

**Minutes**  
**OMS/OHS Library**  
**Remote access for public participation through Zoom Link**  
**January 9, 2024, 6:00 pm**

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| × Brian McGill | × Kevin Roberge      |
| × Jake Eckert  | × Marissa McLaughlin |
| × Mark Brewer  | × Dorsa Tajvidi      |
| × Noah Charney |                      |

1. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Agenda Adjustments
  - i. Add 15. Executive Session - 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D) Labor Negotiations
  - ii. Add 8.c Approve change of date for March 26th Board Meeting to March 19th
  - iii. Add 8.d.i.1 - Policies - GAI - Generative AI Guidelines

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

**Vote:** Noah Charney- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Kevin Roberge- aye

Brian McGill- aye

**Vote 5-0**

2. Consideration of the Minutes

- a. December 5, 2023, Regular Meeting

**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to approve the December 5, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Mark Brewer seconded.

**Vote:** Noah Charney- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Kevin Roberge- aye

**Vote 5-0**

- b. December 5, 2023, Data Workshop

**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to approve the December 5, 2023, Data Workshop minutes as presented. Mark Brewer seconded.

**Vote:** Noah Charney- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Kevin Roberge- aye

**Vote 5-0**

3. Approval of Warrants

- a. Warrant- 12, 12a, 13, 14
- b. Payroll- 12, 13, 14
- c. BAN- 47
- d. ME PERS- November 2023, December 2023
- e. Capitol Improvement Reserve- 1, 2, 3

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

**Vote:** Noah Charney- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Kevin Roberge- aye

**Vote 5-0**

#### 4. Public Comment

#### 5. Acknowledgments

- a. Student representatives Marissa McLaughlin and Dorsa Tajvidi acknowledged all OHS students who are busily preparing for midterm exams. They also congratulated all students who will be inducted into the National Honor Society on January 17.
- b. Superintendent Higgins congratulated all of the students who participated in holiday concerts this year.

#### 6. Reports

##### a. Principal Reports

##### i. Richard Glencross, OMS

1. An OMS dental clinic, which had to be canceled due to the December storm, has been rescheduled for February 2, 2024.
2. US News and World Report ranked OMS among the top 20 middle schools in Maine.
3. Ivory Oo and Malath Mohammed were both recognized as qualifying finalists in the National STEM Challenge.

##### ii. Sam Runco and Meredith Diamond, OHS

1. Welcome to Lisa Bisson who has joined the OHS staff as a new administrative assistant.
2. Congratulations to Ruth White for placing 6th at the 2023 Foot Locker Cross Country National Championships in San Diego! Congratulations also go to Pierce Walston for scoring his 1000 points at the basketball home opener against MDI on Saturday, 12/9/23.
3. The first parent advisory group of the school year was held on November 30, 2023. The next meeting will be scheduled in the near future.
4. A special thank you goes to Angie Kohtala, our JMG students, and many others for organizing the Angle Tree. The Angel Tree helps to bring joy to students throughout our school community.
5. Recruitment season is underway, with principals and the guidance team traveling to community schools to show how “You have a place here at Orono High School.”
6. New course proposals are in development for sharing at the February Curriculum Committee meeting.

##### b. Superintendent Report

##### i. Meredith Higgins, Superintendent

1. RSU 26 Schools lost two days of instruction in December to a power outage brought on by a strong windstorm. Thanks to Bill Cody for his work to mitigate loss during the outage.
2. RSU 26 has advertised for engineering and architectural services for OMS in anticipation of the school construction application window opening.
3. Planning is underway for local school districts to take responsibility for 3 & 4 year olds with special needs. This transition will happen in 3 parts, with completion in the 26-27 school year.
4. Spain Trip Itinerary Change
  - a. The company needed to change the itinerary of the planned Spain trip

because there were not enough participants. The trip will now include countries in addition to Spain.

7. Discussion Items

a. Audit Presentation

- i. Craig Costello, auditor from Brantner, Thibodeau, & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, presented the findings from the 2023 audit.
- ii. The 2023 audit findings were clean.

b. Athletic Field Fundraising Discussion

- i. The Friends of Orono Schools booster club presented ideas for fundraising and their 2024 goal: Light Up the Soccer and Nordic Ski Field.
- ii. The Board showed their support for the efforts of the group.

c. FY25 Calendar Discussion

- i. Superintendent Higgins presented a first draft of the 24-25 calendar.
- ii. The calendar works with the UTC regional calendar alignment needs.

8. Action Items

a. Staff Nominations

i. Co-Curricular Nominations

**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to approve the slate of co-curricular nominations as presented. Mark Brewer seconded. **Vote 5-0.**

**Vote:** Noah Charney- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Kevin Roberge- aye

**Vote 5-0**

b. Approve anonymous donation to OMS of \$2,000

**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to approve the acceptance of the anonymous \$2000 donation to Orono Middle School. Mark Brewer seconded. **Vote 5-0.**

**Vote:** Noah Charney- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Kevin Roberge- aye

**Vote 5-0**

c. Approve change of date for March 26th Board Meeting to March 19th

~~**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to approve change of date for the March 26th Board Meeting to March 19th.~~

**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to approve change of date for the March 26th Board Meeting to March 20th.

Mark Brewer seconded. **Vote 5-0.**

**Vote:** Noah Charney- aye

Mark Brewer- aye

Jacob Eckert- aye

Brian McGill- aye

Kevin Roberge- aye

**Vote 5-0**

d. Policies

i. First Reading

1. GAI - Generative AI Guidelines

- a. The Board discussed the proposed AI guidelines and their impacts on the RSU 26 community.

**Motion:** *Brian McGill moved to recognize a first read of Generative AI Guidelines. Mark Brewer seconded.*  
**Vote 5-0.**

**Vote:** *Noah Charney- aye*

*Mark Brewer- aye*

*Jacob Eckert- aye*

*Brian McGill- aye*

*Kevin Roberge- aye*

**Vote 5-0**

9. Subcommittee Reports

a. Policy Subcommittee

i. Working on policy IJOA

b. United Technology Center

i. Planning new enrollment website with greater transparency.

c. SPRPCE

i. Next meeting in February.

d. Curriculum Subcommittee

i. January meeting has been postponed.

e. Facilities/Building Committee

i. Roofing projects continue despite cold weather.

ii. New Asa spaces are now in use.

iii. Central Office project is on schedule.

f. Wellness Committee

g. DEI Leadership Team

h. Strategic Plan Team

i. Goals will be discussed at the next meetings.

10. Other Business

11. Future Agenda Items

12. Public Comment

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

a. January 23, 2024, 6:00, OHS/OMS Library

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 approve the slate of co-curricular nominations as presented. Mark Brewer seconded. Vote 5-0.*

**Vote:** *Noah Charney- aye*

*Mark Brewer- aye*

*Jacob Eckert- aye*

*Brian McGill- aye*

*Kevin Roberge- aye*

**Vote 5-0**

16. Adjournment

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

**Vote:** *Noah Charney- aye*

*Jacob Eckert- aye*

*Kevin Roberge- aye*

*Mark Brewer- aye*

*Brian McGill- aye*

**Vote 5-0**

*Meeting adjourned.*

Minutes approved January 23, 2024.