

Minutes

Remote access for public participation through Zoom Link:
Wednesday, September 8, 2021 7:00 pm

× Brian McGill
× Jake Eckert
× Mark Brewer

× Elizabeth Hufnagel
× Patrick Rowe

1. Opening

a. Call to Order

Brian McGill called the meeting to order

b. Pledge of Allegiance

c. Agenda Adjustment

i. Add 6.5 - Approval of Facilities, Maintenance & Transportation Director nominee - Bill Cody

ii. Add 9.c - Approve new position ESSER - Asa Cafeteria Monitor - 2.5 hrs/day

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to approve the agenda adjustments as presented, Mark Brewer seconded, Vote 5-0*

2. Consideration of the Minutes

a. ~~August 18, 2021~~

3. Approval of Warrants

a. Payroll - 4

b. Warrant - 26E, 4

c. Bond - 43

d. BAN - 7

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to approve the warrants as presented, Mark Brewer seconded, Vote 5-0*

4. Public Comment

a. Public comment specific to ESSER expenditures (handout)

i. Brian McGill briefly outlined the proposed ESSER expenditures

ii. No comment

b. General public comment

i. Frank Barton, parent, is concerned that 10% of Asa Adams is in quarantine

ii. Christina Weaver, parent, is concerned that approximately 50% of the 5th grade is in quarantine, and hopes that the district and Board consider more social distancing and podding to help stem the spread of COVID-19

iii. Laura Mitchell, parent, is pleased that Orono schools have adopted universal masking including at recess, but has concerns around lunch protocols, and wonders if pooled testing should happen more than once a week at Asa Adams, as the student population of that school can not be vaccinated yet

iv. A parent has questions as to whether the COVID cases at Asa Adams have been related

v. Maggie Tipping, parent, has noted inconsistencies in desk spacing at Asa Adams, and is wondering if teachers could get more information on how to structure classroom spacing to minimize the students needing to quarantine

vi. Christina Thwaites, parent, wonders if students who have packed their lunches should eat outside while the weather is nice and if pooled testing could be mandatory

5. Acknowledgments

a. Elizabeth Hufnagel acknowledges the staff for all of their hard work getting the school year started, and the parents of quarantined students for their assistance in keeping the schools safer for everyone

b. Jacob Eckert echoes the sentiments of Ms. Hufnagel

c. Brian McGill was happy to have the pleasure of meeting with staff on their first day. He also

- thanks everyone for their patience around construction
- d. Patrick Rowe, acknowledges all of the staff that has put energy into taking their classrooms outdoors
 - e. Meredith Higgins, thanks everyone for the hard work of getting the school year off the ground. Special thanks to Karen Martin and Kristin Briggs for their help dealing with the positive COVID cases at Asa Adams

- 6. Presentation - Equity Alliance MN - Introduction and overview of upcoming work with RSU 26
 - a. Presentors- Tonya Sconiers, Jordan, and Alex Hermida
 - i. The presenters from Equity Alliance outlined their process for working with organizations for “systemic educational equity and integration”

- 7. Approval of Facilities, Maintenance & Transportation Director nominee - Bill Cody

Motion: Brian McGill moved to enter executive session under 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(A) - Appointment of officials /appointees /employees, Mark Brewer seconded, Vote 5-0

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the hire of BillCody as Director of Facilities, Maintenance & Transportation, Mark Brewer seconded, Vote 5-0

8. Reports

a. Director Reports

- i. Lisa Smith- Director of Special Services
 - 1. Short-staffed going into the school year, but RSU 26 is not alone, as staffing shortage is being felt throughout the State
 - 2. Staff is getting safety care training
 - a. Two staff members are now certified to teach safety care
 - 3. Additional \$43,000 as part of the American Rescue Plan to bring services to district students
- ii. Meredith Diamond- Curriculum Coordinator
 - 1. Ramping up capacity for technology
 - a. Teachers have set up their SeeSaw or Google Classroom accounts are working with families to get everyone comfortable with the platform
 - 2. In the process of developing quarantine learning guidelines to assist teachers and families in knowing what is expected of them while a student is out on quarantine learning

b. Superintendent Report

- i. PLD Plan Update
 - 1. New law for PLD retirement, available to those who are not eligible for the teacher retirement plan
 - a. New rules would allow new hires an opportunity to opt into the retirement plan annually for five years, and people who did not opt-in upon hire and have been working for the district more than 5 years would be given another opportunity to join the PLD

9. Discussion Items

a. COVID Discussion

- i. Opening week was very active for COVID cases
 - 1. 5 cases at Asa
- ii. Protocols are changing as staff tries to work through best ways to streamline contact tracing
 - 1. Masks will be worn at recess

- iii. Teachers have been reminded to consider spacing for activities in their classrooms
 - iv. All schools are making changes based on lessons learned at Asa and from neighboring schools
 - v. Pooled testing
 - 1. Once a week pooled testing with follow up testing in the event of a positive pool
 - 2. Participation rates have risen with the rise in COVID + cases at Asa Adams
 - 3. Students watched videos so that they know what to expect when they swab their nose
 - vi. Vaccination rates among staff and students continue to rise
- b. ESSER III/ARP - Plan for expenditures
 - i. Staff surveyed for feedback
 - ii. Saving as much funding as possible to be available for ventilation improvements and summer programming
 - c. Construction update
 - i. Began topping the track
 - ii. Checking things off the punchlist
 - iii. Walkthrough to be scheduled for the Board

10. Action Items

- a. Staff Nominations
 - i. Hiring Recommendations
 - 1. CoCurricular Nominations

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the slate of CoCurricular nominations as presented, Mark Brewer seconded, Vote 5-0

~~2. Approval of Facilities, Maintenance & Transportation Director nominee - Bill Cody~~

- b. Policies
 - i. Revisions
 - 1. GBEC - Drug-Free Workplace

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the revision to policy GBEC as presented, Mark Brewer seconded, Vote 5-0

2. BEF - Remote board meetings

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the revision to policy BEF as presented, Mark Brewer seconded, Vote 5-0

- c. Approve new position ESSER - Asa Cafeteria Monitor - 2.5 hrs/day

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the new position from ESSER funds - Asa Cafeteria Monitor, Mark Brewer seconded, Vote 5-0

11. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee
 - i. Continuing the review of policies, starting on I Policies
- b. United Technology Center
 - i. Forming a director hiring committee
 - ii. UTC Representative Elizabeth Hufnagel has a scheduling conflict with the UTC committee's regular meeting time.

Motion: Brian McGill nominated Patrick Rowe as the RSU 26 representative to UTC, Mark Brewer seconded, Vote 4-0-1

- c. SPRPCE
- d. Curriculum Subcommittee
 - i. First meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2021
- e. Facilities/Building committee
 - i. Reached substantial completion on Asa
- f. Wellness Subcommittee

12. Other Business

13. Future Agenda Items

14. Public Comment

15. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a. **Tuesday**, September 21, 2021 - Regular Meeting, in-person and via Zoom, 6 pm

16. Request for Information and Follow-up

17. Adjournment

Motion: Brian McGill moved to adjourn the meeting, Mark Brewer seconded, Vote 5-0

Approved 11/2/21