

Minutes

RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting
Orono Town Council Chambers
Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

- ✗ Brian McGill, chairperson (*via Google Hangout*)
- ✗ Jacob Eckert, vice-chair
- ✗ Mark Brewer
- ✗ Michelle Smith (*via Google Hangout*)
- ✗ Erin Ellis
- ✗ Becca Gallandt, Student Advisor
- ☐ Ben Allen-Rahill, Student Advisor (excused)

1. Opening

- A. Call to Order

Jake Eckert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- B. Pledge of Allegiance

- C. Agenda Adjustments

- i. Add *BCBA Contract – High cost contract* as Action item 8.B.

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to **approve the agenda adjustments** and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

2. Consideration of the Minutes

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to **approve the October 3 minutes** and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

3. Approval of Warrants

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to **approve warrants 6, 7, payroll 8, 27d and September PERS**. Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

4. Acknowledgements

- Supt. Higgins recognized staff that assisted with the October 6 Professional Development day. She thanked Shana Goodall, Reg Ruhlin, Deb White, Brad Martin, Karen Martin, Emily Jackson-Sanborn, Diana Smart, Christy Boyd and Sean Malone for their additional time and preparation on behalf of their colleagues
- Lin White was awarded Cross Country Coach of the Year

5. Public Comment- none

6. Presentations

- A. Superintendent Report

The DOE sent a priority email to districts regarding PBE that called for a reset. The State intends to begin reevaluating rulemaking for Proficiency-Based Diplomas in October by collecting feedback from different groups. What has not changed is the commitment to continue down the PBE road. The reason for this reset seems to be the concern of currency and societal meaning of proficiency based diploma. There is the potential to impact a

substantial number of students in the future. Feedback given during a recent Penobscot River Educational Partnership (PREP) meeting suggested to the DOE that they look at alternate pathways for students who do not hit the bar in all proficiencies and provide something other than a certificate of completion. While there needs to be equity in diplomas, there is concern for disparity it creates for those who may have special needs. Supt. Higgins suggested RSU 26 move forward as planned but with careful consideration and a measured approach as there may be significant changes if the State decides to shift anything.

- i. *Math placement data - transition from 5th grade to 6th grade math.*

Discussion: Supt. Higgins shared information regarding 5th and 6th grade math placements in response to Mark Brewer's request for more information at the October 3rd board meeting. The Board was satisfied with her response and there was no further discussion.

7. Discussion Items

A. Presentation/Assessment of NWEA Data

Supt. Higgins shared the most recent NWEA data with the Board and discussed in broad detail what it means to our schools.

B. Update on state budget regionalization requirements

Discussion: The State has outlined provisions of new legislations that was enacted with the biennial budget. Specifically referring to the development of regional service centers, the State is requiring districts to work with other districts to create programs and services with the intent to reduce cost. All districts must be participating in two regionalization services in at least 2 categories by FY 18-19.

Supt. Higgins shared the outline of the new legislation, which specifically speaks about the stipulations of not complying in a regionalization center:

- The district needs to create a substantial new component that is not already in place. SPRPCE and PREP are already in place but do not count toward compliance factors. Even recently added component to SPRPCE will not count toward compliance as it came into play prior to the enactment of the law.
- Drummond & Woodsum advised schools to proceed with caution as joining a regionalization program would be akin to “a marriage with no divorce options.” They advised weighing the costs of joining a regionalization program (such as diminished local control) and to be certain that the benefits outweigh the penalties. If a district chooses to withdraw, there would be substantial costs.

PREP Supts. have discussed which initiatives might be the easiest to come together on. Doing so would require an interlocal agreement, which then must go before voters.

8. Action Items

A. Staff Nominations

i. Extracurricular nominations

1. Varsity Swimming - *Gary Theriault*
2. Asst. Varsity Swimming (.48) - *Mackenzie Hanson*
3. Asst. Varsity Swimming (.52) - *Keri Dexter*
4. Varsity Cheering- Winter – *Heather Tupper*
5. Boy's Varsity Basketball – *Jason Coleman*
6. Boy's JV Basketball – *Matt Murray*
7. Girl's JV Basketball – *Derek Sinclair*

8. Nordic Skiing (.50) – *Cid Dyjak*
9. Nordic Skiing (.50) – *Ann Ross*
10. Ice Hockey, Old Town – *Dennis Collins*
11. Asst. Ice Hockey, Old Town – *Chris Thurlow*
12. Indoor Track – *Chris Libby*
13. Asst. Varsity Indoor Track – *Miguel Caballero*
14. Asst. Varsity Indoor Track – *Tyler White*

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to **approve the slate of nominations** and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

B. BCBA Contract

Dir. Sharon Brady asked the board to approve a high cost contract with Atlantic Behavior Services. ABS is a company with whom RSU 26 has used for years. ABS provides Board Certified Behavioral Analysts who provide behavior consultation by analyzing and helping to create plans for students. This is one of two high cost contracts for SPED services, the other being for OT services.

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to **approve the high cost contract with ABS**, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

C. Facilities Discussion – Composition of Committee

Discussion: The following proposal was brought forward to the Board for consideration:

- 16 Members to include -
 - Superintendent, Facilities Director, (3) Building Principals, (2) Board of Directors, (3) teacher representatives (one per building to bring perspective), (2) support staff, (1) student rep., (3) parent/community members.
- A Google Form/Questionnaire will be sent out to all parents, staff and community members though email and other community forums in an attempt to reach all who may wish to serve on the Committee.
- Review and selection of applicants will occur at the November 2nd meeting during executive session

This is not a decision making group as much as serving the purpose of prioritizing and providing a vehicle to transfer information to and from the public. Clarification was made that the student rep position would first be offered to the Student Advisors, and in the event neither one wishes to serve on the Committee, applications will be opened to the student body.

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to **approve the skeletal structure of the composition and process of the Facilities Committee, with clarifications**, and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

D. Policies

i. Amendment KCD - Public Gifts

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to **approve the revisions of policy KCD**, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

ii. Amendment DN - Disposal of School Property

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to **approve the revisions of policy DN**, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

iii. Second reading GCQC - Resignation of School Employees

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to **approve policy GCQC**, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

9. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Policy Subcommittee – Policy Subcommittee will be bringing back policy on Facilities Use, Transgender
- B. United Technology Center – Meeting coming up
- C. SPRPCE – next board meeting November 8
- D. Curriculum Subcommittee – Met last week (Oct. 12) and discussed updates of the various curriculum subgroups and work done during the PD day on Oct 6. Good Progress is being made.

10. Other Business - none

11. Future Agenda Items - none

12. Public Comment - none

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meetings

- A. November 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., Town Council Chambers
- B. November 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., Town Council Chambers

14. Request for Information and Follow-up - none

15. Adjournment

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to **adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.** and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Higgins