

Approved Minutes
RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 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 at 6:02

b. Pledge of Allegiance

c. Agenda Adjustment

i. Add item 8(d) CRF 2 Purchase Approval

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. October 6, 2020

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the October 6, 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 –

b. Maine PERS-

c. Warrants –

d. Bond -

e. BAN -

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. Kristina Weaver, parent, read a letter from her daughter, a 7th grader at OMS. Her daughter has concerns about 7th grade returning to school for full time learning.

b. Patrick Rowe, parent, is wondering if RSU 26 has any metrics in place to monitor the follow through on safety measures

c. Ryan Witham, parent, is in favor of bringing 3rd graders back to school, as it is difficult for elementary school students to learn remotely.

5. Acknowledgments

a. Erin Ellis acknowledges the staff who are attending the Cultural Competence Institute.

b. Jake Eckert acknowledges the hard work by students and the staff of the Fall Musical Extravaganza.

c. Leo Kenney acknowledges the OHS golf team on their State Championship win. Especially

- Coach Hanscomb and senior Jason DeSisto who worked hard to bring back a gold team to OHS
- d. Brian McGill is grateful to the whole district for keeping everything going successfully.
 - e. Mark Brewer thanks school nurse, Karen Martin, for organizing the flu clinics at RSU 26.
 - f. Meredith Higgins announced that Joe Mason, Asa custodian, received his award for Maine custodian of the year.

6. Reports

a. Principal Reports

- i. Kristin Briggs- Asa Adams
 1. Kids are embracing outside learning
 2. Staff enjoyed October 9 inservice day
 - a. *Distance Learning Playbook* discussion
 - b. Presentation from AntiRacism and Equity in Education team
- ii. Richard Glencross- Orono Middle School
 1. Recognizing students for demonstrating Core Values
 2. Continuing to refine and improve techniques for remote, in person, and hybrid learning.
 3. Recognizes teaching staff for their perseverance and creativity
- iii. Reg Ruhlin- Orono High School
 1. Golf team won the state championship.
 2. Congratulations to Cami Carter, Jon Hawley, Daniel Perkins and all the students involved in the Fall Arts Extravaganza
 3. Student Council is sponsoring "Oktoberfest" to lift student spirits
 4. Junior class is sponsoring a (socially distant) "haunted woods" tour
 5. Math Team is going strong and attending math meets virtually.
 6. Virtual parent conferences went well, parents appreciated the flexibility of the virtual meetings

b. Superintendent Report - Meredith Higgins

- i. Hats off to Meredith Diamond for her hard work organizing the teacher workshop day
- ii. USDA subsidies to provide food to remote have been extended through June of 2021
- iii. Weather Cancellations
 1. RSU 26 plans to continue calling off school on days with inclement weather
- iv. Child Care Day-Programming Grant
 1. Begins October 21
 2. RSU 26 Families had 1st priority
 3. Expand childcare opportunities
 4. Thanks to UMaine & Town of Orono
- v. Enrollment
 1. October 1 State Report Data - handout

7. Discussion Items

a. School Reopening plans

- i. Next Steps - Phase 1 recommendation
 1. "As long as conditions continue to permit"
- ii. Asa
 1. 3rd grade would be the next class to return to full in-person learning
 2. 5 ft spacing
 3. Classes will be 15-16 per class

- iii. OMS
 - 1. 7th grade is the next class to return to
 - 2. Class size averages 12-13
 - 3. 6 ft spacing for most classes
 - 4. Switch to 2 lunch shifts
 - 5. Recommend to return 8th grade to full time January 4
 - a. All classes will be spaced at at least 4.5 ft.
 - 6. PE is the big challenge for OMS, as OMS shares teachers with OHS
- iv. OHS
 - 1. Working to identify students for whom hybrid learning is not working
 - 2. Classroom spacing will be 4.5 if/when all OHS students return to full time in person learning (some limited instances may require schedule adjustments or room changes to accomplish this)
 - 3. Return Seniors November 2, with the option to continue hybrid or full remote
 - 4. Plans to phase students back to school in 3 week intervals
 - a. Seniors - November 2
 - b. Freshmen - November 30
 - c. Sophomores - January 4
 - d. Juniors - January 25
 - 5. Need to move to 4 lunch shifts

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **authorize moving forward with the next phase of the school reopening plan**, Erin Ellis seconded

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

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

- b. Board discussion of MSBA resolutions
 - i. 4 Resolutions to be voted upon
 - 1. Development of Distance Learning Plan
 - 2. Building Stronger Family Support of Education
 - 3. Equity in Education
 - 4. Board Meeting Remote Participation

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
 Jacob Eckert- aye
 Leo Kenney- aye

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

- b. School Calendar Adjustment-
 - i. Handout with recommendations
 - 1. 3 Full Inservice Days
 - 2. 7 Half Days

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the 3 full inservice days as presented**, Erin Ellis seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the 7 early release days 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. Nurse Sub Pay increase

- i. Increase substitute nurse pay to be commensurate with other districts, making RSU 26 more competitive for substitute nurses.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the increase in the daily substitute nurse pay**, Erin Ellis seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

d. CRF 2 Purchase Approval- Outdoor Learning Storage Building

- i. Building to store equipment for outdoor learning and physical education

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the purchase of an outdoor learning storage building from CRF 2 funds**, 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
- b. United Technology Center
 - i. Working through challenges with remote learning with several sending schools
 - ii. Adding insurance brokerage program
- c. SPRPCE
- d. Curriculum Subcommittee
- e. Facilities/Building committee
 - i. Beginning to frame Asa entrance
 - ii. Interior finish committees are being created
 - iii. Broke ground for endcap classrooms
- f. Wellness Subcommittee

10. Other Business- none

11. Future Agenda Items- none

12. Public Comment- none

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a. Tuesday, November 10, 2020, Board Meeting, 6:00 pm

14. Request for Information and Follow-up

- a. Brian McGill asks for a follow up regarding fall sports

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**, Leo Kenney seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

Vote 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:47

Approved 11/10/20