

Minutes

RSU #26 Board of Directors Meeting
Orono Town Council Chambers
Tuesday, February 27, 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 Allan-Rahill, Student Advisor

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Brian McGill called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Agenda Adjustments

- i. Postpone consideration of the February 6th minutes to March 6th meeting
- ii. Add Walkout to Discussion Item as 7.A.
- iii. Add ENA Contract to Action Item 8.B.

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

2. Consideration of the Minutes

A. January 30

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the January 30 board minutes as presented**, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

~~B. February 6~~

3. Approval of Warrants

A. Warrants 16, 17, 17CI & Payroll 17

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

4. Acknowledgements

- Congratulations to the Girls XC Ski team for winning the 2018 Class C State Championship!
- Four of our teachers were nominated for Teacher of the year - Jill Conley, Shana Goodall, Jen Nash, and Kristin Espling. We will be well represented from Penobscot County!
- OHS Boys Varsity Basketball team not only made it to the Cross Center but received the Class B sportsmanship award as well!
- Show Choirs have worked very hard this season. Good luck at the State Competition!
- Best of luck to the OTO Hockey team as they compete in the playoffs.

- March is National Art month and RSU 26 art students will be having their work displayed in the Bangor Mall.

5. Public Comment - none

6. Presentations

A. Superintendent

i. *Priority Notice for Instructional Expenditures Transition and Annual Targets*

The State is enacting a new law requiring districts to pay a certain amount for direct instruction. Annual targets will be increasing over the next 5 years until meeting the final target of 70% in 2024.

ii. *Facilities Forum and Community Dinner* - Dinner begins at 5 p.m. in the OHS Cafeteria; Facilities Forum begins at 6 pm and will be held in the OMS gym instead of the cafeteria.

7. Discussion Items

A. National Walkout

The board discussed the National Walkout, a student led activity in response to the Parkland School shootings, is set for March 14th. Topics of priority taken into consideration:

- Creating a safe space for students to advocate for safer schools;
- Discussion of the importance of setting up legal guidelines. This is a student led initiative and we need to take care not to have it turn political yet maintaining inclusivity for those whose views may differ. Teachable moment to help our students know how to channel their desire to take action regarding an issue they feel strongly about.
- Discussion of how the administration can work effectively and supportively with the students.
- Communication between admin, staff, students, parents, town, and the community and provide clarification of basic operating principles for the Walkout
 - Set up basic operating principles
 - All staff have received an email regarding how to approach students who wish to begin this movement and facilitate communication so administration can keep everyone in a safe environment.
- Concerns regarding kids safety as they are gathering in one place at a specific time and how to monitor the premises;
- Explore alternate avenues of student expression by using concrete ideas to solidify the importance of what happened. (i.e. say 'hello' to 17 students, sit with 17 students you may not otherwise interact with).

Admin have been working on updating the RSU 26's Emergency Response Plan, including holding smaller group discussions in order to help create an effective and personalized response plan for our community. Orono PD will be ready to help. The board intends to be supportive of the student led activity that will honor the victims of violence and address school safety in a mutually respectful way. Admin will continue to check in with the kids and make every effort keep them safe through supervision and communication.

Brian McGill opened the floor to public comment.

- Jason Langely, parent, expressed support of allowing the students to determine and follow through with what they feel appropriate given “they are the ones affected by this.” He encouraged the board not “hinder the students ability to face this” and for the board to look at the gun issue without fear of being political. The school should teach students about gun violence over time and to “give them the facts” about previous school shootings which he felt would give students tools to better understand.
- Cynthia Martinez Edgar, parent, appreciated the board discussing the issue and stressed the importance to encouraging students and parents to be involved. She suggested alternative options for students to show support which would not require going outside for a Walkout. She felt it was important for our children to know they are supported by our schools, community, teachers, and parents by discussing the issue but most importantly that the environment remains safe for students and staff. She thanked the teachers and staff for everything they do.

B. Indigenous Peoples Day

As of last year, the town of Orono changed Columbus Day to Indigenous People’s Day. Several towns across the state have recognized it as IPD (Indigenous People’s Day). Recognition of either “Columbus Day” or “Indigenous People’s Day” is not specifically reflected on the school’s district calendar nor within the teacher’s contract (CBA). The placeholder is identified only as “Holiday”. However, the ESP agreement lists the holiday as Columbus Day. It was noted that Columbus Day is also a federally recognized holiday. While there is no formal recognition by the district for either holiday, the board discussed whether or not to officially recognize the newly titled holiday, or do nothing and allow for personal expression as there is no expectation to make it formal. If there were to be a change, this would be done in the spring when the calendar is approved for the next school year.

C. School Calendar FY18-19

As a continuing discussion of FY18-19 school calendar, the board considered the most recent draft version of the calendar. Of consideration:

- Half-days - A recent survey sent out to RSU 26 parents asked whether there was a more desirable way of scheduling professional development days for staff. The results of the survey offered no compelling information that would affect changes in the current draft calendar.
 - A district challenge is finding places to fit in Professional Development days which are essential. Admin has found that mixing ½ days into the calendar are more effective than only having full day PD days.
 - The school is trying to stay more in line with the University vacation calendar, however, due to our district’s inclusion with UTC, the final calendar can’t deviate drastically from their calendar.
 - Half-days have been planned for Wednesdays to maintain consistency. Other days, such as Friday afternoons were considered but didn’t appear to be as productive as when held on Wednesdays.

- Child Care option for ½ days - The town is puzzled as to why parents haven't taken advantage of the Child Care option that has been organized through the Town Rec Dept and the University.
 - The board suggested gathering feedback from parents via another survey or by in-person solicitation such as by members of the PTO.

D. Budget Discussion FY19

Supt. Higgins asked the board not to make budget cuts yet, but to have a conversation on how revenue and expenses line up, figuring out metric success and goals. Conversation also discussed whether we will stay with the current SPED model and its funding. Many students have moved into district which cuts tuition.

8:10 Becca was released.

8. Action Items

A. Staff Nominations

i. Co-curricular nominations

1. Drama, Asa - *Lisa Erhardt, Maddie Mellor, Angie McLaughlin*
2. Varsity Baseball – *Don Joseph*
3. JV Softball - *Breianna Tocci*
4. Varsity Softball – *Kristen Espling*
5. JV Tennis – *Julie Berry*
6. Varsity Track – *Chris Libby*
7. Asst. Track – *Steve Dexter*
8. Asst. Track – *Lin White*
9. Asst. Track – *Brandon Crocker*
10. Canoe Club – *Jeff Owen*

Motion: Brian McGill moved **to approve the slate of Co-curricular nominations**, and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

B. ENA Contract

Newest copies of the contract, with changes, were presented to the board. Sean Malone addressed the changes and status of the contract. Two rounds of negotiations made the contract more favorable to us. The contract will allow us to be able to update our internal phone system from analog to digital and allow the district a refresh in 5 years without cost. With the new upgrade we will be running fiber through the entire district.

Motion: Brian McGill moved **to have the board endorse and sign the contract**, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0

9. Subcommittee Reports

- A. Policy Subcommittee - moved to March 15 due to Showchoir. IKE and ACAA-A will be coming to the March 6 board meeting.
- B. United Technology Center - Final Calendar to be brought up at UTC

- C. SPRPCE - Other districts are looking to join SPRPCE to take advantage of cost-sharing.
- D. Curriculum Subcommittee - none
- E. Facilities - Facilities Forum and Dinner tomorrow night, February 28.

10. Other Business - none

11. Future Agenda Items - none

12. Public Comment - none

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- A. **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
- B. **March 6, 2018** - at 6:00 p.m., Orono Town Council Chambers

14. Request for Information and Follow-up

15. Adjournment

Motion: Brian McGill moved **to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.**, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Higgins