

Minutes

RSU #26 Board of Directors Meeting
Orono Town Council Chambers
Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

- x Brian McGill, chairperson
- x Jacob Eckert, vice-chair
- x Mark Brewer
- x Michelle Smith (*via Google Chat*)
- x Erin Ellis
- x Eli McGill, Student Advisor
- Vacant position, Student Advisor

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Agenda Adjustments

- i. Move Action item 8.A. to 6.E.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the agenda adjustment**, and Erin Ellis seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0 passed

2. Consideration of the Minutes

A. March 27

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the March 27 minutes as presented**, and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0 passed

3. Approval of Warrants - Payroll 20, March ME Pers, Warrant 20

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

4. Acknowledgements

- The board acknowledged the Show Choirs as they all did a great job. Administrators were recognized for their support of show choir.
- Brian McGill thanked the admin team, Lynn and Supt. Higgins for their work on the budget. The budget is not finished yet but there is good progress and good information to work with.
- Recognition of the Asa Adams math night.
- Erin Ellis preannounced the Asa Adams school play which is coming up. There are amazing things happening. She also recognized the Asa Adams show choir and all the hard work people did putting things together.

5. Public Comment - none

6. Presentations

A. Superintendent

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- Request for Information: Supt. Higgins shared that she had received a request from a community member who inquired about the board's stance on the issue in light of the Proficiency-Based Diploma revisions currently in front of the Legislature. Would the board like to weigh in? Supt. Higgins responded to the community member with information gathered from her attendance at two previous focus meetings. She will be sending letter to staff and board members, highlighting changes in statute as well as changes that will be coming forthwith. Supt. Higgins is currently utilizing avenues through MSMA to plug into as well as other avenues in order to remain current. Chair Brian McGill shared that he had attended Legislative hearings that morning. Although there was no official action at the State level, there is the indication that some changes will be made to the laws as it relates to Special Education. At least three PBE bills are currently in front of the State Board of Education.
- Retirements/Resignations: Since the approval of policy GCQC, retirements and resignations need not go before the board for approval or acceptance.
 - Supt. Higgins recognized long-time teacher Brian Gallant's letter of intent to retire and thanked him for his tenure as a teacher in the Orono School system for the past 36 years. She and the board wished him well in the next stage of life.
 - Supt. Higgins shared that she had received a letter of resignation from Renee Curtis. She will continue her role as Asa Adams Literacy Coach until the end of the school year, at which time, her resignation will become effective.

B. Student Advisors - none

C. Principals - Asa Adams, OMS, OHS

- i. Darcie Fournier, Heath Kennie and Reg Ruhlin shared their written reports with the board.

D. Technology Update

Technology Director, Sean Malone, presented a semi-annual report to the board, updating them on the continuation of infrastructure improvements, student learning, communication methods to reach the public audience and providing direction for future professional development opportunities by gathering data through the MLTI Brightbytes survey.

E. Request for Permission to Travel Abroad – Spanish Club trip to Costa Rica FY 2019

Chris Crocker, OHS Spanish teacher, reviewed the proposed Spanish Club trip itinerary to Costa Rica.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the request for travel out of country**, and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0 passed

7. Discussion Items

A. Budget Discussion

Discussion moved to back table where the board, admin and staff members were present. SPED Director, Sharon Brady; OHS Principal, Reg Ruhlin; OMS Principal, Heath Kennie; Asa Adams teacher/REA representative, Deb White; Asa Principal, Darcie Fournier; Business manager, Lynn Gray; Athletic Director, Mike Archer; Tech Director, Sean Malone; Board Members Mark Brewer, Brian McGill, Jake Eckert, Erin Ellis and Michelle Smith (*via Google Chat*), and Supt. Higgins Present in the audience: Jim Bulteel, Erika Dixon, Brad Martin, Chad Kirkpatrick, Kristin Espling.

The board met with town council last night in a joint discussion to review budgets. At tonight's meeting, the board reviewed a ranked order list of suggested cost savings cuts provided by the admin team. The board gave direction to the administrative team on what to cut from the budget and what to keep. Admin will meet and review, bringing back a revised budget for the April 24 meeting where it will hopefully be voted upon.

The board took a short break at 8:55 p.m. and reconvened at 9:00 p.m. Erin Ellis and Eli McGill were dismissed.

B. Probationary Teacher Contract Renewal Process

The board discussed and outlined expectations regarding the process of bringing forward recommendations for continuance of probationary teachers and those who are recommended for continuing contract. The board would like to be in partnership with the administration and be provided with sufficient evidence upon which to make an informed decision. Based upon Supervision and Evaluation Model (PEPG) which is current policy, admin is asked to “summarize relevant portions” of outcomes and evidence already documented through this model. Within the summary of teacher recommendations, the board asked the administrative team to provide evidence of “excellent educational outcomes” based upon two tiers.

- Tier 1 - Evidence of successful classroom management and appropriate instructional materials must be presented.
- Tier 2 – This will evaluate the impact of instructional teaching in the classroom “Excellent educational outcomes.”

According to the MSMA Handbook, there is guidance which outlines statute covering probationary and continuing contracts, states that the supt. may share pertinent information with the board, when necessary, in order to allow more informal decisions around continuation of employment. Supt. Higgins expressed concern regarding the significance of changes to the process and the timeframe in which the board has asked admin to complete the request. She would like to talk with the administrative team and allow for feedback that would be brought back to the board for further discussion.

8. Action Items

A. Staff Nominations

i. Co-curricular nominations

- a. Spring Play Director, Alek Sayers – OHS
- b. Drama, Spring Play, Dan Perkins – OMS
- c. Asst. Drama, Spring Play- Catherine McElvain- OMS
- d. Lunch Supervisor, Alex Caballero – OMS

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve co-curricular nominations as read**, and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 passed

B. Policies

i. Revisions

a. IHBAC – Child Find

Discussion: Brian McGill reviewed minor changes to IHBAC as suggested by the policy committee.

Motion: Brian McGill recommended **the adoption of changes as noted**, and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 passed

b. JLF – Reporting Child Sexual Abuse

Discussion: After the board passed JLF (3/27/18), the policy subcommittee revisited JLF after it became aware of concerns from guidance counsellor Lisa Erhardt. Brian McGill reviewed the two changes as suggested by the policy subcommittee.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve policy JLF as presented**, and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 passed

ii. Evaluation surveys for 2017-2018

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Discussion: In the past, there have been four surveys year with timeframes for evaluations typically occurring in November/December for the superintendent; Board in February; and Admin in May. Policy committee discussed set timelines for surveys and adding a school climate survey. They would be scheduled, beginning next year, as the following; Superintendent in January; Board in February; Admin in March; and Climate survey in May. Due to specific timeframes within policy, the board would need to give permission to move ahead with an admin survey.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **suspend policy and authorize admin to send out a 360 survey next month**, Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 passed

Further discussion contemplated if the board would issue an evaluation of themselves a survey in June for the 2017-2018 school year or, due to the late timing, whether it would be more effective to wait until the next school year. Mark Brewer strongly voiced equity and felt it was only fair that the board be evaluated in the same manner as the superintendent and principals but due to the late timing, wait until February, which has been the target date in past practice.

Motion: Brian McGill recommended that **the board commits to having a survey go out next February**, and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 passed

C. Calendar Approval FY 18-19

Discussion: There were no changes to the draft calendar since the last board review. Regarding early release days, Supt. Higgins and the Town discussed the joint effort to provide childcare on early release days. In order to have the early release childcare option offered in partnership with the Town and the University, the Town and RSU 26 will guarantee this offering regardless of enrollment next year. Both the Town and school district felt having a childcare option that parents can rely on is worth the investment and have agreed to subsidize the cost regardless of enrollment. They cannot provide childcare during the two workshop days due to the university being on vacation.

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **approve the calendar as presented**, and Jake Eckert seconded the motion. Vote: 2-1 *Mark Brewer in opposition*. Motion carried.

9. Subcommittee Reports - Due to the late hour, there were no official reports.

- A. Policy Subcommittee
- B. United Technology Center
- C. SPRPCE
- D. Curriculum Subcommittee
- E. Facilities
- F. Wellness Committee

10. Other Business - none

11. Future Agenda Items

Jake Eckert would like to add to a discussion for the process of adding stipends.

12. Public Comment – none

13. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- A. April 24, 2018 - Orono Town Council Chambers @ 6:00 p.m.
- B. May 1, 2018 - Orono Town Council Chambers @ 6:00 p.m.
- C. May 15, 2018 - Annual School Budget Meeting, OHS Cafeteria @ 6:00 p.m.

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Brian McGill recapped the next few meetings. It is hopefully anticipated that the final budget will be voted upon at the April 24th board meeting. Pending approval of the budget, the board will convene on May 1 to sign Warrant Articles. Continuing contracts need to be done by May 15th. We will discuss the May meeting schedule at the April 24th meeting to determine if adjustments/additions need to be made.

14. Request for Information and Follow-up

15. Adjournment

Motion: Brian McGill moved to **adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m.**, and Mark Brewer seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Higgins