

APPROVED MINUTES
RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting
Remote access for public participation through Zoom Link
Tuesday, August 4, 2020 6:00 pm

× Brian McGill
× Jake Eckert
× Mark Brewer

× Erin Ellis
× Leo Kenney

1. Opening

- a. Call to Order

Brian McGill called the meeting to order.

- b. Pledge of Allegiance
c. Agenda Adjustment

- i. Add item 6(a) Galapagos Island trip update

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the agenda adjustments as presented**, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

2. Consideration of the Minutes

~~a. June 16, 2020~~

~~b. June 23, 2020~~

~~c. July 1, 2020~~

~~d. July 22, 2020~~

- e. Approval moved to August 18, 2020 meeting so that Board members have more time to review minutes

3. Approval of Warrants

- a. Payrolls – 26, 1, 2
b. Warrants – 26, 26A, 26B, 1, 2
c. ME Pers – June
d. Bond - 16, 17

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the warrants as presented**, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

4. Public Comment

- a. Deb White- teacher: Commented on the amount of uncompensated time that teachers put into planning for the 20-21 school year. She also doesn't understand why teachers will be expected to perform remote teaching from the school instead of from home.
- b. Jessica Barnes- teacher: Is concerned about teacher planning and the changing plans of students and families as well as the changing virus situation
- c. Katie Stevenson- parent: Is concerned about being asked to commit to an entire semester when selecting between hybrid and full remote learning for the fall semester, especially with the changing nature of COVID-19
- d. Karissa Tilbury, parent: Would like to know the established thresholds for switching from hybrid to remote learning. She is also concerned about the logistics of dropoff at

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Asa Elementary.

- e. Kristin Gordon, parent: Is concerned about teacher availability during times when hybrid students are working from home.

5. Acknowledgments

- a. Superintendent Higgins acknowledges Joe Mason who was honored with the Maine Custodian of the Year/A. Burleigh Oxton Award for Excellence, and read the nomination from Cami Carter.
- b. Brian McGill acknowledges all of the hard work put in over the summer planning to make
- c. Meredith Higgins acknowledges the Orono school community who donated over \$7000 in gift cards to send to RSU 26 students to help protect against food insecurity in the spring and summer.

Supt Higgins also announced that Megan Dreher selected for the Dirigo Reads programs which will supply Orono 1st graders with a new book each month.

Orono also received a grant for \$6000 from the Full Plates Foundation to help pay for the summer food delivery program.

6. Presentations

- a. 2021 Galapagos Island trip update- Christine Crocker
 - i. Three possibilities in continuing plans for the trip
 - 1. Keep the trip as scheduled for April 2021
 - 2. Be proactive and move the trip to the summer of 2021
 - 3. Move trip to April of 2022
 - ii. Board consensus is to find out when final decisions have to be made, and go with the choice that causes the fewest penalties to participants
- b. Superintendent Report - Meredith Higgins
 - i. Construction updates
 - 1. Videos being posted to social media by Deb White
 - 2. Construction well underway
 - 3. Prepping the front of Asa Adams for the beginning of School
 - ii. Beginning of School Year
 - 1. New employee orientation to take place August 13
 - 2. Teachers' back to school will have some large Zoom meetings for everyone in the district, as well as small group meetings and planning time for teachers
 - 3. Lots of ordering going on, including lots of things that don't usually get ordered-- tents, outdoor classroom materials, face shields, plexiglass, water filling stations
 - 4. Initial meeting of the childcare workgroup, who is thinking through potential solutions to childcare needs

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7. Discussion Items

a. School Reopening plans

i. Recommendation & School Planning

1. Planning has adapted somewhat based on survey results from parents
2. Data indicates that 2nd and 6th grade can be brought back full time in addition to PreK, Kindergarten, and 1st grade.
3. Updates from schools

a. Reg Ruhlin- OHS

- i. Classrooms redesigned to accommodate social distancing as well as plexiglass barriers for teaching staff.
- ii. Staggered class dismissal times
- iii. Specific supervised locations-- Gym, cafe, and outdoor tent-- for before school
- iv. 3 lunch shifts, eaten in cafeteria and outdoor tent only with students 6 feet apart
- v. One way stairwells
- vi. MUSE block removed from the schedule, as singing and wind instruments project air particles more than 6 feet
 1. Small group instruction for band and choral students
- vii. Average of 6-12 students per class on average

b. Richard Glencross- OMS

- i. Formed new Committees
 1. Communication
 2. School Safety
 3. Instructional Planning
- ii. Teachers are designing own space based on maximum numbers of students allowed in room with 6ft social distancing
- iii. Bathrooms will be for specific grades
- iv. Traffic flow indicated on hallway floor
- v. No lockers for the beginning of the school year
- vi. Lunches will be eaten in an outdoor tent and gym at the beginning of the school year. Plans are shaping up for how to change the lunch schedule as the weather gets colder

c. Kristin Briggs- Asa Adams

- i. Social distancing in classrooms
- ii. Tent for outside space
- iii. Staggered arrival in 3 different areas for different grades for parents to drop off students
- iv. Specials on 2 week rotation

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4. CRF Funds & New Position Requests
 - a. Request to hire 5 full time substitutes
 - i. Paying for their salaries through CRF (through December)
 - ii. \$47,000 through regular substitute budget line
 - b. Request to hire technology assistant
 - i. Pay salary through CRF and then budgeted contingency funds
 - c. Request to hire extra teacher for Asa

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **authorize the hire of five substitutes, a tech support assistant, and teacher for Asa Adams with funds to come from CRF as long as possible and then funds some from the operating budget, and also to move the custodial and nurse support funding to come from CRF.** Leo Kenney seconded*

*Vote: Erin Ellis- aye
Jacob Eckert- aye
Leo Kenney- aye*

*Mark Brewer- aye
Brian McGill- aye
Vote 5-0*

- b. School class size updates
 - i. Handout
 - ii. 380 students at OHS

8. Action Items
 - a. Staff Nominations
 - i. Hiring Recommendations
 - b. Policies
 - i. 2nd read
 1. IIB - Class Size

*Motion: Brian McGill **moved to recognize policy IIB for a second read.** Jake Eckert seconded*

*Vote: Erin Ellis- aye
Jacob Eckert- aye
Leo Kenney- aye*

*Mark Brewer- aye
Brian McGill- aye
Vote 5-0*

- c. School calendar adjustment - recommendation to move Kindergarten early release days through Sept 11th

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **change the first full day of Kindergarten to September 15, 2020,** Erin Ellis seconded*

*Vote: Erin Ellis- aye
Jacob Eckert- aye
Leo Kenney- aye*

*Mark Brewer- no
Brian McGill- aye
Vote 4-1*

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9. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee
- b. United Technology Center
- c. SPRPCE
- d. Curriculum Subcommittee
- e. Facilities/Building committee
- f. Wellness Subcommittee
- g. Construction
 - i. Change requests have already been springing up
 1. Changes up to \$5000 will be handled by the architect and Brent Fournier
 2. Changes between \$5000 and \$20000 will be handled by Meredith Higgins, Brian McGill, and Brent Fournier
 3. Above \$20000 will go to the Board

10. Other Business-

11. Future Agenda Items-

- a. Discussion on extra and co-curricular activities
- b. Recommendation to add Board meeting on Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **add a Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00 pm.** Leo Kenney seconded*

***Vote:** Erin Ellis- aye*

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

12. Public Comment-

- a. Shana Goodall- teacher and OEA President: Asks for more communication between the different RSU 26 communities
- b. Jae Hubbard- teacher: Echoes Ms Goodall's sentiments about communication, and feels like two weeks is a prohibitively short amount of time to make plans known and put into effect.
- c. Kate Crane- Asa Administrative Assistant: Would like to have more direction on how students and staff will remain healthy
- d. Sam Kunz- parent: Questions the amount of UMaine students coming from New England

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a. Tuesday, August 18, 2020, Board Meeting, 6:00 pm

14. Request for Information and Follow-up

15. Executive Session - 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) Labor Negotiations

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*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **for the Board to go into executive session under 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D)***

***Labor Negotiations.** Leo Kenney seconded*

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

16. Adjournment

Came out of executive session and adjourned at 10:34

*Motion: Brian McGill moved **for the Board adjourn.** Mark Brewer seconded*

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0