

**Minutes**  
**OMS Library**  
**Remote access for public participation through Zoom Link**  
**March 28, 2023, 6:00 pm**

× Brian McGill  
× Jake Eckert  
× Mark Brewer

× Noah Charney  
× Kevin Roberge

1. Opening

- a. Call to Order
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Agenda Adjustments
  - i. Add 2. Organizational meeting/election of officers
  - ii. Add 8.e. - OHS New Course Proposal - Contemporary World Issues (Social Studies)
  - iii. Add 16 Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 6(a) Discussion of Confidential Personnel Matters
  - iv. Move item 6(a) to item 2
  - v. Move item 9(b) to item 9(a)

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

2. Acknowledgments

- a. SRO Ed Leskey - Presentation for years of service to RSU 26
  - i. Superintendent Higgins presented a gift to Officer Leskey as thanks for his service to RSU 26 as School Resource Officer.

3. Organizational meeting/election of officers

- a. Chair

**Motion:** *Jacob Eckert nominated Brian McGill to serve as RSU 26 Board of Directors chair, Mark Brewer seconded, 4-0-1*

- b. Vice-Chair

**Motion:** *Brian McGill nominated Jacob Eckert to serve as RSU 26 Board of Directors vice-chair, Mark Brewer seconded, 4-0-1*

- c. Policy Subcommittee (2)

**Motion:** *Jacob Eckert nominated Brian McGill and Mark Brewer to serve as Board representatives to the policy committee, Kevin Roberge seconded, 3-0-2*

- d. Curriculum (2)

**Motion:** *Brian McGill nominated Mark Brewer and Noah Charney to serve as Board representatives to the curriculum committee, Mark Brewer seconded, 3-0-2*

- e. JPDC (2)

**Motion:** *Mark Brewer nominated Brian McGill and Jacob Eckert to serve as Board representatives to the JPDC committee, Kevin Roberge seconded, 3-0-2*

- f. UTC (1)

**Motion:** *Brian McGill nominated Kevin Roberge to serve as Board representative to UTC, Mark Brewer seconded, 4-0-1*

g. SPRCE (1)

**Motion:** Brian McGill nominated Jacob Eckert to serve as Board representative to SPRCE, Mark Brewer seconded, 4-0-1

h. Building (2)

**Motion:** Kevin Roberge nominated Brian McGill and Mark Brewer to serve as Board representatives to the Building Committee, Jacob Eckert seconded, 3-0-2

i. Wellness (1)

**Motion:** Brian McGill nominated Noah Charney to serve as Board representative of the Wellness Committee, Jacob Eckert seconded, 4-0-1

j. Stipend (1)

**Motion:** Brian McGill nominated Kevin Roberge to serve on the Stipend Committee, Mark Brewer seconded, 4-0-1

k. DEI (2)

**Motion:** Mark Brewer nominated Brian McGill and Kevin Roberge to serve on the DEI Committee, Jacob Eckert seconded, 3-0-2

4. Consideration of the Minutes

a. February 28, 2023

**Motion:** Brian McGill moved to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2023 meeting as presented. Mark Brewer seconded. **Vote 5-0**

5. Approval of Warrants

- a. Warrant - 18, 19
- b. Payroll - 18, 19
- c. ME PERS - February
- d. BAN - 34, 35

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

6. Public Comment

7. Acknowledgments

- a. Brian McGill acknowledged the sports and performing arts activities gearing up to begin the spring season.
- b. Kevin Roberge acknowledged the "Show Choir Extravaganza" and congratulated the students on their performance.
- c. Noah Charney echos Mr. Roberge's sentiments.

8. Reports

a. Director Reports

i. Lisa Smith, Director of Special Services

- 1. 229 active IEPs and 17 students currently in referral.
- 2. Sara Henry, Director of Student Accessibility Services at UMaine, is coming to speak to OHS students about learning accommodations continuing into college.
- 3. Plans are underway for summer programming.
- 4. The Special Olympics Unified teams from OMS and OHS are having a successful year, and are looking forward to bocce and spring track event.

- ii. Susan Smith, Director of Learning
  - 1. Lots of excitement in the areas of professional development and DEI.
    - a. The March 17 professional development day format was positively received, bringing all staff together for a morning DEI workshop, then giving everyone a choice as to which workshops to attend in the afternoon sessions.

b. Superintendent Report

- i. Meredith Higgins, Superintendent
  - 1. Superintendent Higgins thanked Susan Smith for all of her hard work planning professional development across the district, and especially for the successful March 17 PD day.
  - 2. The district has closed the deal on a Yamaha C3 grand piano for the Performing Arts Center.
  - 3. Tammy Cyr has announced that she will be retiring at the end of the school year.
  - 4. The Veazie school department has reached out the RSU 26, hoping to establish a high school attendance agreement. The Veazie school district would still offer school choice, but would sponsor bus transportation to Veazie.
    - a. An agreement with Veazie would have to be approved by town vote.
    - b. Superintendent Higgins will also reach out to Glenburn to discover their intentions for their attendance agreement with RSU 26.
  - 5. Jason Burgess, IT Director, obtained bids for a new phone service provider that is more local to provide better customer service.

9. Discussion Items

a. Capital Improvement Plan Update

- i. Superintendent Higgins provided a handout to the Board outlining the capital improvement plan.
  - 1. The latest capital improvement plan updates pricing and priority designations.

b. FY 24 Budget

- i. The Board received a handout with the updated FY 24 proposed budget.
  - 1. The State positively adjusted the amount of the State subsidy calculated in the ED279, citing an error in the mill rate. This reduced the amount of the local requirement, reducing required the tax impact on Orono voters.
  - 2. The insurance cost increase ceiling has been set at 6%. This decreases the insurance expenditure amount estimated in the FY24 budget which had been estimated at 10%.
  - 3. Superintendent Higgins supplied a handout with possible budget reductions generated by administration, and outlined how each reduction would affect the district.
  - 4. The Board discussed FY 24 budget possibilities and shared their views.

c. 2023-24 School Calendar

***Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar as presented. Mark Brewer seconded. Vote 4-1***

d. Strategic Plan Update & Plan Initial Meeting Date

- i. There was a great response from the community and student population volunteering to serve on the committee.
- ii. Superintendent Higgins proposed May 2, May 16, and June 13 as Strategic Plan Committee meeting dates, as well as an organizational meeting before the Board meeting on April 11.

e. Board self evaluation discussion

- i. The Board discussed the findings of the Board survey, which began March 3.

f. Superintendent survey questions

- i. The Board elected to continue with the ISLLC survey for the superintendent survey, with minor changes to the question related to COVID.

10. Action Items

- a. New Stipend Proposals
  - i. OHS Track Asst. Coach
  - ii. RSU 26 Bus Monitor Scheduler
  - iii. OMS Unified Basketball
  - iv. Student Ambassador Program Advisors - Asa, OMS & OHS

**Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the additional OHS Track Assistant Coach, RSU 26 Bus Monitor Scheduler, OMS Unified Basketball, and Student Ambassador Program Advisor stipends as presented. Mark Brewer seconded. Vote 5-0**

- b. Staff Nominations
  - i. Hiring Recommendations
    - 1. Co-Curricular Nominations

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

- c. Disposition of equipment

**Motion: Brian McGill moved to authorize the superintendent or designee to dispose of the John Deere tractor at the best available price . Mark Brewer seconded. Vote 5-0**

- d. Policies
  - i. Revisions
    - 1. DFD - Gate receipts

**Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the revision to policy DFD as presented. Mark Brewer seconded. Vote 5-0**

- 2. DFF - Student activity funds

**Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the revision to policy DFF as presented. Mark Brewer seconded. Vote 5-0**

- 3. IKF - Graduation

**Motion: Brian McGill moved to approve the revision to policy DFD as presented. Mark Brewer seconded. Vote 5-0**

- ii. First Read
    - 1. JLCB - Immunizations

**Motion: Brian McGill moved to reccognize policy JLCB as having a first read. Mark Brewer seconded. Vote 5-0**

- e. OHS New Course Proposal - Contemporary World Issues (Social Studies)

**Motion: Brian McGill moved to authorize the creation of a Contemporary World Issues class at OHS. Mark Brewer seconded. Vote 5-0**

11. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee
  - i. The committee will complete the policy revision cycle this school year.
  - ii. Next meeting is April 6.
- b. United Technology Center
- c. SPRPCE
  - i. Budgets have been approved for FY24.
- d. Curriculum Subcommittee
  - i. At the last meeting, the committee revisited the CWI class description and received feedback on collection processes for Wabanaki studies and technology.
  - ii. Next meeting is April 13.
- e. Facilities/Building committee

- i. Discussed the Capital Improvement Plan brought at the last meeting.
- f. Wellness Committee
  - i. Next meeting will be held April 6.
- g. DEI Leadership Team
  - i. Next meeting will be held May 30.

12. Other Business

13. Future Agenda Items

14. Public Comment

15. Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting

- a. April 11, 2023 - 6:00 PM Board meeting

16. Request for Information and Follow-up

17. Executive Session - 1 MRSA 405 6(a) Discussion of confidential personnel matters

***Motion: Brian McGill moved to go into executive session under 1 MRSA 405 6(a) Discussion of confidential personnel matters. Mark Brewer seconded. Vote 5-0***

18. Adjournment

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

***Approved April 11, 2023***