

Approved Minutes

RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting

Remote access for public participation through Zoom Link
Tuesday, January 5, 2021 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 at 6:02

- b. Pledge of Allegiance
c. Agenda Adjustment

2. Consideration of the Minutes

a. December 1, 2020

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to approve the December 1, 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. December 8, 2020

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to approve the December 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 - 12, 13
b. Maine PERS - Nov, Dec
c. Warrants - 12, 13
d. Bond - 27
e. BAN - 4

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- none

5. Acknowledgments

- a. Erin Ellis acknowledged RSU 26 teachers and staff and the efforts made to get things back on track after break.
b. Leo Kenney acknowledged the Asa Adams PTO and thanks Jersey Subs for feeding the staff before break.
c. Brian McGill agrees with all of the acknowledgements.
d. Meredith Higgins recognized OHS teacher Shana Goodall for acquiring a \$200 grant for “We Got This” book club to further book studies on racial equity.

Supt. Higgins acknowledges Continuing Ed Director Rebecca Cross for successfully administering the HiSET test (high school equivalency test).

6. Reports

a. Principal Reports

i. Kristin Briggs

1. Student Council organized several philanthropic activities before the holiday break
 - a. Crayon initiative, that recycles used crayons to give to children in hospitals.
 - b. Collecting pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House
 - c. Ongoing collection of clothing for anyone in need
2. Balloons over Asa
3. Asa PTO
 - a. Holiday craft Fair
 - b. Thanks to PTO and Jason Coleman from Jersey Subs for catering lunch for staff the Tuesday before break
4. Thanks to Lisa Erhardt, JMG, Kelsi Whelden for helping families in the community
5. Parent teacher conferences went well
6. NWEAs wrapping up
 - a. Quarantine challenges

ii. Richard Glencross

1. OMS/OHS guidance staff organized a gift/food drive which benefitted 23 OMS families
2. Thanks to Sharon Stoner and Erin Ellis, part of an OMS parent group, for bringing in snacks and goodies for the staff
3. Quarter 3 plan information is rolling out, keeping families informed
 - a. Bringing 8th grade back full time
4. Impressive staff development happening
5. NWEA testing wrapped up before holidays
 - a. Challenges finishing up testing full-time remote students

iii. Reg Ruhlin

1. Thanks to students and staff for making the school festive before the holiday break
2. Special thanks to the Guidance and office staff, Key Club, and JMG for their generosity and spirit of giving
3. New NHS members to be inducted
4. Positive feedback from families on virtual parent conferences
5. Step-up day will be virtual
 - a. Virtual open house in February
 - b. 8th grade visits will be virtual
 - c. Second virtual open house to be held in March
6. Teachers appreciate the extra professional development days to plan and prepare
7. Teachers are using new technology including interactive displays and Apple pens
8. Temporary hallway dividers have been installed to help with traffic flow
9. NWEAs will be administered in January

b. Superintendent Report

- i. Audit report is close to being completed, auditors will be at the January 19th meeting
- ii. \$22,000 remaining from CRF 1 & 2, waiting for communication from State on if/when these funds can be used
 1. Potential for more funding from December stimulus package

7. Discussion Items

a. COVID Update & Discussion

- i. Penobscot County is still designated “green,” but closely monitored
 1. Next update scheduled for January 15
- ii. Plans to make changes at start of the new quarter-- January 25
 1. Middle School to bring 8th grade for full time, 6th and 7th grade would be hybrid
 2. Surveying families to discover how many families would send their children back for full time instruction
 - a. Remote numbers at Asa and OMS have remained steady, while remote student numbers have grown at OHS
 - b. OHS plan for bringing more students to is still in draft stage, and survey data will really drive the next steps
 - c. Asa Adams has 2 possible plans for 4th and 5th grades to have an opportunity to attend full time
 - i. K-2 remain full time, while 3rd-5th grade rotate in 3 week cycles, full time attendance is 5 days a week
 - ii. Grades 1-5 shift to 4 days per week attendance, with different day of the week off for each grade
 - iii. Asa podding makes it easier to have more students in the building.
 - iv. Lunchtime is the biggest worry as children are unmasked

b. FY22 Budget Development Timeline (handout)

- i. Typical timeline
- ii. Preliminary cost center impact brought to the Board at February 2 meeting, full look at budget on February 23, with referendum voting on June 8
- iii. Uncertainty around 21-22 budget subsidy from the State

8. Action Items

a. Staff Nominations

i. Co/Extra-curricular Recommendations

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to approve the slate of extracurricular appointment 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. Policies

i. Second Reads

1. ACAB, ACAB-R

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to acknowledge as a second read and adopt policies ACAB and ACAB-R, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: *Erin Ellis- aye*

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

2. GBEB - Staff Conduct

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to acknowledge as a second read and adopt policy GBEB, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: *Erin Ellis- aye*

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

c. FY20 Cost Center Transfers

Motion: Jacob Eckert moved to approve the allowable budget transfers between cost centers recommended by the auditor to remove the over expenditures in two cost centers, decrease regular instruction \$47,698, increase system administration \$47,603, and increase debt service \$95, Brian McGill 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. January meeting canceled
- ii. District owned vehicle policy will be on the agenda for February 4 meeting

b. United Technology Center

- i. CTE Teacher of the Year is Ms Peterson, business teacher

c. SPRPCE

d. Curriculum Subcommittee

- i. Updates on State level assessment plans
- ii. Exploring the creation of a Wabanaki Studies work group at RSU 26.

e. Facilities/Building committee

- i. Iron going up for auditorium
- ii. Finished interior drawings

f. Wellness Subcommittee

- i. Committee member Erin Ellis acknowledges Ben Jacobson for all of his hard work keeping the food program going through the pandemic.

10. Other Business-

- a. Mark Brewer asked if there will be special allowances for budget voting due to complications of the pandemic
- b. Leo Kenney inquired as to whether CARES Act funds could be used to acquire another portable for Asa Adams, giving more students an opportunity to be in school full time.

11. Future Agenda Items-

12. Public Comment-

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a. Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 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