

MINUTES
RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 6:00 pm

X Brian McGill
X Jake Eckert

X Mark Brewer
X Erin Ellis

X 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 8(a)(ii) Foodservice Delivery Driver

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **accept the agenda adjustment**, 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. August 18, 2020

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the August 18, 2020 minutes as presented**, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

b. August 24, 2020

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the August 24, 2020 minutes as presented**, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

c. August 27, 2020

i. 6(b)2(f): Final two votes represent football, not soccer

ii. 6(b)2(f): Change Erin Ellis' last name

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the August 27, 2020 minutes as presented**, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

d. September 8, 2020

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the September 8, 2020 minutes as presented**, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

3. Approval of Warrants
 - a. Payrolls – 7
 - b. Maine PERS- Sept 2020
 - c. Warrants – 7
 - d. Bond - 22
 - e. BAN- 2020

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the slate of 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. A parent hopes that the district isn't planning on compromising on the safety standards for Covid-19 when considering adding more students to the school buildings
 - b. Deb White, teacher, thinks that the optimal time to bring more students back to campus would be at the change of the marking period (November 2)
 - c. Patrick Rowe, parent, wonders about accountability and how safety standards are being enforced around the district.
 - d. Malcolm Himschoot, parent, is opposed to change from the hybrid schooling
 - e. Pete Howorth, parent, warns that we should not let our guards down. RSU 26 should keep all of its current safeguards in place until they are tested by Covid cases in the community.

5. Acknowledgments
 - a. \$50 anonymous donation to Orono Middle School Cross Country
 - b. Erin Ellis compliments everyone for continuing to do a great job as we head into the fall.
 - c. Leo Kenney thanks Mike Archer and all of the fall coaches, as well as Cami Carter, Daniel Perkins, and Jon Hawley, and all staff who are continuing with extracurriculars and helping with students' mental health.

Leo also compliments all staff as he hears that Orono Schools are setting the bar for the area in terms successful hybrid schooling

- d. Mark Brewer seconds Mr. Kenney's acknowledgement of the fall activity sponsors.
- e. Brian McGill has great gratitude for the hard work that the teachers and staff have put into returning to school this fall.

Mr. McGill also compliments the incredible amount of hard work put in by the administrative team.

- f. Meredith Higgins acknowledges all of the creative ways that the staff has continued with extracurricular activities

6. Reports
 - a. Food Service Director - Ben Jacobson
 - i. More money in account than is acceptable from the MDOE
 1. MDOE wants us to spend \$25,000
 2. Mr Jacobson is planning on dealing with the spending about \$20000 on

refrigeration needs

- ii. Participation in the food program was down in the spring, as students were not learning in person
 - iii. Federal subsidies meant more money per student coming into the system
 - iv. Fed the community through the summer, and still handing out food
 - v. Hope to get a delivery service going for the larger community
- b. Special Services Director - Lisa Smith
- i. Nurse Karen Martin and assistant Heather James have been doing an excellent job address all of the health needs of all 3 schools
 - ii. Administrative Assistants have been maintaining a spreadsheet documenting student absences and sharing them with Nurse Martin.
 - iii. October count has 202 students in Special Services
 - iv. Additional services are being made available to some of our high risk students
 - v. Social Work is being provided through Acadia Services
 - 1. Working with students virtually
 - vi. Amazing effort has been made to ensure that students are learning through remote learning
- c. Curriculum Director - Meredith Diamond
- i. Technology
 - 1. Committee has been reconvened, and has been integral to developing remote learning practices
 - ii. Outdoor Learning
 - 1. Amplifying the student relationship with the outdoors with outdoor instruction
 - 2. Supplies and teacher opportunities for outdoor learning have been an integral part of the fall
 - iii. Antiracism and Equity
 - 1. Antiracism and Equity Team developed
 - 2. Cultural Competence Institute
 - a. Teams from RSU 26 are working toward a cultural competence certification
 - iv. Maine Curriculum Leaders Association
 - 1. Helping districts to help meet the challenges of remote and hybrid instruction
 - 2. Teachers making time for professional development through the MCLA
 - v. Statewide Assessment
 - 1. Federal DOE has denied all waivers for flexibility in assessment
 - 2. Maine is continuing to pursue flexibility while figuring out how to best assess the students of Maine
 - vi. Districtwide study of “The District Learning Playbook”
- d. Superintendent
- i. CRF Funds (CARES)
 - 1. Allotments announced in August and September
 - 2. Day Care CRF funding came through
 - a. Almost ready to roll out

- b. Free of charge to homes with students in grades 3-5
 - c. Run by the University of Maine
 - d. Funded through Dec 31
 - e. Supplies are the largest category of expenditures
- 3. Staffing
 - a. Custodial Services
 - b. Health Aide
 - c. Technology Assistant
 - d. Long term substitutes
- 4. Technology
 - a. Upgrades and replacements
 - b. Tools for remote learning
 - c. Expanding outdoor wifi connectivity
- 5. Delivery van purchase
- 6. HVAC upgrades
- 7. Storage
- ii. Enrollment Update (including Homeschool enrollment)
 - 1. October 1st count
 - a. 811 Students registered at RSU 26

7. Discussion Items

a. School Reopening plans

- i. Bus capacity/spacing
 - 1. Due to social distancing, bus capacity for OMS and OHS students has be greatly decreased
 - 2. Cyr Bus has been receptive to accommodating RSU 26's needs
 - 3. First wave of students returning would be easily accommodated with the recommended next steps
- ii. COVID positive protocols from MCDC/MDOE (handout)
 - 1. Supt Higgins recommends adopting the Covid-19 positive protocols from the MCDC/MDOE as the operating procedure for the district
 - a. Includes guidelines and protocols for multiple scenarios of confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the school system
 - b. School districts in Maine will have the opportunity to obtain some Covid-19 rapid tests
 - i. RSU 26 is considering the benefits of acquiring tests
- iii. Next Steps
 - 1. Beginning to make plans to bring more students on campus
 - a. Analyzing many aspects of daily life in Orono Schools: enrollment, attendance, class size, room size
 - b. Polled the parents and teachers on their thoughts about next steps in the goal toward full in-school attendance
 - 2. Planning on 4.5-6' spacing can accommodate the students planned to return in the next phase of reopening
 - 3. Transition times (between classes) and lunch are the hardest problems to solve.
 - 4. Looking at bringing 3rd and 7th grades back full time in the next step
 - a. Net impact to school load is 16 students at both schools

- 5. More time for teacher and staff planning and training is needed
 - a. Requesting an extra half day for staff to plan and train for remote learning

- b. Bond investment update (handout)
 - i. 2 CDs
 - 1. 26 week CD, matured on May 14
 - 2. 52 week CD, matures November 12
 - ii. Not planning on reinvesting in CDs, as rates are low at present

8. Action Items

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

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the slate of extracurricular recommendations as presented**, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

- ii. Foodservice Delivery Driver
 - 1. Through Dec 30, 2020 (CRF)
 - 2. 3 hours a day, 3 days a week to help prepare and deliver food to people in the Orono community

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the advertising and hiring of a food service delivery driver**, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

- b. Delegate to MSBA assembly
 - i. Leo Kenney and Brian McGill volunteered to attend the conference, with Leo Kenney as the delegate, Brian as the alternate.

- c. Service Learning Requirement adjustment for Class of 2021

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **wave the service learning requirement in policy IKF for the OHS class of 2021**, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

9. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee
 - i. Updating policies to reflect changes in State and Federal Title 9 Policies
- b. United Technology Center
 - i. Meeting week of Oct 12-16

- c. SPRPCE
 - i. Met to discuss winterization of SPRPCE facilities
- d. Curriculum Subcommittee
 - i. Meeting October 8
- e. Facilities/Building committee
 - i. BAN sale
 - 1. 1+ Rating
 - ii. Building Committee Meeting
 - 1. Cash needs
 - 2. Asa interiors committee
- f. Wellness Subcommittee

10. Other Business-

11. Future Agenda Items-

12. Public Comment-

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a. Tuesday, October 20, 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

Motion: Brian McGill moved to go into executive session under 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D), Erin Ellis seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

16. Adjournment

Motion: Brian McGill moved to adjourn the meeting, Erin Ellis seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:04