

DRAFT- Minutes -DRAFT

RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting
Orono Town Council Chambers
Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

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

- Erin Ellis
- Kayin Jaksa, Student Advisor
- Clarice van Walsum, Student Advisor

1. Opening

- a) Call to Order

Jake Eckert called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

- b) Pledge of Allegiance
- c) Agenda Adjustments
 - i) Add 7a Orono High School and Brewer High School Swim Cooperative
 - ii) Add 8a(ii)(2) Hiring Recommendation- Director of Admissions and International Program
 - iii) Add 8c Bond payment schedule

Motion: *Jake Eckert moved to approve agenda adjustments. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0*

2. Consideration of the Minutes

- a) April 23, 2019

Motion: *Jake Eckert moved to approve the minutes. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0*

3. Approval of Warrants

- a) Payrolls – 22
- b) Warrants – 22, 22ci
- c) ME Pers –

Motion: *Jake Eckert moved to approve warrants. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0*

4. Public Comment

- a) Cami Carter- representing a group of parents, requesting that the Board consider adding an extra kindergarten teacher for the 19-20 year
- b) Mike Tipping- parent of 2 five year olds, worried about the kindergarten class size
- c) Amy Pierce- parent of twins entering the kindergarten, concerned about large class size, especially about the day to day things
- d) Christina Thwaites- worried about the teacher in large kindergarten
- e) Frederic Rondeau- Please consider kindergarten issue
- f) Andy Corley- consider the long-term implications, looks like a trend in state enrollment and not a spike
- g) Alex Barry- concerns with Montessori closing, many of those children will enter the Orono school system
- h) Erin Romsey- daughter in kindergarten, advanced in her studies, doesn't want child to not like school
- i) Rachel Johnson-Nichols- hope that there will be support in place for the larger class size.
- j) Sam Kunz- concerned about finding the best people to teach kindergarten class if class size gets too big over the summer

5. Acknowledgements

- a) Geoff Wingard thanks the kindergarten parents for coming to voice their opinions. Mr. Wingard also thanks all of the coaches for working through the difficult weather this spring.
- b) Erin Ellis recognizes all RSU 26 teachers during appreciation week.
- c) Brian McGill thanks Reg Ruhlin for updates on high school enrollment.
- d) Meredith Higgins sends congratulations to Tracy Deschaine, OMS teacher who was named Penobscot Co teacher of the year.

6. Presentations

- a) Student Julia White - Graduation with Distinction presentation on school start times
 - i) Asks that the Board consider changing the start time for high school from 8 to 8:30 or 9:00
 - ii) Teenagers benefit from extra sleep, and have different sleep cycles than younger children or adults
 - iii) "Catching up over the weekend" wrecks the teen sleep schedule, causing a "jet lag" effect
- b) Superintendent Report
 - i) MSBA Handout
 - ii) Enrollment (Handout)
 - (1) Considering options with large kindergarten
 - (2) Looking at screening data, evaluating enrollment, considering threshold for when the class is too big
 - (3) Looking at Ed Tech model of support for Kindergarten
 - (4) Adding special education teacher at OMS
 - (5) Objective is to stabilize staff and class size

7. Discussion Items

- a) Orono High School and Brewer High School Swim Cooperative -- Mike Archer (Orono Athletic Director) and Dave Utterback (Brewer Athletic Director)
 - i) Trend in swim program with numbers declining. This hinders the team in participating in a meet and being competitive.
 - ii) Not just about declining numbers, but also to give the swim team a better opportunity.
 - iii) Brewer would bring their swimmers to UMaine to practice (Orono swimmers already practice there), swimmers would continue using the best facility in the area
 - iv) Brewer would bring a diving coach, giving Orono a diving coach at meets (coach at meets not available now)
 - v) New Brewer-Orono tradition would begin. No more "Witches" or "Riots"
 - vi) Approval from the Board gives Mike and Dave the go-ahead to proceed with the process of combining the teams. Final approval is up to the MPA.

Motion: Jake Eckert *moved to allow Mike Archer to move on with the Brewer/Orono swim Cooperative.* Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

8. Action Items

- a) Staff Nominations
 - i) Co-curricular Recommendations-none
 - ii) Hiring Recommendations- Mathy Terrill OHS Social Studies Teacher
 - (1) Enter Executive Session - per 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(A) - Appointment of officials/appointees/employees

Motion: Jake Eckert *moved to enter executive session.* Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

Entered executive session at 7:09

Exited session at 7:18

Motion: Jake Eckert *moved to approve recommendation for Mathy Terrill to be hired as OHS Social Studies teacher.* Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- iii) Hiring Recommendations- Erika Dixon Director of Admissions and International Program
 - (1) Enter Executive Session - per 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(A) - Appointment of officials/appointees/employees

Motion: Jake Eckert *moved to enter executive session.* Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

Entered executive session at 7:19

Exited session at 7:43

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to approve for Erika Dixon to be hired as OHS Director of Admissions and the International Program. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- iv) Probationary Contract Recommendations
 - (1) Enter Executive Session - per 1 M.R.S.A §405(6)(A) - Appointment of officials/appointees/employees

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to enter executive session. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0
Entered executive session at 7:44
Exited session at 9:17

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to approve the following teachers for a second year probationary contract: Sarah DeCesere, Andrew Sumner, and Jennifer Branchflower. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to approve the following teachers for a third year probationary contract: Caitlin Lynch, Bradley Martin, Suzanne Neville, Sandra Seavey, Ashley Satre, Charity Robbins, and Zach Arnold. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to approve the following teachers for a continuing contract: Jennifer Nash, Dave Hamel, Todd Hillier, Allison Woodard, Emily Jackson Sanborn, Amy Hart, and Steve Van Dolman. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- b) Policies
 - i) First Read
 - (1) BDD - Board-Superintendent relations

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to recognize BDD as first read. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- (2) BHC - Board-Staff relations
 - (a) Mark Brewer wonders if this policy is needed, and wonders if the policies on the second page should be included.

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to recognize BHC as first read. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- (3) IMDE - religious holidays
 - (a) Mark Brewer recommends adding Fridays during Lent (including good Friday)
 - (b) Add “and/or not drinking” after fasting
 - (c) Geoff Wingard asks to add first night of Hanukkah to the list of dates to be aware of.

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to recognize IMDE as first read. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

- c) Bond Payment Schedule
 - i) Meredith Higgins presented a handout with options for bond payments.

Motion: Mark Brewer moved to direct Meredith and Brian to use the 23 year private bond seller schedule as the source of numbers for publications. Jake Eckert seconded. Vote 4-0

9. Subcommittee Reports

- a) Policy Subcommittee- Next Meeting will be May 30 instead of June 6
- b) United Technology Center- Meeting May 6
 - i) Maker Space Bus
- c) SPRPCE- meeting next fall
- d) Curriculum Subcommittee- meeting May 9
- e) Facilities

f) Wellness Subcommittee

10. Other Business- none

11. Future Agenda Items

12. Public Comment

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a) Tuesday, May 14th, 2019, Annual Budget Meeting, OHS Cafeteria, 6:00PM
- b) Tuesday, May 28, 2019, Bond Referendum Public Hearing, Orono Town Council Chamber, 6:00 pm
- c) Tuesday, May 28, 2019, Board Meeting, Orono Town Council Chamber, 6:30 pm (or immediately following public hearing)

14. Request for Information and Follow-up

- a) School Safety informational meeting, Board Representative?
- b) Geoff Wingard and Jake Eckert will be there

15. Adjournment

Motion: Jake Eckert moved to adjourn the meeting. Erin Ellis seconded. Vote 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:54