

**Minutes**  
RSU 26 Board of Directors Meeting  
Orono High School Library  
Tuesday, February 6, 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
- Ben Allen-Rahill, Student Advisor

**1. Opening**

- A. Call to Order  
Brian McGill called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Agenda Adjustments
  - i. Strike Item 8.A. – Cocurricular nominations
  - ii. Add JLF-E Reporting Form to Action Item 8.B.i.
  - iii. Add policy IKE as Action Item 8.B.ii

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

**2. Consideration of the Minutes**

Board minutes from January will be presented at the February 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

**3. Approval of Warrants**

- A. Payroll 16

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

**4. Acknowledgments - none**

**5. Public Comment**

- Shana Goodall, who spoke on behalf of the RSU 26 employees, shared that the REA is currently fundraising for the Grover McLaughlin scholarship by selling town signs for \$25 each. There will also be a chair auction/festival from which the proceeds will go directly to graduating seniors. On a different note, concerns regarding discussions about OHS PE requirements have caught staff off guard by “coming out of the blue”. There is a system and process in place whereupon recommendations for changes to curriculum are made to the board by administration. She would like to see conversations begin at the district level instead of beginning discussions at a public meeting.

**6. Presentations**

- A. Superintendent – Supt. Higgins updated the board regarding changes in the CTE formula, which would be best discussed within the context of a board item. More information will be brought forward at the end of February, as will a draft version of the FY 18-19 school calendar.

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- B. Principals - Principals Ruhlin and Fournier were at the meeting to present their reports. Principal Kennie was excused due to an OMS basketball game for which he needed to be present.
  - i. Of particular notice, the new milk cooler has arrived at Asa Adams to replace the older, failing cooler. Principal Fournier highlighted one of the most recent Habits of Mind assemblies. The assembly was presented by some of the fifth grade students who inspired other students to use OneWordEdu to set goals for “The Best Year Ever”. The OneWord project is a worldwide activity that involves selecting a single word that defines your goals, dreams and ambitions.
  - ii. Principal Ruhlin informed the board that Step-Up Day was postponed due to poor weather conditions and will now be held on February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Student Advisors- Ben Allen-Rahill and Becca Gallandt shared their report with the board, highlighting a survey they distributed to the OHS student body on the impact of the 1.5 PE credits needed for graduation. Due to this requirement, some students (especially graduating seniors) find this conflicts with their already time-constrained schedules and are unable to take more electives and core courses.

## 7. Discussion Items

### A. 360 Evaluation Surveys (Board/Admin)

Discussion: By policy, surveys are sent out for board and admin evaluations. The board discussed best practices, particularly questioning the frequency of surveys being sent out, formatting (i.e. keeping ISLLC formatting), timing of evaluation surveys being circulated, and how to make survey’s most efficient so as to capture the most accurate feedback while being considerate of participants’ time.

### B. OHS Physical Education Requirement

Discussion: Previously brought up as concern by student board representatives, Chairman Brian McGill explained that the issue deserved a little more attention. While he acknowledged there is a process in place for making changes in curriculum, teachers have a different angle than students, and this is the only mechanism for students to get information to the board. This is not a conversation about staffing, jobs, FTE, etc., but rather an issue that the students were concerned about.

Student advisors shared results from a recent survey, polling students in OHS to give an idea of those who might benefit or be accommodated if the credits were changed. They found their results not warranting a dramatic shift in curriculum. Most surrounding districts require only 1 credit of PE, not 1.5. Other schools have family planning courses that focus on relationships, etc.

In light of the concern brought up by the students and acknowledging the differing viewpoints between teachers and students, Supt. Higgins asked how to help address situations where students are positioned between the desire to take further content courses and the need to decide how to fit PE into an already time-constrained schedule. All interested parties should have the option of collaborating as this will be going to the curriculum committee for discussion. PE teacher, Chad Kirkpatrick, spoke to times where at least half a dozen students who, due to course constraints, can and have done independent studies to fulfill the requirements.

### C. FY19 Budget Discussion – Significant cost center impacts

Discussion: Ryan Tipping Spitz spoke with the board regarding ED279 and factors influencing the EPS formula and CTE changes. He listened to the board’s concerns regarding the true cost of education and the effects on the tax rates.

## 8. Action Items

### A. Staff Nominations

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~~i. Co-Curricular nominations~~

Erin Ellis was dismissed at 9:14 p.m.

B. Policies

i. JLF – Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect & JLF-E – Reporting Form

Discussion: The biggest change is that teachers have become mandatory reporters and there is now institutional accountability. All staff will be trained in this area.

Motion: Brian McGill **moved to recognize JLF and JLF-E as first reads**, and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

ii. IKE – Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration of Students

Motion: Brian McGill **moved to recognize IKE as a first read**, and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

C. E-Rate Contract – Education Networks of America

Motion: Brian McGill **moved to discuss the E-Rate contract** and Jake Eckert seconded the motion.

Discussion: The contract is over \$25,000 and must be approved by the board before entering negotiations. The board would like to have Pete Felmly review the contract before making a decision. *Brian McGill withdrew his motion.* The board will proceed to legal review of the contract and a final version will brought back to the February 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

*No formal vote taken.*

**9. Subcommittee Reports**

- A. Policy - none
- B. United Technology Center - none
- C. SPRPCE - none
- D. Curriculum - none
- E. Facilities – Facilities Forum on February 28<sup>th</sup>

**10. Other Business - none**

**11. Future Agenda Items - none**

**12. Public Comment - none**

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

- A. February 27, 2018- Board meeting at 6:00 p.m., Orono Town Council Chambers
- B. February 28, 2018 – Community Facilities Forum and Supper
  - i. Chili Supper at 5:00 p.m., OHS Cafeteria
  - ii. Facilities Forum at 6:00 p.m., OHS Cafeteria

**14. Request for Information and Follow-up**

**15. Adjournment**

Motion: Brian McGill **moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.**, and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote 3-0

**Meeting adjourned**

**Respectfully submitted,**

***Meredith Higgins***