

**Minutes**  
**OMS/OHS Library**  
**Remote access for public participation through Zoom Link**  
**September 19, 2023, 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

2. Consideration of the Minutes
  - a. September 5, 2023

**Motion:** *Brian McGill moved to approve the August 22, 2023 minutes as presented. Mark Brewer seconded.*  
**Vote 5-0**

3. Approval of Warrants
  - a. Warrant- 6
  - b. Payroll- 6
  - c. BAN- 42
  - d. Bullet Bond- 1

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

4. Public Comment

5. Acknowledgments
  - a. Marissa McLaughlin thanks Student Council Advisor Heidi Clarke for holding class elections.
  - b. Meredith Higgins thanked everyone who helped with the Strategic Planning Committee’s chili dinner, and also thanked all who attended the dinner for their input.
  - c. Brian McGill acknowledged a \$250 donation to the Asa Adams Library from Terry Lynch in memory of Vicki Lynch.

6. Reports

- a. Director Reports
  - i. Lisa Smith- Director of Special Services
    1. Special Services staff has pulled together to make a successful start to the school year despite being short staffed.
    2. Work is being completed on late spring referrals to find the best placement.
    3. Multi Language Learning teacher Rose Pompey has been testing students and working with families to create individualized language plans. RSU 26 currently has 13 multi language students across all schools, with seven additional students being monitored.
  - ii. Susan Smith- Director of Learning
    1. The first Curriculum Committee meeting of the school year was held on September 14. At this meeting, goals for the 2023-2024 school year were established.
    2. There will be a “desert and discussion” meeting on October 3 in the Asa Adams cafeteria for members of the community to give feedback on the math and technology curriculum plans.
    3. RSU 26 is working in partnership with the Orono Public Library to present Robot

Shetterly and his “Americans Who Tell the Truth” project. “Truth-teller” portraits have been selected for display in the community, with input from RSU 26 students on which portraits were selected. Information and resources on how to use the art in the classroom will be distributed at the October 6 professional development day.

4. School instructional staff will all be participating in a book study. Staff were given a choice from five books and these books will be discussed at several professional development days over the course of the school year.

b. Student Board Report

- i. Marissa McLaughlin and Dorsa Tajvidi
  1. Senior yearbook submissions are due by October 30.
  2. Many OHS clubs are getting started and class fundraisers are up and running.

c. Superintendent Report

- i. Meredith Higgins- Superintendent
  1. Legislative Update
    - a. Superintendent Higgins gave a handout to the Board with all of the legislation that affects public schools in Maine.
  2. MSMA Fall Conference
    - a. The MSMA Fall Conference will be held October 26 and 27, 2023. All Board members are invited to attend.
  3. The contract with Nickerson and O’Day has been signed for the Central Office renovation project.
  4. While there has been movement of students in and out of the district, a quick look at class sizes indicates that the RSU has appropriate student-teacher ratios across the schools.
  5. The Strategic Planning Committee is looking to synthesize stakeholder feedback into a survey that will be sent to members of the RSU 26 community.
  6. Janice Poulsen, who has worked in food services for the district for 35 years, has retired.

7. Discussion Items

1. Additional discussion on data workshop
  - a. Brian McGill thanked everyone who contributed information to the data workshop.
  - b. The Board discussed the findings of the testing data reviewed at that data workshop.
2. Student rep report on training
  - a. Student Board representatives, Marissa McLaughlin and Dorsa Tajvidi, presented what they learned at the NSBMA (National Student Board Member Association) Conference that they attend in August.
  - b. The biggest takeaway from the conference was that student voices are important, and it is important that student board representatives gather information from all cohorts.
  - c. The student representatives suggest that a Student Advisory Council is developed. Ideally, this would be a council run by the student board representatives that provides guidance for the representatives by the student body. This group would meet once or twice a month and make it easier for the reps to convey student interests, concerns, and achievements.
  - d. Marissa and Dorsa also recommend that a Student Board Member Handbook is created. This handbook would outline the duties and responsibilities of student board members making it easier for new members to begin their duties.
  - e. The student Board reps ask the the Board consider symbolic voting by the student

representatives, where their votes are not legally binding, but student opinion would be on record.

3. Town discussion on election date
  - a. The Town of Orono is considering moving the School Board and Town Council election from March to November to facilitate better voter turnout and would like the input of the School Board.
  - b. The Board discussed the pros and cons of different potential election dates.

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***

9. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee
  - i. The subcommittee began work on Policy BEDA- Notification of Board Meetings.
- b. United Technology Center
- c. SPRPCE
  - i. First meeting of the school year will be in October.
- d. Curriculum Subcommittee
  - i. Set goals for the year.
- e. Facilities/Building Committee
- f. Wellness Committee
- g. DEI Leadership Team
  - i. Next meeting will be September 21.
- h. Strategic Plan Team
  - i. A subgroup is preparing to take feedback gathered and present it to the whole team.

10. Other Business

11. Future Agenda Items

12. Public Comment

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a. October 10, 2023, 6:00, OHS/OMS Library

14. Request for Information and Follow-up

15. Adjournment

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

*Meeting Adjourned.*

Minutes approved October 24, 2023