

Approved Minutes

Remote access for public participation through Zoom Link:
Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 6:00 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 8c. Additional Early Release Days

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

Vote: *Elizabeth Hufnagel- aye*

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 5-0

2. Consideration of the Minutes

a. November 16, 2021

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to approve the November 16, 2021 minutes as presented, Mark Brewer seconded,*

Vote: *Elizabeth Hufnagel- aye*

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 5-0

3. Approval of Warrants

a. Payroll - 11

b. Warrant - 11

c. Bond - 50

Motion: *Brian McGill moved to approve the slate of warrants as presented, Mark Brewer seconded,*

Vote: *Elizabeth Hufnagel- aye*

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 5-0

4. Public Comment

5. Acknowledgments

- a. Elizabeth Hufnagel thanks Karen Martin and everyone else involved in the vaccination clinics for their hard work for the vaccination clinics, as well as Meredith Higgins and the administration for their work contact tracing.
- b. Jacob Eckert thanks all district staff for everything, and striving to work on more than for the students than the educational aspect of school life
- c. Patrick thanks the Asa Adams staff for making sure that the students being quarantined are being included in class routine.
- d. Mark Brewer thanks Meredith Diamond for an excellent data workshop presentation.
- e. Brian McGill echos all of the kudos given by the other members of the Board, and thanks the RSU 26 staff for serving the kids well through a tough time.
- f. Meredith Higgins is grateful for all of the hard work of school nurse Karen Martin as she brings balance to the daily struggles of her job. Superintendent Higgins also acknowledges all of the student groups that have organized various drives for less fortunate members of the school community.

6. Reports

a. Director Reports

i. Lisa Smith- Director of Special Services

1. Requests for student evaluations are up this year and seem to be across the region.
 - a. New referrals and students already in the system about whom there are increasing concerns
 - b. Data indicates that the special services offered by RSU 26 help to draw tuition students
2. Currently serving 52 students with social worker services, but more are on the waitlist. Looking at outside the box ways to fill student needs.
3. Still short on staff, people working hard to fill the gaps

ii. Meredith Diamond- Curriculum Coordinator

1. Special thanks to Shana Goodall, who is at the front of the equity study in the district. Equity Alliance Minnesota will have preliminary data to present at the Board meeting to be held in early January.
2. The Wabanaki studies workgroup is also scheduled to present at the early January meeting.
 - a. The next step for the group is to develop a scope and sequence for Wabanaki studies for grades K-12
3. The tech committee is also beginning to develop the scope and sequence for technology learning
4. Orono Middle School is exploring options for a new math curriculum

b. Superintendent Report- Meredith Higgins, Superintendent

- i. Looking for Board representation on hiring committees
 1. Patrick Rowe, Mark Brewer, Brian McGill, and Elizabeth Hufnagel offered to serve as their schedule allows
- ii. The Town of Orono is considering a change to the town charter, allowing the town to align municipal elections with the State
- iii. Sam Runco and Meredith Diamond have begun work to discuss the Orono High School schedule.
- iv. Sending out surveys to assess feelings around the co-principal model currently being used at Orono High School
- v. Construction Update
 1. Endcap classrooms are on schedule to be completed in January
 2. Finishing up SRF security features around all three schools, including building access and security cameras

7. Discussion Items

a. COVID Discussion

- i. Vaccination rate update (handout)
- ii. Looking for updated SOP from the State and national CDC at beginning of 2022

b. Update on OHS tuition student recruitment

- i. Engaging with current tuition students and parents to discover what pushed them to choose OHS
- ii. Planning in-person Step Up Days
 1. Returning to a more traditional Step Up Day format
 - a. Representation from clubs
 - b. Student Q&A, as well as tours
 - c. Performance by show choir

2. Contingency plans are also being made just in case Step Up Day cannot be held in person.
3. Splitting Step Up Day into two afternoons to help accommodate all eighth-graders who wish to attend

- c. Thoughts and next steps based on data presentation
 - i. Ideally, growth should align with a student’s achievement potential
 - ii. COVID contributing to a drop in math scores
 - iii. Looking for a dashboard with multidimensional data to give a whole picture of each student

8. Action Items

- a. Staff Nominations
 - i. Hiring Recommendations
 - ii. Co-curricular nominations

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the slate of co-curricular nominations as presented**, Mark Brewer seconded,

Vote: Elizabeth Hufnagel- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 5-0

- b. Approve Substitute Pay Adjustment

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the substitute pay adjustment as presented**, Mark Brewer seconded,

Vote: Elizabeth Hufnagel- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 5-0

- c. Additional Early Release Days

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the proposed additional early release day on February 3 at Orono High School only**, Mark Brewer seconded,

Vote: Elizabeth Hufnagel- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 5-0

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the proposed additional early release day on February 9 for the entire district**, Mark Brewer seconded,

Vote: Elizabeth Hufnagel- aye

Mark Brewer- nay

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 4-1

9. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee
 - i. Bringing small changes to several policies to the next Board meeting
- b. United Technology Center
- c. SPRPCE
- d. Curriculum Subcommittee
 - i. Next meeting is scheduled for December 9
- e. Facilities/Building committee

- i. Contractors are aware that the drainage ponds behind the school are not working as they should. They will be fixed after a spring thaw
- ii. Working out HVAC integration with the current system.

10. Other Business

11. Future Agenda Items

- a. Mark Brewer asked for additional updates on recruitment efforts at the January 18, 2022 meeting

12. Public Comment

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a. Tuesday, January 4, 2022 - Regular Meeting, in-person and via Zoom, 6 pm

14. Request for Information and Follow-up

15. Adjournment

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **adjourn the meeting**, Mark Brewer seconded,

Vote: Elizabeth Hufnagel- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Patrick Rowe- aye

Vote 5-0

Meeting Adjourned

Approved January 4, 2022