

MINUTES
RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 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
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Agenda Adjustment
 - i. Add item 8(c) Van Purchase approval- CRF Funded

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **amend the agenda by adding item 8(c) Van Purchase approval, 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 4, 2020

*Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the August 4, 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 – 5
- b. Maine PERS- August 2020
- c. Warrants – 5
- d. Bond - 20

*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

5. Acknowledgments

- a. Mark Brewer acknowledges the efforts of all of the staff RSU 26-wide. He thanks everyone for their efforts.
- b. Brian McGill appreciates everyone's efforts to dive in and make everything work.
- c. Erin Ellis underlines everything said by Mark and Brian, and adds that everyone seems

pleasantly surprised by the smoothness of the back to school transition.

- d. Meredith Higgins thanks all members of the RSU 26 community, adding that everyone has contributed to the smooth start, including parents and students.

6. Reports

a. Superintendent

- i. Registering 2 teams to join the Cultural Competency Institute sponsored by Maine School Management.

b. Principals

i. Kristin Briggs- Asa Adams

1. Morning announcements celebrate birthdays and focus on different topics. The topic for the first 2 weeks was kindness, and is segueing into the topic of growth mindset.
2. Various assessments of students have been taking place: from Kindergarten screening to general classroom assessment.
3. Thanks Officer Lesky and the Orono PD for being a positive presence for the students.

ii. Richard Glencross- OMS

1. Birch Project- UMaine Grad Student Research
 - a. Data will be used as school year gets up and running
 - b. Students feel a strong sense of connection to school, peers, and staff.
 - c. Ethnic minority and LGBT+ students have a higher incidence of depressive symptoms.
2. Hats off to the OMS staff for a great return to school
3. Plans to complete a curriculum guidebook by the end of the 20-21 school year.
4. Enrollment is holding steady at 150

iii. Reg Ruhlin- OHS

1. Appreciates all of the hard work put in by the staff
2. Kudos to Melissa Barton and Jason Burgess for their smooth laptop rollout this year.
3. Teachers resuming traditional grading practices
 - a. Finding meaningful ways to assess the kids even as half of all students are remote at any one time.
4. Enrollment is 380- the highest it has been in 5 years.
5. Students have been exemplary

7. Discussion Items

a. School Reopening plans

i. Update

1. Tents

- a. Tents were removed from OHS and Asa, as the 20x20 tents did not meet fire marshal requirements
- b. Rental tents will replace the 20x20 tents

- c. 30x30 tents will be arriving in the near future
- 2. Lunch
 - a. USDA will continue its waiver for the free school and lunch program
 - i. Everyone eats free- whether attending in person or remotely
 - ii. Pickup sites are established
 - iii. Please continue to fill out free and reduced lunch forms to help inform funding and grant possibilities.
- 3. School Health Advisory System Discussion
 - a. Penobscot County is currently rated “green”
 - b. If Penobscot Co is designated “yellow” preparations have been made to accommodate the students currently going to school full time.
- 4. CRF Funding
 - a. District funds- Handout
 - i. Past and present expenses
 - 1. Contracted services, supplies, PPE
 - 2. Professional development
 - 3. Technology costs
 - b. Adult Education funds
 - i. 3 District partnership
 - 1. Allocated \$8,884
 - 2. Plans to focus funds on technology
 - a. Technology was a barrier in the spring for students in the Adult Ed program
 - c. Childcare grant application - UMaine Partnership
 - i. Helping to combat workforce issues with childcare.
 - ii. If grant is secured, plans to outfit Nextlink Building to house a childcare program to serve RSU 26 families and, as space is available, children of University of Maine staff
 - iii. Staffed through the campus rec program
 - iv. Free through December 31
 - v. Hope for a 2 week turnaround time after
 - vi. Capacity for 75 students, with up to 150 on Wednesday, Orono’s full remote day.
- 5. Extra/Co-Curricular Offerings Update
 - a. Jazz Band, but no Pep Band this season
 - b. Fall Musical
 - i. Outdoor performance with social distancing
 - ii. Play performed via zoom
 - c. MPA and State are hashing out guidelines surrounding fall sports, especially football
 - i. Contingency plans are being made for high school football, and there might be opportunities for middle

school players

- d. MSMA is cautioning schools who go ahead with extracurricular activities that diverge State community sports guidelines that they might not be covered by insurance, especially for COVID related incidents

8. Action Items

a. Staff Nominations

i. Co/Extra-curricular Recommendations

Motion: Brian McGill moved that the Board approve the slate of Co-curricular nominations 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. Adjust November 3rd Meeting Date

Motion: Brian McGill moved to move the November 3, 2020 meeting date to November 10, 2020 at 6:00pm. Erin Ellis seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

c. Van Purchase approval- CRF Funded

- i. Limited bus capacity, students with special schedules, and food delivery make purchasing a van with CRF funds a necessity
- ii. Two quotes brought to the Board for consideration, one all wheel drive, and one front wheel drive

Motion: Brian McGill moved to authorize a purchase of up to \$37,000 for an all wheel drive minivan for RSU 26. 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. Facilities/Building committee

- i. Construction is going forward
- ii. Trench in front of OHS to get electricity to Asa
- iii. Foundations for Asa cafeteria and the auditorium are being prepared
- iv. Building Committee will begin meeting monthly again

b. Policy Subcommittee

- i. Will be working on updating policies to align with new state laws

10. Other Business-

11. Future Agenda Items-

12. Public Comment-

- a. Patrick Rowe, parent, asks if a survey has been conducted inquiring whether pre-school screening checks are taking place

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a. Tuesday, September 22, 2020, Board Meeting, 6:00 pm

14. Request for Information and Follow-up

- a. Leo Kenney asks for a list of cleaning supplies used in the buildings
- b. Mark Brewer would like for the Junior class to have more information on the date and method of taking the PSATs this fall
- c. Leo Kenney wonders about the water bottle policy across the district.
 - i. Supt Higgins explained that routines are being developed to help ensure mask wearing. She went on to explain that the situation is developing.
- d. Mark Brewer asks that locker use be looked into as the seasons change.

15. Adjournment

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

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Vote 5-0

Approved October 6, 2020