

Minutes

RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting
Orono Town Council Chambers
Tuesday, September 5, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.

- x Brian McGill, chairperson
- x Jacob Eckert, vice-chair
- x Mark Brewer
- Michelle Smith (attended via Google Hangout)
- 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 6:04 p.m.

- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Agenda Adjustments

- i. Request to reallocate funding for Stipend position – OMS

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the agenda adjustment and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

2. Consideration of the Minutes - none

3. Approval of Warrants – Warrant 4, Maine August PERS

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the warrants as presented and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

4. Acknowledgements

- The transition back to school has been smooth.
- Board sentiments hope the school year is going well and there is appreciation to the staff for all their hard work.
- The OHS/OMS library received a collection psychology books as a donation from Kim Sogges.
- The Girls Varsity soccer team won their game tonight against with a 3-1 victory

5. Public Comment - none

6. Presentations

- A. Superintendent Report – Supt Higgins inform board there has been a change to the ‘cash in lieu’ benefits as it relates to insurance coverage. As of January 2017, additional requirements must be met in order to access this benefit. There are several employees who are impacted and the district can do nothing

to change the circumstances. In order to help employees through this unanticipated change, RSU 26 HR has negotiated an extension period for open enrollment.

- B. Principal Reports - Reg, Heath, Darcie, Students – All principals gave brief presentations on the start of school, enrollment numbers, and co-curricular and sports activities. One area of concern, however, is scheduling lunches for OMS/OHS. The Young Americans will be visiting the school on September 24th.
- C. Student Advisor Report – Lunch concerns due to scheduling. Period 3 is interrupted during lunch as the lunchrooms are clearly at capacity. Students would still like to see an SAT prep time during advisory for juniors & seniors.

7. Discussion Items

A. MEA Data presentation

Discussion: Supt. Higgins gave a broad overview of the MEA results. The board discussed the following:

- i. What role and how frequently should the board meet/discuss testing, at what stage, and which ones.

At a later date, there will be a more in-depth workshop discussion. With the intention of developing a culture of understanding, the discussion will be able to show the board a complete picture and understand the results. There will be an in-depth presentation to the Board in December and June.

B. Technology Update – *Technology Director, Sean Malone*

Discussion: Sean Malone addressed the board on current operations and future concerns of RSU 26 district technology. The following are his discussion points and goals:

- Updated communication via Website and make a repository for employees to access information.
- Infrastructure work needed to make a robust network
- Updates for E-Rate and utilizing it.
- Replacing switches, access points and adding airports
- SIS reporting to speed things up and automate productivity
- Filtering to help keep the kids safe on the Internet.
- Being that teaching is Mr. Malone's passion, he would like to work with teachers to help support and teach them because technology is the kids' world.
- Offering PD opportunities where teachers can learn things and enhance teaching with technology.
- Continuous streamline tech support – get a ticket system going and utilize the geek squad
- Create a group of 5-6 students to become AST's to do computer repair (fiscally better off instead of \$75 an hour)
- Work on communicating through multiple modes i.e. social media, Twitter to drive information out to parents, students and community.

8. Action Items

A. Request to reallocate funding for Stipend position - OMS

Discussion: Due to inadequate numbers for a full field hockey B-team, it was requested to reallocate the funds for a Cross Country Coach.

Motion: **Brian McGill moved to authorize the one year Field Hockey middle school stipend to OMS cross country.** Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

(Note: Before it becomes a finalized stipend position for next year, the board will review the need.)

B. Staff Nominations

i. Extra-curricular Nominations

1. Allyson Estes, Mentor, Asa Adams
2. Angie McLaughlin, Mentor, Asa Adams
3. Chad Kirkpatrick, Lunch Duty (50), OMS
4. Kristin Espling, Lunch Duty (50), OMS
5. Jake Chambers, Asst. Football Coach, OMS

Motion: **Brian McGill moved to approve the extra-curricular nominations as presented,** and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

C. Request to dispose of surplus inventory

i. Peavey soundboard

Discussion: Jen Nash has requested permission to donate an old 1980's soundboard to another school district. We no longer have need of it as two new soundboards were purchased last year - one for the cafeteria/theatre productions, and a smaller one for the band room. According to Mark's Music in Brewer, there is very little, if any, value to the mixer and would like to donate to another district. Brian McGill suggested setting a threshold in policy DN for which disposing of surplus inventory would need approval by the board.

Motion: **Brain McGill moved to approve the request to dispose of the surplus inventory** and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

D. Recommendation for Architect/Engineering Firm Selection for Facilities Study.

Discussion: Without cost for consideration at this time, out of the four firms interviewed by the selection committee, Supt. Higgins asked the board to accept PDT.

Motion: **Brian McGill moved to authorize Supt Higgins to enter negotiations with PDT to see if an agreement can be reached.** Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

Discussion: Brian McGill asked to go into executive session to set up timeline/schedule with the aim for June of 2018 or 2019, the latter of which would allow for an extended time for inventory, bond setting, etc. The general consensus from the board is to take a

slower more thoughtful approach by pursuing the 18-month option rather than the 6-month timeframe.

Also discussed is the consideration of doing a demographics study in order to determine a more accurate report of student population and growth.

***Motion:** Brian McGill moved to go into executive session per MRSA (6)(C) to discuss negotiation terms at 7:45 p.m., and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0*

The board came out of executive session at 8:11 p.m.

9. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Policy Subcommittee – 1st Thursday of the month, possibly including a second meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
- B. United Technology Center – Erin Ellis updated the board on recent meetings. Enrollment is up for UTC.
- C. SPRPCE
- D. Curriculum Subcommittee – the next meeting is Sept. 14th at 3:30 p.m. in rm. 52. Michelle Smith will attend remotely.

10. Other Business

11. Executive Session

- A. Discuss Collective Bargaining Agreement MOU Article 11- Teacher Evaluation -- 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(D) – Labor contract meeting to discuss MOU from Riverside Education Association

***Motion:** Brian McGill moved to enter executive session at 8:14 p.m. per 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(D) to correct wording in the Collective Bargaining Agreement and take a public vote after the executive session. Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0*

The board came out of executive session at 8:25 p.m.

***Motion:** Brian McGill moved to adopt the correction of the CBA as amended, and Erin Ellis seconded. Vote: 4-0*

12. Future Agenda Items

- A. Recommendation of a contract for A/E firm (Sept. 19)

13. Public Comment

14. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meetings

- A. September 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., Town Council Chambers
- B. October 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., Town Council Chambers

15. Request for Information and Follow-up - none

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16. Adjournment

Motion: Brian McGill moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Higgins*