

Minutes

RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting
Orono Town Council Chambers
Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

X Brian McGill, chairperson
X Jacob Eckert, vice-chair
X Mark Brewer
 Geoff Wingard

X Erin Ellis
X Katie King, Student Advisor
X Eli McGill, Student Advisor
 Ross Cobo-Lewis, Student Advisor Alternate

1. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Agenda Adjustments

Brian McGill called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

2. Consideration of the Minutes

- a. February 5, 2019 Minutes

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to **approve as presented**, Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0*

3. Approval of Warrants

- a. Payrolls – 17
- b. Warrants – 16, 17
- c. ME Pers – Feb 2019

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to **approve warrants**, Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0*

4. Public Comment

- a. Sarah James- Parent and 4th grade teacher at Asa
 - i. Concerns about three 4th grade classrooms being combined into two 5th grade classes for the 2019-20 school year
 1. Lots of changes in 5th grade
 2. Low class numbers gives more teaching time, less time putting out fires
 3. Math is challenging with 2 teachers
- b. Alan Cobo-Lewis- Parent
 - i. Inclusion and respect- values of RSU 26
 1. Cultural inclusion
 - a. Jewish holidays ignored
 - i. Things scheduled during Jewish (and other religious holidays)
 - ii. Centralized calendar with all religious and cultural holidays
- c. Sarah Marx- Parent
 - i. Cultural and religious policy needed in the school system
- d. Khawla Wise- Parent
 - i. Ask that major events not happen on Muslim holidays.
- e. Laurie Osher- Parent
 - i. Advocates for a policy for addressing the holidays of multiple faith traditions

5. Acknowledgements

- a. Erin Ellis thanks everyone who is serving on all of the committees that Erin is involved with. It's nice to see so many people involved in the school community.
- b. Brian thanks everyone on the facilities sub-committees for all of their hard work
- c. Meredith Higgins acknowledges Tracey Dechaine- nominated for Penobscot Teacher of the Year.

6. Presentations

- a. Superintendent Report
 - i. Employee Resignation
 1. International Program coordinator resignation
 2. Short and long term solutions
 - a. Short- find someone to finish out the year with the current students and secure contracts with students for the 19-20 school year.
 - b. Long- how we want to move forward- some restructuring of the position to a director of admissions and recruitment.
 - ii. Hires
 1. 2 Ed Techs were hired recently.
 - iii. Student Board Rep applications have been slow to come in.
 1. Candidates will be installed at the April 2 meeting
- b. Principal Reports
 - i. Darren Akerman
 1. Lisa Erhardt, Madeline Mellor, and Darren will be presenting about Habits of Mind at PREP- social/emotional learning.
 2. Thanks for sending a group from RSU 26 to the Future of Educational Technology Conference
 - ii. Heath Kennie- Absent, attending PVML Spelling Bee
 - iii. Reg Ruhlin
 1. Eli McGill nominated as Presidential Scholar, and National Merit Scholarship Finalist.
 2. Conner Robertson- All Star basketball team
 3. Molly McCluskey- All Star basketball academic team.
 4. Recruitment team- Thanks for hard work on Step-Up Day
 5. Boys Basketball won sportsmanship award
- c. Student Report- absent

7. Discussion Items

- a. Budget
 - i. First look at revenues
 1. Hand out
 2. Positive starting point from EV2 revenue
 3. Brian McGill- raise balance forward until our bank account begins to lower.
 4. Meredith Higgins- Ongoing schedule from undesignated fund balance

- into capital reserve each year. Spending down reserves, filling needs.
- ii. Like to get Board's ideas on the overall net.
 - 1. Brian McGill and Mark Brewer would like for the Inc/Dec number to be \$0.00
 - 2. Mark Brewer doesn't want to slash the balance forward and is interested in the idea of a "capital improvements fund"
 - 3. Erin Ellis and Jake Eckert agree
 - 4. Brian McGill- We can't keep raising taxes for the money to go into a bank account
 - iii. Class size information
 - 1. Handout - with teacher to student ratio
 - 2. 87% of budget is staffing costs
 - 3. Current thinking: Keep 2 teachers for 5th grade at Asa, with an EdTech for 5th grade available to do pull out teachers
 - 4. Meredith- Keep watching the changes to plan for 5th grade
 - a. Hard to find a teacher for a half time position
 - 5. Darren- Have to find the right EdTech for the position. Current 5th grade teachers feel that it would be best to have 3rd teacher. Highest frequency and intensity of behaviors is in the current 5th grade.
 - 6. Continue to monitor, numbers are right on the bubble as to if an additional teacher is needed for 5th grade. Middle school teacher to student ratio also needs to be monitored. Middle School Special Ed also has a staffing strain.
- b. OMS Principal Search Committee - Board members
- i. Mark Brewer and Jake Eckert are interested.
 - ii. Final decision should be delayed until Geoff Wingard.
- c. 2019-2020 School Calendar
- i. Differences:
 - 1. Three teacher workshop days instead of 2. This is primarily due to the implementation of PowerSchool.
 - 2. OMS starts with only 6th grade, much like OHS begins with only 9th graders and new students
 - ii. Erin Ellis- Add extra storm days into calendar so that people don't plan vacations too early in June. Brian and Mark agree.
 - iii. Mark Brewer- Continued objection to early release days.
 - iv. Everyone is in favor of respecting religious holidays.
 - 1. Policy or Practice?
 - 2. UMaine adds addendum to calendar addressing all of the holiday and festival days.
 - 3. Supt. Meredith Higgins prefers changes to practice instead of enacting policy.
 - 4. Mark Brewer agrees that calendar reflecting religious holidays should go to all teachers at the beginning of the school year.
 - 5. Brian McGill is in favor of enacting a policy, publicly available and

- listing the basic rights for students.
- 6. Discussion for policy committee.
- v. Universal Calendar on website.

8. Action Items

- a. Personnel
 - i. Employee Leave Request

Motion: Brian moved that they **enter Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(A) – Discussion of confidential personnel matters.** Erin Ellis 2nd. Vote 4-0

Entered executive session at 8:28

Exited at 8:29

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the unpaid employee leave,** Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- ii. New Stipend Request - OHS Key Club trial stipend

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the Key Club stipend,** Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- 1. Brian McGill has concerns that too many new stipends have been added recently, and the attendance in clubs need to be monitored to see if some of the stipend positions can be removed.

- b. Policies
 - i. Revisions

- 1. CBI - Superintendent evaluations
 - a. Timing of the evaluation defined

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **adopt the changes to CBI,** Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- 2. JFAB - Tuition students
 - a. Changes to the section of the policy that addresses teachers living outside of Orono who choose for their children to attend school with with students

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **changes to policy JFAB ,** Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- ii. First reads
 - 1. GCOC - Administrator evaluations

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **mark as a first read on GCOC,** Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- 2. GBGE - Return to work

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **mark as a first read on GBGE,** Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

Public Comment

9. Public Comment

- a. Amy Sherman- parent
 - i. Concerned for next year with 2 teachers for 5th grade at Asa
 - ii. 4th grade is a diverse, dynamic group
- b. Amy Jones- parent
 - i. Also concerned about class size at Asa, and taking the 3 classes that are currently in 4th grade and funneling them into 2 classes.
- c. Sarah Marx- parent
 - i. Look at how a class is divided through the life of the class/grade. Has it always been in a bigger or smaller group.
 - ii. Grateful that Board is discussing a policy on the Religious holidays.

10. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee
 - i. Will meet week from Thursday (March 7)
 - ii. Discussing Middle School students getting high school credit and how it affects the high school transcript.
 - iii. Religious Holiday policy discussion moved to April meeting
- b. United Technology Center- no update
- c. SPRPCE
 - i. Meeting in March, discussing budget
- d. Curriculum Subcommittee
 - i. Discussions at last meeting
 - 1. Inservice day discussion
 - 2. High school credit for middle school students
- e. Facilities
- f. Wellness Subcommittee
 - i. Wellness fair 19-20 school year
 - ii. Compost kitchen waste
 - iii. Flatware in schools instead of plastic spoons and forks
 - 1. Earth Day 2019 roll out.
 - a. Students and staff involved.
 - b. Thanks to Ben Jacobson

11. Other Business

- a. Select date for joint meeting with Town Council - April 23rd or April 25th from 5-7 pm
 - i. April 23rd is agreed upon.

12. Future Agenda Items**~~13. Public Comment~~ MOVED TO ITEM 9****14. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting**

- a. Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at the Orono Town Council Chambers at 6 p.m.

15. Request for Information and Follow-up

- a. Mark- get number of students currently impacted by High school credit for middle school students.

16. Adjournment

***Motion:** Brian McGill moved to Adjourn , Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0
Meeting Adjourned at 9:17*

*Respectfully submitted,
Raechelle Edmiston-Cyr
Central Office Administrative Assistant*