

Minutes

RSU #26 Board of Directors Meeting
Orono Town Council Chambers
Tuesday, March 21, 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
- Student advisor (vacant)*

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Agenda Adjustments

- i. Move Executive Session 15 per 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(F) – Discussion of confidential personnel matters directly after Budget Discussion 7.B.
- ii. Add a second executive session per 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(E)- Consultation with legal counsel immediately before item 16.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the agenda adjustments and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

C. Election of Board officers

Recognition of student advisors and new members – Chairman McGill recognized outgoing student advisors, Sophia Silwal and Keenan Collett, and thanked them for their service. Dr. McGill welcomed new Board member Erin Ellis and new student advisor Becca Gallandt. He thanked Leo Kenney for his service on the board.

*Motion: Mark Brewer nominated **Brian McGill** to serve his second term as **board chair**. Michelle Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0*

*Motion: Mark Brewer nominated **Jake Eckert** to serve as **vice-chair** and Michelle Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0*

*Motion: Michelle Smith moved to nominate **Brian McGill** and **Mark Brewer** for the **policy subcommittee**. Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0*

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to accept **Mark Brewer** and **Michelle Smith** to serve on the **curriculum subcommittee**. Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0*

2. Consideration of the Minutes

A. February 28

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the minutes with typo correction and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

3. Approval of Warrants - Payrolls 19 & 20

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

4. Acknowledgements

- Sophia Silwal commented that the show choir gave a superior performance. Serving on the board has been a great learning experience and thanked the board for the opportunity to serve.
- Mark Brewer thanked the teachers, staff, parents, and students for their performance last night. Incredible performance. Welcome to Erin for her willingness to serve on the board. He thanked Leo for his service and for his valuable insights. He will be missed.
- Mike Tracy acknowledged receipt of letters to the board; Dr. Wild regarding the arts program and Paul Smith's letter regarding the budget.
- Brian McGill read and summarized Paul Smith's letter for the public. He acknowledged the show choir performances and school concerts. He appreciates Mike Archer for his work supporting kids involved in the arts.
- Jake Eckert echoed the other's sentiments.
- Michelle Smith commented on "Ask a school board member" which gave teachers the opportunity to meet and talk with board members which she hopes will happen more.
- Erin Ellis thanked those who came out to vote and complemented Mr. Caballero for his orchestra performance.
- Becca Gallandt echoed the sentiments already spoken.

5. Public Comment

- Allison Mitchell, parent, has two children who have been involved in the music program since Asa Adams. Music is an enormous part of her children's lives and urged the board to consider making some adjustments to the budget regarding the half time music position split between the middle school and high school.
- Cami Carter, show choir director, and Daniel Perkins, choreographer, asked the board to consider increasing the vocal position in the OMS from .5 to a full-time position. Other schools have 3 in-school choral options and Orono has only one. Students are excited and there seems to be a lot of forward momentum. Student interest is high and the kids are expressing this to them. Ms. Carter presented to the board an OSCAR survey/breakdown of kids and programs in the arts in the area
- Lauri Osher – two children in grade 10, involved in the arts since it became available and is happy that the school has provided so many opportunities, but would like to have more offering. She shared a spreadsheet that broke down the comparisons of programs in the area.
- Jen Wingard, 4 children in our schools, orchestra is what helped her daughter to help overcome her severe disability of dyslexia. She has found a home in the arts

where she didn't fit in in other places. Important social and cognitive development in vocal programs. Helps with success later in life. Many sending school kids come for the arts program.

- Dr. Chrysalis Wild, parent, explained that music in particular increases listening skills which in turn helps with developing compassionate relationships. Art is everywhere but specific instruction is important for our students. It supports intellectual ability. "Collaboration, flexibility, imagination and innovation is what our workforce needs." Sports are more valued than the arts when she walks through the halls in school and sees pictures of students playing sports, not the arts. Visual representation for what's important. "not sufficient to meet the needs of our students." Would like to see the position increased to 1 FTE. Music should be a core to education.
- Steven Cousineau, parent, the arts are an integral part of our society. His son has high functioning autism, and he spoke of the importance of arts within the school. Chorus gives his son a foundation and keeps him stable.

6. Presentations – Board received copies of reports—*no regular presentations due to time constraints.*

- A. Student Advisors
- B. Principals
- C. Superintendent

7. Discussion Items

- A. Proposed budget discussion FY18 - Lynn Gray reviewed the budget and high impact areas.

15. Executive session – 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(F) – Discussion of confidential personnel matters

Motion: Brian McGill moved to go into executive session at 8:40 p.m., and Michelle Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

Motion: Brian McGill moved to support Mr. Tracy's recommendation to approve a half-year sabbatical for Chris Lutin, and Michelle Smith seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

Motion: Brian McGill moved to change the order of the agenda and move 7.B., 7.D, and 8.C. next and enter the remaining executive sessions to cover 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(F) – Discussion of confidential personnel matters, and 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(E) – discussion with legal counsel. Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

- A. Efficacy of half-day professional development days – There seemed to be a clear consensus from the principals that the time was worthwhile and the four two-hour periods was an effective structure.
- B. Board self-evaluation – extensive reporting of individual board member assessments. Agreed that further actions would be discussed during the next board goal setting during June.

- C. Graduation standards review – draft standards will be posted on the school website.

7. Action Items

A. Staff Nominations

Motion: Brian McGill moved to adopt the co-curricular slate for OMS as proposed by Mr. Tracy, and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

B. Approval of donation – 50 Kindle Fires from the Cole Transportation Museum

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the donation, and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

C. Courses changes and additions, OHS

Motion: Brian McGill moved to add Computer Science to course catalog and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

16. Executive session – 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(E) – Conversation with legal counsel

Motion: Brian McGill moved to enter executive session per 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(E) at 9:30 p.m., and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

The Board came out of executive session at 10:03 p.m.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to continue through the remaining agenda items despite the hour being past 10:00 p.m. Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

8. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Policy Subcommittee
- B. United Technology Center – next meeting date
- C. SPRPCE – no meeting has happened but needs to.
- D. Curriculum Subcommittee

9. Other Business

10. Future Agenda Items

- Negotiation conversations (continuing)
- Board workshop on student achievement
- Approval of FY17-18 school calendar
- Fourth math class offering
- Graduation Standards review

11. Public Comment

12. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meetings

Tuesday, April 4 - Orono Town Council Chambers at 6:00 pm

13. Request for Information and Follow-up

14. Executive session – 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(F) – Discussion of confidential personnel matters (taken up earlier in meeting)

15. Executive session - 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(E) – Conversation with legal counsel (taken up earlier in meeting)

16. Adjournment

Motion: Brian McGill moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m., and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

Meeting adjourned

*Respectfully submitted,
Michael E. Tracy, Jr.*