

**Approved MINUTES**

**RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting**

Remote access for public participation through Zoom Link  
Tuesday, January 19, 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 6:10*

- b. Pledge of Allegiance  
c. Agenda Adjustment

2. Consideration of the Minutes

a. January 5, 2021

***Motion:*** *Brian McGill moved to approve the January 5, 2021 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 - 14  
b. Warrants - 14  
c. Bond - 28  
d. BAN- 5

***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. Meredith Higgins would like to acknowledge Meredith Diamond and Deb White who quickly got resources out to staff pertaining to how they might work with students regarding the events of January 6 in Washington DC. Thanks also to teachers for helping students make sense of the events.
- b. Erin Ellis thanks all of the educators that have participated in the *Stamped* book study.

6. Reports

a. Director Reports

i. Lisa Smith- Director of Special Services

1. Completed desk audit, State visit to be scheduled in the spring
2. Empty EdTech positions have been filled
3. Licensed Social Worker has been hired
4. Planning is underway for summer school
5. Budget planning is in full swing

ii. Meredith Diamond- Curriculum Coordinator

1. Finished up *Stamped* book study
  - a. Looking at a district-wide equity audit

- b. Working with the Cultural Competence Institute
  - 2. Still no confirmation from the State as to next assessment vendor
    - a. Moving forward with NWEA testing
  - 3. Beginning district involvement in the State program Rethinking Remote Education Ventures
- b. Superintendent Report
  - i. Hired two Special Ed education technicians to put the district at full staff
  - ii. Attended Superintendent Winter Convocation
    - 1. Maine DOE plan to get preliminary 21-22 ED279 to districts next week (week beginning January 25)
    - 2. Adjusting student/teacher ratio for subsidy calculation to offset enrollment dips
  - iii. MSMA is advocating for Gov Mills to enact the same allowances for the budget referendum process that in place in 2020
    - 1. Advocating for choice to allow communities to make their own decision on public discussion of budget
  - iv. Getting back CRF money that was returned to the state when the district couldn't spend it before December 31.
    - 1. Maximizing the funds to meet the needs we have currently, and also to have the ability to cover future pandemic related needs.

## 7. Discussion Items

- a. FY20 Audit Presentation
  - i. Clean audit
  - ii. Great cooperation from staff
  - iii. Findings
    - 1. Construction bookkeeping needed some adjustments going forward
    - 2. Student activity funds have some minor findings
  - iv. Records in great shape overall
- b. COVID Update & Discussion
  - i. Asa Adams
    - 1. New plan at Asa to have all students, PreK-5th grade all back returning January 25
  - ii. OMS
    - 1. plans to move 6h grade to hybrid learning, and bring 8th grade to full in person learning
  - iii. OHS
    - 1. Polling parents to see interest in students returning to full time in person or remaining hybrid
    - 2. High school age children have different risk factors
    - 3. Most classes have multiple grade levels
      - Plan to have Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen cycle through 3 week rotations to give each class a chance at full in person learning, while Seniors will return to hybrid learning
    - 4. Hoping for more students in the building 4th quarter
  - iv. Full remote option is available at all grade levels
  - v. New plan is endorsed by the Board
- c. Planning for board self-evaluation
  - i. The Board plans to send out a link to the RSU 26 community with an open ended survey question prompting specific positives and negatives.
  - ii. Board will fill out a questionnaire for self reflection

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. New Stipend Request for Approval

i. OMS Cross Country Assistant Coach

**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to **approve the OMS Cross Country Assistant Coach stipend, Erin Ellis seconded**

**Vote:** Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Leo Kenney- aye

**Vote 5-0**

c. MOU - CBA Stipend Appendix Adjustments - OHS Canoe Asst. Coach & OMS Cross Country Assistant Coach

**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to **approve the MOU as presented with the cross country assistant coach salary modified to \$1500, 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. Next meeting February 4

1. Looking at policies on district on automobiles and continuing 3 year revolving review

b. United Technology Center

c. SPRPCE

i. Meeting Thursday, January 28

d. Curriculum Subcommittee

i. Recommending the adoption on new OHS English class: Mystery, Mayhem, and Murder

ii. Formation of Wabanaki studies workgroup

e. Facilities/Building committee

i. Next meeting first week in February

ii. Auditorium work is moving along

f. Wellness Subcommittee

10. Other Business-

11. Future Agenda Items-

12. Public Comment-

- a. Patrick Rowe, parent, applauds Supt Higgins for moving ahead in getting as many students full time while we can. He asks that the district review existing COVID protocols and how they are being implemented before any new, and more contagious variants are circulating through the State.

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a. Tuesday, February 2, 2021, Board Meeting, 6:00 pm

14. Request for Information and Follow-up

- a. Mark Brewer would like for information on the January 25 changes to be distributed to families as soon as possible

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 - 9:05 p.m.

*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*