

Approved Minutes

Remote access for public participation through Zoom Link
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 6:00 pm

× Brian McGill
× Jake Eckert
× Mark Brewer

× Erin Ellis
× Patrick Rowe

1. Opening

a. Call to Order

Brian McGill called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

b. Pledge of Allegiance

c. Agenda Adjustment

i. Add item 7(c) Superintendent Evaluation

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to add item 7(c) Superintendent Evaluation, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: *Erin Ellis- aye*

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 5-0

d. Election of Board Officers

i. Chair

Motion: *Mark Brewer moved to nominate Brian McGill as the chair of the RSU 26 Board of Directors, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: *Erin Ellis- aye*

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- abstain

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 4-0-1

ii. Vice-Chair

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to nominate Jacob Eckert as the chair of the RSU 26 Board of Directors, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: *Erin Ellis- aye*

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- abstain

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 4-0-1

e. Board Committee Representatives

i. Policy committee (up to 2)

Motion: *Jacob Eckert moved to nominate Brian McGill and Mark Brewer as Policy Committee members, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: *Erin Ellis- aye*

Mark Brewer- aye for Brian McGill, abstain for himself

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- abstain

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote for Brian McGill 4-0-1

Vote for Mark Brewer 3-0-2

ii. United Technology Center (1)

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to nominate Erin Ellis as the Board of Directors' representative to UTC, Jacob Eckert seconded*

Vote: *Erin Ellis- abstain*

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 4-0-1

iii. SPRPCE (1)

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **nominate Jacob Eckert as the Board of Directors’ representative to SPRPCE**, Erin Ellis seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye
Jacob Eckert- abstain
Patrick Rowe- aye

Mark Brewer- aye
Brian McGill- aye
Vote 4-0-1

iv. Curriculum committee (up to 2)

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **nominate Mark Brewer and Patrick Rowe to the Curriculum Committee**, Erin Ellis seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye
Jacob Eckert- aye
Patrick Rowe- abstain

Mark Brewer- abstain
Brian McGill- aye
Vote 3-0-2

v. Facilities/Building committee (up to 2)

Motion: Jacob Eckert moved to **nominate Brian McGill and Mark Brewer to the Facilities and Building Committee**, Erin Ellis seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye
Jacob Eckert- aye
Patrick Rowe- aye

Mark Brewer- abstain
Brian McGill- abstain
Vote 3-0-2

vi. Wellness Subcommittee (1)

Motion: Jacob Eckert moved to **nominate Erin Ellis to the Wellness Subcommittee**, Mark Brewer seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- abstain
Jacob Eckert- aye
Patrick Rowe- aye

Mark Brewer- aye
Brian McGill- aye
Vote 4-0-1

vii. Stipend committee (up to 2)

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **nominate Patrick Rowe and Erin Ellis to the Stipend Committee**, Mark Brewer seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- abstain
Jacob Eckert- aye
Patrick Rowe- abstain

Mark Brewer- aye
Brian McGill- aye
Vote 3-0-2

viii. JPDC (up to 2)

Motion: Mark Brewer moved to **nominate Jacob Eckert and Brian McGill to JPDC**, Erin Ellis seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye
Jacob Eckert- abstain
Patrick Rowe- aye

Mark Brewer- aye
Brian McGill- abstain
Vote 3-0-2

2. Consideration of the Minutes

a. March 9, 2021

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the March 9, 2021 minutes as presented**, Erin Ellis seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 5-0

3. Approval of Warrants

a. Payroll - 19

b. Warrant - 19

c. Bond - 33

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the warrants as presented**, Erin Ellis seconded

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 5-0

4. Public Comment

5. Acknowledgments

- a. Erin Ellis acknowledged everyone who worked to put together the vaccination clinic for the RSU. She also acknowledged all of the parents, students, and teachers who have had to endure a quarantine this school year.
- b. Jacob Eckert acknowledged Leo Kenney for his service to the School Board.
- c. Patrick Rowe seconded Ms Ellis' acknowledgement of the people who have been in quarantine. He also acknowledged the students who bore the brunt of the effects of the pandemic, and gives them credit for their resilience during this time.
- d. Mark Brewer thanks school nurse, Karen Martin, for organizing the vaccine clinic for RSU 26 staff and Leo Kenney for his time serving on the Board.
- e. Brian McGill thanks Karen Martin and the principals for their hard work. He also thanks everyone who ran for public office in the most recent election. Dr McGill also thanks Leo Kenney for all of his contributions to the RSU 26 community.
- f. Meredith Higgins thanks Leo Kenney for his time on the Board, and welcomes new member Patrick Rowe. Ms Higgins echoes the appreciation of Karen Martin and all those who assisted in the RSU 26 vaccine clinic as well as PCHC who brought the clinic to our school. The superintendent also acknowledged Meredith Diamond for her work on the March 18 & 19 teacher workshops.

6. Reports

a. Director Reports

i. Lisa Smith- Special Services Director

1. Looking to special education needs for the fall, and also to filling the vacancies left by 2 teacher resignations at Asa Adams. Jessica Gonyea, currently at OMS, will be moving to Asa after April break to cover for the remainder of the school year.
2. Plans are coming together for summer programming and the extended school year.
3. All staff observations have been completed

ii. Meredith Diamond- Curriculum Coordinator

1. Planning for the March 18 & 19 workshop days was the culmination of discussion and input from across the district. There was a focus on equity and

inclusion at the workshops as well as NWEA data.

- b. Superintendent Report- Meredith Higgins
 - i. Superintendent Higgins acknowledges Char Chasse, Asa Adams special education teacher, who has resigned.
 - ii. USDA has extended the summer food program through the summer, enabling our food delivery program to extend through the summer.
 - iii. Kindergarten and PreK enrollment has begun
 - 1. 18 enrolled for PreK, leaving plenty of space for more students to enroll
 - 2. 42 enrolled for Kindergarten so far, allowing for 14 students per class with the current 3 teachers
 - a. Asa team will recommend a class size ceiling for how many students would create a need for an additional teacher to be hired

7. Discussion Items

- a. COVID Update & Discussion
 - i. Spring Sports Update
 - 1. Spring sport guidelines have been released by the state, with each sport being modified for COVID safety
 - 2. Larger amount of spectators will be allowed
 - 3. Transportation to away games and meets will be the biggest hurdle to overcome, as social distancing rules for the bus are still in effect.
 - ii. Enrollment Update
 - 1. At Asa, 10 students shifted from full remote to in person learning at the beginning of the trimester.
 - 2. Middle School numbers are stable
 - 3. Large freshmen class has bolstered in person attendance, and more students are choosing to come to school in person
 - iii. Quarter 4
 - 1. 9th grade and seniors will be full in person at beginning of quarter 4, with 10th and 11th grade given the option to return to full time after April break
 - iv. Planning for Summer 2021 and beyond
 - 1. Plans are being made to offer programs to a more inclusive group of students for summer 2021
 - 2. Working with UMaine Campus Rec who run RAD camps-- a partnership between UMaine and the Town of Orono
 - 3. Proposed program would runs 10 weeks through the summer, with primarily RAD camp organization and structure, running concurrently with RADe, giving more of an educational structure to parts of the program
 - 4. Grow from 70 students to 125-150 students taking part in grades K-7
 - 5. Credit recovery programs for high school students
 - 6. Grades 7-8 would have an education component as well as community involvement
- b. FY22 Budget Update
 - i. Changes since February meeting
 - 1. Added half-time Social Studies teacher along with the half-time English teacher
 - 2. \$87,000 taken out of the budget for BAN interest that will be paid from the Cost of Issuance funds

3. \$25,000 in other deductions
4. Anthem Insurance Rate summary
 - a. Budgeted for 9% rate increase, rate increase ceiling announced today at 4.2% for a savings, an additional \$83,000 decrease to the budget
5. Overall tax reduction of \$11,224
6. Carry forward projection of ~\$400,000 - ideas for use include roll into unassigned, move to a reserve account - MLTI reserve mentioned as new option under expanded allowances for reserve accounts, or tax relief.
- ii. Options on funds (\$350,000) budgeted for BAN principal payment this year:
 1. Payback directly against an upcoming Project requisition
 2. Send to capital reserve, keeping it outside of the bond/debt service structure
- c. Superintendent Evaluation
 - i. Planning for upcoming 360 survey for Superintendent evaluation. Will send out in April with principal surveys.
 - ii. Survey format - Choosing to stay with 6 ISLLC questions and 2 questions about goals

8. Action Items

a. Staff Nominations

i. Co/Extra-curricular Recommendations

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

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Vote 5-0

b. Approval of Donation - Baseball field backstop project

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the donation for the baseball field backstop, Erin Ellis seconded**

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Mark Brewer- nay

Brian McGill- aye

Vote 5-0

c. Board Meeting Reschedule for September 7, 2021 Meeting

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **move the scheduled September 7, 2021 meeting to September 9, 2021 at 6pm, Erin Ellis seconded**

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Mark Brewer- nay

Brian McGill- aye

Vote 5-0

d. Approval of Versant Easement

Motion: Brian McGill moved that **the Vote entitled, "Vote to Authorize Conveyance of Easement Deed to Versant Power," be adopted in form presented to this meeting and that the Secretary file an attested copy of said Vote with the minutes of this meeting, Erin Ellis seconded**

Vote: Erin Ellis- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Mark Brewer- nay

Brian McGill- aye

Vote 5-0

- e. Approval of new Special Education Ed Tech position (Asa)

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to approve the addition of an Special Education EdTech position at Asa Adams School, Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: *Erin Ellis- aye*

Jacob Eckert- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Mark Brewer- nay

Brian McGill- aye

Vote 5-0

9. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee

- i. Meet first Tuesday of April, finishing up D & E policies

- b. United Technology Center

- c. SPRPCE

- d. Curriculum Subcommittee

- e. Facilities/Building committee

- i. Working on electrical

- f. Wellness Subcommittee

10. Other Business

11. Future Agenda Items-

- a. Change time of April 6 Data Workshop to 4:30

12. Public Comment-

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a. Tuesday, April 6, 2021

- i. Data Workshop, 4:30 pm

- ii. 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 - 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D), Erin Ellis seconded*

Vote: *Erin Ellis- aye*

Jacob Eckert- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Vote 5-0

16. Adjournment

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

Vote: *Erin Ellis- aye*

Jacob Eckert- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Vote 5-0

Meeting adjourned 9:46 p.m.