

**MINUTES**

RSU #26 Board of Directors Meeting  
 Orono Town Council Chambers  
 Tuesday, October 2, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

x Brian McGill, chairperson  
 x Jacob Eckert, vice-chair  
 x Mark Brewer  
 x Erin Ellis

x Geoff Wingard  
 x Katie King, Student Advisor  
 x Eli McGill, Student Advisor  
 Ross Cobo-Lewis, Student Advisor Alternate

**1. Opening**

- a. Call to Order

*Brian McGill called the meeting to order at 6:00pm*

- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Agenda Adjustments – none

**2. Consideration of the Minutes**

- a. September 4, 2018

***Motion:*** *Brian McGill moved to approve the minutes as presented, Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 5-0*

**3. Approval of Warrants –**

- a. Payrolls – 5, 6, 7
- b. Warrants –
- c. ME Pers – September 2018

***Motion:*** *Brian McGill moved to approve the Warrants, Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 5-0*

**4. Public Comment – none****5. Acknowledgements**

- a. Orono High School received a donation of \$150 from the OHS Class of 1967 for the Library. This donation was made after class members toured the High School as part of their reunion celebration.
- b. Geoff Wingard complimented the Asa Adams Community for a wonderful open house and beginning of the school year.
- c. Erin Ellis thanked Angie Kohtala for organizing a crew and painting the doors exterior doors of Orono Middle and High Schools.
- d. Meredith Higgins thanked Angie Kohtala and her volunteer painting crew—Erin Ellis, Stacy Newman, Lynn King, and Ellen White-- for their contribution to the beautification of the buildings. Superintendent Higgins also acknowledged Eli McGill for being named a National Merit Scholar semi-finalist.
- e. Eli McGill also thanked the volunteers for painting the doors in the rain

**6. Presentations****a. Superintendent Report- Meredith Higgins**

- i. The windstorm from October 2017 damaged our ropes course. Insurance will pay for the majority of a replacement ropes course, and the plan is to have it installed by spring 2019.
- ii. October 9 Professional day- Some teachers will attend a writing to learn training. The remaining staff will spend the morning in a social/emotional learning workshop.
- iii. Kenia Edwards hired in Social Studies position
- iv. Preliminary Enrollment Stats- 781
  1. 12 down from last year
  2. Tuition 9 more than budgeted for

**b. Principal Reports**

i. **Darren Akerman**

1. 271 students enrolled
2. Evacuation drill, school safety
3. Open house was extraordinarily successful
4. 2 Volunteer training sessions- 50 volunteers!
5. Fab Lab up and running
6. Testing
  - a. NWEAs begin on October 16
  - b. NAEP- Grade 4 Math- Sometime January to March

ii. **Heath Kennie**

1. 173 students enrolled
2. Students of the Month
  - a. 6th grade- Mason Hartery
  - b. 7th grade- Joseph Bean
  - c. 8th grade- Alex Hutchins
3. Improving communication with parents- especially around athletics
  - a. Remind 101 App- Mark Brewer commented that it is a helpful tool, and it would be nice to expand it to other teams and maybe system-wide.
4. Working to build University/OMS Partnerships

iii. **Reg Ruhlin**

1. Kudos to Elias Veilleux, named National Merit Commended Student
2. Homecoming festivities were fun, and student led
  - a. Like to acknowledge Kim Emerson and Heidi Clarke for leading the student homecoming committee
3. Busy week next week- 4 day weekend, testing, parent conferences
4. Idea from Geoff Wingard- Bring homecoming spirit down to the lower grades

c. **Student Report- Eli McGill**

- i. Sports teams moving toward playoffs
- ii. Fall musical -- *Into the Woods*
- iii. OHS writing center is up and running
  1. Peer-led writing tutors
- iv. Threat at high school-- more communication with students should be considered to avoid hearsay.

7. **Discussion Items**

- a. PBE Requirements
  - i. State changed the rule again, feedback from admins about keeping what is in place now, or returning to the old rules. Proficiency vs Credit based
  - ii. Reg Ruhlin, representing Orono High School:
    1. Recommendation- Credit based system
      - a. Difficult for kids with disabilities to earn diploma
      - b. More learning time, less paperwork
      - c. More flexibility with assessment
      - d. Parents and employers understand credit based system
      - e. Transfer students are at a disadvantage
  - iii. Geoff Wingard encourages staff to keep robust Orono standards. Find ways to keep the good ideas the from the hard work the staff put in adapting to PBE
  - iv. Darren Akerman validates good ideas from PBE, such as separating behavior from academics and encourages putting these ideas to use
  - v. Mark Brewer reiterates what Geoff Wingard said, build on positives and keep going.
- b. Facilities Study - Next Steps

- i. PDT hired for planning study, nearing end of time frame
- ii. Considering bond vote in June 2019-
  - 1. Mark Brewer mentioned concerns that the June 2019 is too ambitious of a date.
    - a. Meredith Higgins encourages a balance between being too aggressive vs losing momentum.
  - 2. Short Term Timeline
    - a. October 16th Board Meeting- remaining deliverables- PDT presentation we've been waiting for
    - b. Public response: meeting and public response
    - c. November 13th Board Meeting- Broad Brush Scoping
  - 3. Long Term Timeline
    - a. Schematics and views and real numbers should be here in April
    - b. 4 Committees December-March
      - 1) Sports
      - 2) Performing Arts
      - 3) Asa
      - 4) Middle/High School
    - c. 5-7 people per committee, meeting every 2 or 3 weeks and meeting with PDT over Skype
    - d. Presentation to the Community in March or April
    - e. 3 options for funding PDT going forward (approximately \$136,000 - \$150,000)
      - 1) Capital Reserve- vote at November meeting
        - 1. Ask community to spend a fixed dollar amount,
        - 2. Budget change to change undesignated funds for 2018-19
        - 3. Drawing from 2018-19 budget contingencies fund
- c. District policy on outsider campaigning
  - i. Students have free speech rights
    - 1. Slogans, taking to friends, wearing shirts are fine as long as they are not lewd or causing a substantial disturbance
  - ii. Teachers are permitted to campaign outside of school time
    - 1. Distinction between teaching current events and campaigning.
  - iii. Is a policy needed to allow/not allow outsiders campaigning on our grounds?
    - 1. Consensus- allow outsider campaigning for now

## 8. Action Items

- a. Staff Nominations
  - i. Co-curricular Recommendations

**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to **approve co-curriculars as listed**, Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 5-0

- b. MSMA delegate

**Motion:** Mark Brewer moved to **approve Brian McGill as the Board Representative to MSMA for RSU 26**, Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0, Brian McGill abstained

- c. Policies

- 1. JDLGB - Reintegration of Students from Juvenile Corrections
  - 1. Required policy

**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to **recognize the 1<sup>st</sup> read of Policy JDLGB**, Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0 (Geoff Wingard left the meeting)

2. EFD - Food service pricing and payment

***Motion:*** Brian McGill moved to **recognize the 1<sup>st</sup> read of Policy EFD**, Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- d. Approval of Donation
  1. Donation of surplus network switches to Orono Town Office
  2. Approximate value of \$500 each

***Motion:*** Brian McGill moved to **authorize the donation of network switches to the Town**, Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- e. Approval of Stipend for Asa Coding Club

***Motion:*** Brian McGill moved to **authorize the stipend for Asa Adams Coding Club**, Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

**9. Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Policy Subcommittee
  - i. Meeting Thursday Oct 4 @3:30- Open Meeting
  - ii. Reviewing Policies
    1. IJOC-R (regulation document)
    2. Surveys
- b. United Technology Center
  - i. Meeting 2 weeks ago, Spoke to Dean and Noel about transgender name policy
- c. SPRPCE- no update
- d. Curriculum Subcommittee
  - i. Updated on plan for the year
- e. Facilities -REMOVE from future agendas
- f. Wellness Subcommittee- no update

**10. Other Business**

**11. Future Agenda Items**

**12. Public Comment**

**13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting**

- a. Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at the Orono Town Council Chambers at 6 p.m.
  - i. Facilities committee invited

**14. Request for Information and Follow-up**

- a. Follow-up from Mark Brewer: Positive changes with the crossing guards.

**15. Adjournment**

***Motion:*** Brian McGill moved to **adjourn the meeting at 8:40**, Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

**Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

***Raechelle Edmiston-Cyr***

Central Office Administrative Assistant