

Minutes
RSU #26 Board of Directors Meeting
Orono Town Council Chambers
Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

- x Brian McGill, chairperson
- x Jacob Eckert, vice-chair
- x Mark Brewer
- x Michelle Smith
- x Erin Ellis
- x Becca Gallandt, student advisor
- x Ben Allen-Rahill, student advisor

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Agenda Adjustments

- Add as 1.D. - Additional student representative
- Add as 7.A. - Discussion of Chess Team trip to National meet

Motion: Brian McGill moved to accept the agenda adjustments and Michelle Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

D. Additional student representative

Motion: Brian McGill moved to add Ben Allen-Rahill as the second student advisor to the board and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

2. Consideration of the Minutes – none presented for consideration

3. Approval of Warrants – Payroll 21, March PERS

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the warrants and Michelle Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

4. Acknowledgements

- Erin Ellis thanked everyone who helped with the Asa Adams spring ball as it was a good time by all.
- Michelle Smith acknowledged and thanked the parents and administrators who attended workshop on Student Growth & Achievement.
- Brian McGill appreciated administrators for being out and about attending meetings. He also acknowledged the two first place state finishes for show choir. Student's worked very very hard as did the adults.
- Michael Tracy acknowledged his receipt of correspondence from Jonathan Foster regarding the Chess trip.
- Mark Brewer thanked those who came out for Student Growth & Achievement workshop last night. He congratulated the OMS and OHS Show choirs for their

first place finishes in the State competitions. He also acknowledged all of the student athletes who are coming out for this years spring sports.

- Becca Gallandt acknowledged the show choir and their first place win.
- Ben Allen-Rahill also acknowledged the show choir's performance and first place win.

5. Public Comment - Chairman McGill imposed a imposed a 3-5 minute limit on each public comment.

- Allison Mitchell, parent, submitted a proposal last week to principals and supt. after speaking at the last board meeting regarding expanding the half time music position. She asked the Board to consider expanding the position. (*Those who are in support of the request raised hands from public...approximately 20 parents & students*). Music spills over into every part of our lives in both tangible and intangible ways. One of the reasons many students from sending schools choose Orono over other high schools is because of the arts program. She pointed out that five students from sending school would pay for the extra salary.
- Beth Bilodeau, Veazie resident and parent, shared that her daughter chose to attend Orono was based on the arts and music program.
- Matthew Williamson, OHS senior, is involved in lots of arts, concert choir, is a member of the Bangor Symphony Youth Orchestra, explaining that arts are a very important part of his life. It teaches discipline & time management. Focus. The arts create a very vibrant, kind and accepting community in Orono and hoped the Board would expand the position.
- Meg Ferguson, parent of three, supports having funding within the budget for the arts. Participation is huge at all 3 schools and it helps raise testing scores. She gave board members a list of recommendations and arguments.
- Chrysalis Wild, parent, reiterated her points given at the last meeting arguing that oral and visual stimulation is core to memory development. Students need the arts in their lives after high school. Hobbies help alleviate/reduce stress and tension/bullying. Beyond STEM is STEAM and industrial arts.

Brian McGill clarified that there is no cut to the arts position. A bond issue would be taken up for next year and that would be the opportunity for the audience to address the building of a new facility for the arts.

6. Presentations

- A. Student Advisors – Students are selecting their courses for next year, the quarter is ending and the SAT's are Wednesday, April 5th.
- B. Principals – Principals Fournier and Ruhlin gave their reports. Mr. Paul was excused.
- C. Superintendent – Mr. Tracy gave his report to the board.

7. Discussion Items

- A. Chess Team Trip request – Jonathan Foster gave a review of the chess team accomplishments. He thanked Ryan Trip and parents for their efforts in

fundraising for the trip to the national meet. Mr. Foster requested permission for an excused absence of four days for the students who would be attending as well as consideration from the Board for funding through OEF for student registration fees of \$50/entry.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the trip for four days and to cover up to \$500 for entry fees/registration. Michelle Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

- B. Budget discussion/workshop FY18 – Ms. Gray reviewed the budget numbers with the board and admin.
- C. Update on student achievement workshop – The following draft values determined from the workshop:
 - a) Meeting students where they're at and moving them forward
 - b) Growth and achievement holistically
 - c) Life-long learning
- D. Snow days/early dismissal/late start – Due to recent storms, Mr. Tracy asked the board to revisit policy EBCB. The board asked Principals Fournier and Ruhlin for their opinions on the matter. Issues such as child care options and worry that parents may not receive messages were concerns specifically for elementary school children. For high school students, younger drivers being on the roads during stormy conditions were of concern brought up by Mr. Ruhlin. Mr. Tracy informed the board that decisions to cancel or postpone school is not made in a vacuum and other district superintendents typically contact each other before deciding. Had this policy been changed, it would have allowed for an early release with a 24 hour/night before notice so parents can plan.

8. Action Items

A. Staff Nominations

Mr. Tracy nominated Chris Gray as OMS Asst. Track Coach.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to accept the nomination and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

Mr. Tracy shared Principal Jeff Paul's letter of resignation and thanked him for his five years of service to the Orono Middle School.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to accept the resignation and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

- B. FY 17-18 Calendar Approval – The board would like to change the teacher in-service day from October 6th to October 10th so as to align with the University days off. Pending this possible change, the board accepts the calendar.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to adopt the calendar as presented and get back to the board regarding moving October 6th to October 10th. Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

9. Subcommittee Reports – Board subcommittee members gave brief updates.

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- A. Policy Subcommittee
- B. United Technology Center
- C. SPRPCE
- D. Curriculum Subcommittee

10. Other Business

11. Future Agenda Items

- A. Negotiation conversations (*continuing*)
- B. Fourth math class offering
- C. Early release discussion (*continued*)

12. Public Comment

- Meg Fergusson, parent, inquired of the maintenance budget. She also suggested that early dismissal be one way or the other.
- Allison Mitchell, parent, inquired of the athletic checkbook/gate receipts. PSAT scores. And reiterated consideration of expanding the music position.

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meetings

Tuesday, April 25 - Orono Town Council Chambers at 6:00 pm

14. Request for Information and Follow-up

- Conditional warrants information prior to the April 25th board meeting.

15. Adjournment

Motion: Brian McGill moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. and Michelle Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Michael E. Tracy, M.Ed.*