September 30, 2023. The reporting of those expenditures has been completed. The district is continuing to spend the ESSERF3 funds which have to be spent by September 30, 2024. There is a plan in place to spend all of the funds before the deadline.

When I reported out the last time, I updated you on the accounting software conversion from ADS Profund to Harris School Solutions AptaFund program. Overall, the process has gone fairly smoothly. There have been some problems along the way, but the Harris support team has been able to help us fix them. The last piece of the conversion that has to take place is to convert the student activity accounts from ADS to a Harris product called AAWeb. That will be taking place this spring. I will be working closely with the three school secretaries on this.

Stipended and Coaching Positions:

Rebecca Hutchinson, TWKDMS Nordic Ski Assistant Coach

Resignations/Retirements:

Cindy Taylor, Van driver, resigned

Cathy Arsenault, AP/PR/HR retiring as of July 19, 2024

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Student Representative Report- Lenore Hartmann represented DHS at the Music Festival in Portland. The last wrestling meet was on Sat at Morse HS. The team finished 2nd overall. We had 8 wrestlers qualify for states. The state meet will be this Sat at MVHS. The boys basketball team has a preliminary game this Wednesday at 6:30. Last Sat the Speech & Debate team competed in

National Speech & Debate National Qualifying Tournament. Daisy Sweatt qualified for National Competition in the Humorous Interpretation category of Speech. Lillianna Salvati qualified for National Competition in the Dramatic Interpretation category of Speech. Erin Pealatero won the “District Volunteer of the Year” award. Mr Johnson won the “District New Coach of the Year” award.

2. Policy Committee- Will meet 2/27 5pm
3. Finance Committee- Mary spoke for Carl, he was not at the last meeting. They received the expenditure and revenue reports for 23-24 so far, those are on track. They received a page on the federal grants. Talked about the budget considerations that Pam outlined in her presentation.
4. Curriculum Committee- Met a while ago, deciding on a social studies/US history curriculum. We had settled on one, there are still some questions so there will be an additional meeting on 3/12, not to revisit everything but to go over some things and make sure everyone is comfortable with it.
5. Buildings & Grounds Committee- Will meet 3/21 at 1pm at DHS
6. Negotiations Committee- Waiting to meet with one more group
7. Personnel Committee- Met 2/13- Reviewed job description for AP/HR/PR-Looking at all the jobs and merging the job descriptions. Working on a new job description for AD Asst and for the ELO position. Drafting second drafts for the personnel committee to bring forward. Next meeting will be 3/6 at 2:30
8. Ad-hoc Committee- Nothing to report- Next meeting 3/21 at 5pm

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

L. Whittington: Kudos to everyone who works so hard to find grants for the schools. It saves the district a lot of money. Whatever you're doing keep it up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. subsection D to discuss the Superintendent's Contract
Motion: B. Dyer
Motion Carried
Entered into executive session at 8:28pm
Exited executive session at 8:37pm
1. Motion pertaining to executive session, if applicable
Motion: N. Sneller made a motion, if the district goes with Option B the Superintendent's salary will remain flat. If the district goes with Option C we move ahead with an increase of \$12,500 as agreed upon in negotiations.
Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn
Motion: B. Dyer
Motion Carried
Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm
- Seconded: N. Sneller