

## Minutes

RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting  
Orono High School Library  
Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

x Brian McGill, chairperson  
x Jacob Eckert, vice-chair  
x Mark Brewer  
x Michelle Smith (*via Google Hangout*)  
x Erin Ellis  
x Becca Gallandt, Student Advisor  
x Ben Allen-Rahill, Student Advisor

### 1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Brian McGill called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Agenda Adjustments - none

### 2. Consideration of the Minutes

A. January 9, 2018

Motion: Brian McGill moved **to approve the minutes as presented**, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

### 3. Approval of Warrants

A. Warrants – 14, 15, & 15ci

B. Payroll –15 & January Maine PERS

Motion: Brian McGill moved **to approve the warrants and payrolls as presented**, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

### 4. Acknowledgments

- Mark Brewer acknowledged and thanked the custodians for their quick turnover for using the middle school gym space.
- Supt. Higgins acknowledged Asa Adams second grade teacher, Angie McLaughlin, for her work bringing community members into the classroom each day in the month. The second graders were insightful and well-spoken – a tribute to Ms. McLaughlin for her great work with her students and community.
- Student advisors acknowledged the OHS teachers for their hard work and welcomed the third quarter of the school year.

### 5. Public Comment - none

## 6. Presentations

- A. Student Advisors - none
- B. Superintendent – no additional items

## 7. Discussion Items

- A. Enrollment Study – Don Kennedy, NESDEC

Discussion: Don Kennedy presented NESDEC’s findings from the recent enrollment study they conducted for RSU 26 and entertained questions from the board. (*Report attached*)

- B. FY17 Audit Report - Craig Costello, *Brantner, Thibodeau & Associates*

Discussion: Craig reviewed the audit results with the board. The audit was a clean audit with no material modifications required. They had a late start to the auditing process and would suggest beginning earlier. While there were some adjustments found necessary, there were no findings that rose to the level of being sited. School lunch is the only fund balance that is negative and would need to be brought up to either a \$0 balance or a positive balance. (This was corrected to a \$0 balance as of the December 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting.) Overall, the audit results proved clean reports.

## 8. Action Items

- A. FY Cost Center Adjustments recommended by audit

Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the allowable budget transfers between cost centers recommended by the auditor to remove the over expenditures in two cost centers as follows: Decrease regular instruction \$22,859; increase system administration \$9,973. Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

- B. Staff Nominations

- i. Co-curricular nominations

- 1. Danielle Pelletier, Mentor, OMS Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the OMS co-curricular nomination, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

- ii. Request to increase ELL Teacher from .50 FTE to 1.0 FTE

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **enter executive session per 1 MRSA § 506(A)** at 7:15 p.m. due to the significant possibility of sharing personally identifiable information, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

The board came out of executive session at 7:27 p.m.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the additional .50 FTE (.40 FTE Asa Adams; .10 FTE OMS) for K-8 ELL** and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

- C. Teacher request for transition from full-time to part-time status for FY19.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **go into executive session per 1 MRSA § 506(A)** at 7:29 p.m., and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

The board came out of executive session at 7:39 p.m. ***No vote taken.***

D. Request for approval of student trips out of country

i. Travel to Montreal – March 2-4

Discussion: Jae Hubbard, OHS French teacher, presented details of the trip to the board. Traditionally the trip is \$350 per student but this year it is a bit less. There are no scholarships available, however, for students needing financial assistance, fundraising opportunities have been offered.

ii. Travel to France – April 11-19

Discussion: The group will be using a tour guide company and will include only OHS students, not other students from other groups as has been done in the past. Students will be leaving the Tuesday before break and returning the Friday during break. One of the biggest takeaways is teaching the students to become travellers.

Motion: Brian McGill moved **to approve both the Montreal and the France trips.** Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

E. Reschedule April 17 Board meeting

Due to the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting falling during spring break, the board would like to reschedule the meeting to the following Tuesday, April 24.

Motion: Brian McGill moved **to approve the change in schedule** and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

F. Policies

Revisions

i. *First Reading*

1. AACA-A: Transgender Student Guidelines (Revision)

Discussion: Adopted a year ago and in light of our student body, transgender guidelines are rapidly changing in society. There are significant changes regarding definitions and understanding of gender non-conformity, as well as informing parents (in particular upper high school students who had requested that parents not be informed/included). It is the collective belief of the board that if this particular change in policy were ever forced to go before the Maine Human Rights Commission, it would probably be upheld. Of particular notice, Jake Eckert voiced his concern regarding the comfort of students when sharing traditionally gender divided spaces. Ongoing training for all staff is essential to this policy being implemented.

Motion: Brian McGill **moved to recognize ACAA-A as a first read,** and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

G. OEF Board of Director Appointments

Discussion: Established by the late Ted Curtis, OEF is an independent non-profit organization that gives grants to teachers/students for things that aren't typically covered by school budget. According to the bylaws, there are to be three appointed officials. The school board is to annually appoint two officers to the OEF Board of Directors; one school board member and one community member. The Superintendent is the third appointed official, with

others members to be appointed as necessary. Brian McGill offered serve as the board member to OEF.

**Motion:** Jake Eckert moved to approve the appointment of Brian McGill and Lynn Curtis King to fill the two appointed seats on the OEF board. Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

H. OEF Grant Acceptance

**Discussion:** Only about half of the applicants were awarded grants through OEF.

**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to approve acceptance of OEF grant funds in the amount of \$6586.26 to be awarded to selected grant recipients as presented. Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

**9. Subcommittee Reports**

- A. Policy – Determine lineup of spring policies to define policy procedure and put past practices into written form.
  - i. Next meeting - Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 3:30, Supt. Office
- B. United Technology Center – UTC currently operates at the low cost of \$4000 per student compared to \$7000 statewide. Supt Higgins shared information regarding legislative changes in how CTE funding will be assessed. Our CTE center is much more efficient in how they operate which, if the State makes the changes they are putting forth, this will hurt UTC.
- C. SPRPCE – Meeting this Thursday (2/1)
- D. Curriculum – Continuing work with Habits of Mind K-12; new OHS courses that will be put forth for the coming school year.
- E. Facilities – The committee met last Wednesday with the architect committee to brainstorm and identify strengths and weaknesses. To summarize; boilers are fine; electrical switchboards are scary; air circulation needs upgrades; roofs are grandfathered but not up to snuff on current standards. Side analysis gave prelim ideas re: traffic flow and reconfiguring drop-off and pick up areas. Next step is an assessment of educational space needs and will turn it around and give recommendations in the next couple months.

**10. Other Business - none**

**11. Future Agenda Items - none**

**12. Public Comment - none**

**13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meetings**

- A. February 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., Orono Town Council Chambers
- B. February 28, 2018 – Community Facilities Forum and Supper
  - i. Chili Supper @ 5:00 pm, OHS Cafeteria
  - ii. Facilities Forum @ 6:00 pm, OHS Cafeteria

**14. Request for Information and Follow-up - none**

RSU #26 Minutes (approved)  
January 30, 2018

**15. Adjournment**

Motion: Brian McGill moved **to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm**, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Meredith Higgins*