

**RSU #26
Orono, Maine
Superintendent of Schools
10 Goodridge Drive
Orono, Maine 04473**

 X School Business
 Personal Business

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

FAX TELEPHONE NUMBER: (207) 866-4217

DATE: 09/16/14

FAX NUMBER: 1-877-227-9838

TO: Diana Doiron

FROM: Joanne Harriman

RE: Proficiency Based Diploma

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 9

ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW BY MAIL: 0

PLEASE CALL US IMMEDIATELY (207) 889-6040
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School Administrative Units (SAUs) award diplomas. The Maine Department of Education's role is to ensure that SAUs base the awarding of a diploma on student proficiency for students graduating after January 1, 2018. The following Proficiency-Based Diploma Extension application is intended to provide the Department and the school administrative unit with evidence of a good fit between the district's current progress and their extension request.

Directions for submitting an extension application

1. Complete the document and provide evidence to support the responses. Our intent is to keep the process streamlined and reasonable and have therefore set word limits of 1000 words for each section in the application and request that districts submit a total of no more than 25 pages of evidence.
2. Convert the extension application document and all pages of evidence to a PDF format and fax your complete application to Diana Doiron at the following fax number: 1-877-227-9838.

Note: Extension applications that are incomplete or lack sufficient evidence will receive feedback requesting additional information. Our plan is to process all submissions within a month of the submittal window. This plan is dependent on the number of submissions received per submittal deadline.

Proficiency-Based Diploma Extension Option 6

At the time of the extension application the SAU will:

- Provide evidence of the SAU's greatest strength and its greatest challenge as it transitions to awarding diplomas based on proficiency in the standards of all 8 content areas and the standards of the Guiding Principles.
- Provide a multi-year implementation plan indicating quarterly benchmarks for 2012015 and annual benchmarks for each year for which the extension is requested that outline the steps the SAU will take to ensure that students graduating after July 1, 2020 will be awarded a diploma based on proficiency in the standards of the eight content areas and the standards of the Guiding Principles.
- Include a budget for the use of all existing targeted proficiency-based diploma transition funds during 2014-2015 and any 2013-2014 funds that were carried over to support the implementation of proficiency-based diplomas

LIMIT RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TO 1000 WORDS PER QUESTION AND LIMIT TOTAL ATTACHED EVIDENCE TO 25 PAGES

Submittal Window

1. Indicate the submitting date.

August 18, 2014, 5 pm September 17, 2014, 5 pm October 18, 2014, 5 pm

Superintendents Region

September 9, 2014

2. Indicate the superintendent region in which your SAU is a member.

Aroostook	
Cumberland	
Hancock	
Kennebec Valley	
Midcoast	
Penquis	X
Washington	
Western Maine	
York	

3. School Administrative Unit: RSU #26
 4. High School(s): Orono High School
 5. Name and title of person completing the extension request:
 Jim Chasse, Principal
 6. Superintendent's name, address, phone number and email:
 Joanne Harriman, Superintendent

Evidence of Preparedness

7. Describe the SAU's greatest strength and its greatest challenge as it builds capacity and builds infrastructures to award diplomas based on proficiency in the standards of all 8 content areas and the standards of the Guiding Principles. Limit your description to 1000 words (approximately 2 pages single spaced or four pages double spaced) and attach evidence to support your description referencing the name of the document(s) and specific page(s).

Criteria:

- Clear description of the SAU's greatest strength and greatest challenge in transitioning to awarding a proficiency-based diploma
- Clear connection between evidence and description of the greatest strength and greatest challenge
- Clear alignment to extension option

Evidence of Strengths

Perhaps the greatest strength of Orono High School is found in its teaching staff and community support as evidenced by a state rating of "B" and a top ten finish in the U.S. News and World Report, "Top Schools List." Over the past few years our school has increased our Advanced Placement course offerings by almost 200% and this past year administered nearly 180 tests among 350 students. Our PSAT and SAT scores continue to climb even among students with challenges. The Orono community has supported education through both budget and high expectations and there is a high priority on student achievement and success.

The greatest challenge facing Orono in regard to implementing a standards-based high school diploma is one of capacity. Shifting from a standards-referenced educational system to a standards-based system takes time. The work that must be done is both intellectual and technical. It takes time to shift the mindset of students, parents, and staff. It takes time to develop and field test curriculum, instructional and assessment resources, it takes time to train staff and time to refine and adjust our work when new ideas and breakthroughs replace old methods. **We ask for this extension in order to have time to take a measured and thoughtful approach to the development of a sturdy proficiency-based curriculum, instruction and assessment system in RSU 26.**

As a small, rural school system we face challenges in staffing to meet the requirements of beginning a proficiency-based system with one particular class of students. Many of our freshmen students take higher-level classes and arrive having met high school standards in their middle school years. We are just beginning to develop a technical system that will allow us to track and report student progress on the standards. **We ask for this extension in order to have time to take a measured and thoughtful approach to the development of a technical system that will allow us to track and report student progress RSU 26.**

When Maine passed the proficiency-based diploma law, Orono High School was in the process of preparing for a re-accreditation visiting year from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). An enormous amount of time and preparation was required of our small staff throughout this process. At the same time, our schools were going through the school consolidation process and then shortly thereafter--a school "deconsolidation" process. These two initiatives took focus, resources, and time away from our progress toward proficiency-based education. NEASC has provided us with feedback that will help us make improvements to our school and programming. We are very interested in dovetailing the results of our NEASC assessment with the work of meeting the requirements for the proficiency based diploma law. We believe this will improve teachers' commitment to a proficiency based system—particularly since they spent so much time preparing for NEASC reaccreditation. **We ask for this extension in order to have time to merge our NEASC recommendations together with a proficiency-based system.**

Our evidence of strengths includes community support, desire to develop a sturdy proficiency –based curriculum, instruction, and assessment system, NEASC recommendations that could dovetail with Proficiency-Based education, high ratings on standardized tests, in U.S. News and World Report, and on our high College Board Advanced Placement results.

Multi-year Implementation Plan

8. Provide a description of the multi-year plan to meet the goal of awarding diplomas based on proficiency in the standards of the eight content areas and the standards of the Guiding Principles after July 1, 2020. The description should include benchmarks and metrics for the 2014-2015 school year and benchmarks for each year for which the extension is requested. Limit your description to 1000 words (approximately 2 pages single spaced or four pages double spaced) and attach evidence to support your description referencing the name of the document(s) and specific page(s).

Criteria:

- Multi-year plan is aligned with the SAU shared vision focus areas
- Benchmarks for progress in 2014-2015 include activities/actions that will support the achievement of the benchmarks and metrics to measure them.
- Evidence included clearly supports the benchmarks

Our work of developing a proficiency-based system has begun. Teachers have used professional development time during the past school year to study and explore the theory, principles and processes for awarding a performance-based diploma. The staff studied Title 20-A §4722 (PBD), Maine’s Preliminary Implementation Report and contacted other schools—including Edward Little HS-- to gain an understanding of how other high schools were preparing for implementation. Our multi-year plan follows.

RSU26/OHS Shared Vision: Orono High School cultivates an atmosphere of respectful, responsible and passionate learners.

Benchmark/Metric	Implementation Timeline	Status
BM: Teacher Summer Training (Core Standards by Content Area) M: Standards Spreadsheet Created with all Standards	June 2014	Complete
BM: Student Information System Training (Standards based component of Web2School) M: Webinar Training with Web2School SIS	June 2014	Complete
BM: Train the Trainer Student Information System (SIS) Implementation Trial M: Teacher group training before school year	August 2014	Scheduled
BM: SIS Staff Training for All Staff M: SIS Consultant Trains at OHS	August in-service	Scheduled
BM: All Standards Compiled in Spreadsheet M: Shared Google Sheet and CSV for SIS	July-August 2014	Scheduled
BM: School Wide 21 st Century Rubric Implementation (Guiding Principles) School-wide Scoring for All staff for all students M: All Students Scored Using School-wide Rubric	September 2014	Scheduled
BM: PBD Community Introduction to Standards Report	November 2014	Scheduled

(New Report Card) Report to Parents via Mail M: Creation and Print of PBD Report for All Students		
BM: Standards Selection w/ Power Standards for Each Content Area (Staff and PD Meetings) M: Content Area Meetings, Print Standards and Import to SIS	School Year 2014-15	Planning
BM: PBD Assessment Training/Selection/Administer Assessment for Each Content Area (Q4 School Quarter) Continue Standards-based report card work M: All Teachers Measure Power Standard(s)	April 2015-June 2015	Planning
BM: Summer Training (Assessment Development, Continue Standards Alignment) M: Printed Standards w/ Assessments	Summer 2015	Planning
BM: Continued Curriculum Alignment, Assessment (Staff PD Days, Staff Meetings), Multiple Pathways Process Development, Continue Standards-based report card work M: Published Curriculum and Minutes	2015-16 School Year	Planning
BM: Continued Curriculum Alignment, Assessment (Staff PD Days, Staff Meetings), Multiple Pathways Process Finalized M: Published Curriculum and Minutes	2016-17 School Year	Planning
BM: Curriculum Alignment, Assessment (Staff PD Days, Staff Meetings), Multiple Pathways Process Finalized, Continue Standards-based report card work M: Published Curriculum and Minutes	2017-18 School Year	Planning
BM: Last year of Standards-based and traditional report cards M: Published Curriculum and Minutes	2018-19 School Year	Planning
BM: Full implementation M: Standards Based Diploma	2020 School Year	Planning

System of Supports for Student Learning

9. Describe the system of supports you have in place for secondary school students when proficiency is not demonstrated. Limit your description to 1000 words (approximately 2 pages single spaced or 4 pages double spaced) and attach evidence to support the description referencing the name of the document(s) and specific page(s).

Criteria:

- Clear description of the practices/protocols for improving student performance and ensuring feedback is timely, specific to each student and delivered when and where it has the most benefit
- Clear description of practices for regular monitoring of student progress

- **Clear description of equity of opportunity for support in any content area and Guiding Principle**

System of Supports for Student Learning

Our school has many systems of support for students: Response to Intervention, Student Assistance Team, Grade Level Teams, Classroom Interventions, Remedial Courses, Special Services and Peer Tutoring, to name a few.

These interventions are based on traditional content courses over the course of a school semester and or school year. The support mechanisms are not structured by specific standards and there is there a “redo” component for when standards are not met.

The bulk of our work ahead will be to identify our Power Standards (the standards that all students must meet prior to graduating), develop a system for assessing and reporting student progress on the Power Standards, and developing a system for interventions for students not meeting the standard(s). Many of our current interventions are successful but the school does not make interventions at the specific standard level—only at the course level. The school is working directly with Web2School to utilize a standards-based report module that is accessed at the teacher and school level. As we begin to report out in such a manner we will be developing the multiple pathways for student success with standards. A great deal of knowledge and technical work will be required to develop our understanding, philosophy and approach for proficiency based education. We are eager to continue this work and excited about moving forward with proficiency-based education.

Currently, parents and students have access to our student information system through our 1:1 MLTI laptop program where they can see standards-based progress. The school plans to continue using a weekly reporting system. “Monday Morning Reports” track the progress of students who are struggling to meet standards. These reports are generated by our guidance department and reviewed by staff at our Monday staff meetings. Teachers also work in teams to discuss and create action plans for students who are struggling to meet standards. Teachers at the classroom level plan units of instruction based on prioritized standards and will train on system of intervention at level one of our RTI model, classroom interventions.

Proficiency-Based Diploma Transition Funds

10. Identify the approximate percentage of the 2013-2014 proficiency-based transition funds and how these were applied to proficiency-based education expenditures in the following areas:

- **Policy: 5%**
- **Practice: 85%**
- **Community Engagement: 10%**
- **One-year Carry Over: (Year-One was encumbered in June as work was done during the summer)**

Approximate percentage of transition funds used was about 90% (encumbered as work was done in June but fiscal year began July 1, 2014). See below:

September 9, 2014

- Ten teachers x two days of standards alignment and student information system training
- One teacher x five days of standards Master Spreadsheet creation, preparation for SIS import and 21st Century Import (Guiding Principles)
- Two teachers summer work for Standards-based Assessment Design (also attended a design seminar at University of Maine in Farmington via Title II funds)

11. Provide a description of the intended impact for your transition funds. Attach a budget for the 2014-2015 transition funds and any 2013-2014 transition funds that were carried over after June 30, 2014. For each expense, identify the amount and date by which it will be expended. Limit your description to 1000 words (approximately 2 pages single spaced or 4 pages double spaced). Attach a budget document and limit the budget document to 2 pages.

Criteria:

- Clear description of intended impact for your use of transition funds
- Budget aligns to intended impact

Transition Funds Plan 2014-15, \$6000 plus small carry forward

Intended Impact: Train a cadre of teachers to help other teachers begin to implement our first standards based assessment and introduce teachers to assessment design for standards based instruction and begin to report to parents both a traditional and standards based report card.

Item	Timeline	Amount
Train the trainer, SIS training 8x\$200	August	\$1600
Web2School Consultant Training all staff	September	\$1000
Standards Report Card Design 1x200	September - November	\$200
Standards Based Assessment Training 20 x.150	January-May	\$3000

School Board Vote and Approval of the Extension Request

12. Provide the agenda and minutes from your SAU school board meeting reflecting a formal board vote and approval of the extension request. Reference the page numbers that specifically address the board vote and approval of the extension request option.

Option 6 Authorization Page

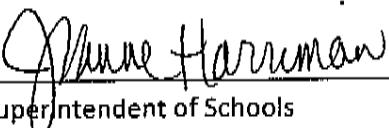
Annually, the SAU will host two site visits from the Maine DOE. During the second site visit which must precede June 1, your SAU will provide evidence of progress and will submit an extension renewal request to the Maine DOE by July 1. This request will include:

- classroom visits
- evidence of progress toward quarterly benchmarks for the year
- goals and quarterly benchmarks for continued progress over the next school year toward the awarding of diplomas based on proficiency of the standards of the eight content areas and the standards of the Guiding Principles
- a budget for use of additional proficiency-based diploma transition funds.
- one of the site visits must include a meeting with the members of the SAU School Board to discuss the development and adoption of policies supporting the awarding of proficiency-based diplomas

We certify that the information contained in the extension application accurately reflects the current status of our implementation of proficiency-based diplomas.

We certify that the criteria for awarding a diploma beginning after July 1, 2020 will be the following criteria from Maine Revised Statutes 20-A §4722-A:

- A. Demonstrate that the student engaged in educational experiences relating to English language arts, mathematics and science and technology in each year of the student's secondary schooling;
- B. Demonstrate proficiency in meeting state standards in all content areas of the system of learning results established under section 6209;
- C. Demonstrate proficiency in each of the Guiding Principles set forth in department rules governing implementation of the system of learning results established pursuant to section 6209; and
- D. Meet any other requirements specified by the governing body of the school administrative unit attended by the student.



 Superintendent of Schools

9/15/14

 Date



 Chair of School Board

9-16-14

 Date

Agenda
RSU #26 Board of Directors Meeting
Orono High School Library
Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 6p.m.

- Jake Eckert, chairperson
- Fran Neubauer, vice chairperson
- Shari Kinnison
- Jenna Mehnert
- Vacant Seat

1. Opening

- A. Call to Order
- B. Agenda Adjustments

2. Executive Sessions

~~_____ A. Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(E) for Consultation Between School Unit and its Attorney – [postponed as of 9/5/14]~~

~~_____ B. Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(D) to consider a teacher's grievance under the collective bargaining agreement with the Riverside Education Association~~

3. Consideration of the Minutes of August 5, 2014

4. Approval of Warrant

- A. Warrant #'s 4 and 5

5. Acknowledgements

6. Public Comment

7. Presentations

- A. Superintendent's Report
- B. Principals' Reports
 - a. Student Enrollment
 - b. Open House
- C. School Resource Officer
- D. Results of Efficiency Maine's Energy Audit in buildings
- E. Supervision and Evaluation – Sharon Brady

8. Discussion Items

- A. Veazie School Request for guaranteed OHS placement
- B. Board Goals and Objectives
- C. Extension Approval for Standards-based Diploma

9. Action Items

- A. Staff Nominations
- B. Emergency Response Plan Approval

Minutes
RSU #26 Board of Directors Meeting
Orono High School Library
Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 6p.m.

- Jake Eckert, chairperson
- Fran Neubauer, vice chairperson
- Shari Kinnison
- Jenna Mehnert
- Vacant Seat

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Jake Eckert called the meeting to order at 6pm.

B. Agenda Adjustments

Item 2 & 14 – Executive Sessions, were postponed.

2. Executive Sessions

~~_____ A. Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(E) for Consultation Between School Unit and its Attorney [postponed as of 9/5/1]~~

~~_____ B. Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(D) to consider a teacher's grievance under the collective bargaining agreement with the Riverside Education Association [postponed as of 9/5/14]~~

3. Consideration of the Minutes of August 5, 2014

Motion: 08-09A-01. Moved by Fran Neubauer and seconded by Jake Eckert to approve the meeting minutes of August 5, 2014 as written. Vote: 4-0

4. Approval of Warrant

A. Warrant #'s 4 and 5

Motion: 08-09A-02. Moved by Shari Kinnison and seconded by Fran Neubauer to approve warrants 4 and 5. Vote: 4-0

5. Acknowledgements

- Joanne Harriman acknowledged T.J. True for his accomplishment in earning his Masters in Education.
- Joanne acknowledged Tracy Deschaine for her work in the University Observation Program.
- Shari Kinnison acknowledged the work being done at the tennis courts. The project has been completed.
- Fran Neubauer thanked all of the staff for getting the school year started.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment

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7. Presentations

A. Superintendent's Report

- The ESP contract has ratified last week by the REA.
- The Town Council has asked for a board member to help interview applicants for the vacant board position on 9/15/14 (Jake to do this).
- Board members asked about the term of an appointee. Ms. Batchelder offered that she remembered a previous board meeting where this was discussed and offered to research it. [The following is an excerpt from the July 20, 2011 RSU 26 School Board of Directors meeting minutes: H. Seating Newly Elected Board Representatives - **Motion: 07-20A-08**. Moved by Julia Hathaway and second by Lisa Buck to seat all newly elected school board representatives in July. Vote 10-0. There was no language in the meeting minutes stating when appointed board members to fill a position would begin their service on the board.]
- Joanne updated the board about Wayne Scott's surgery (successful!) and conveyed his thanks for the flowers the board sent to him.
- PREP has a meeting for school board members on September 23rd at 5:30 pm regarding Proficiency-Based Education.
- Penquis Region Superintendent's are hosting a "meet the candidates night" on Sept. 18th for local legislators.
- The MSMA fall conference for school board members is on October 23 and 24 at the Augusta Civic Center. The deadline for registration is October 10, 2014. Please contact Renee if you would like to attend.
- Joanne updated the board on superintendent agreements in place this year. 41 coming here, 6 going elsewhere. She reviewed the criteria for decisions (best interests of the child) and described how student counts/subsidy works and appeal process.
- Joanne updated the board about Maine Connections Academy charter school, their open enrollment policy, the Orono school budget implications when Orono residents enroll. There are currently 3 students attending a virtual charter school.

B. Principals' Reports

a. Student Enrollment

Orono High School, 351 students

Orono Middle School, 152 students

Asa Adams School, 281 students

Pre-K - 13:1

K - 14:1

Grade 1 - 14:1

Grade 2 - 20:1

Grade 3 - 19:1

Grade 4 - 20:1

Grade 5 - 14:1

b. Open House

Jim Chasse handed out a pie chart of this year's enrollment figures. There are 351 students in the high school. The handout included a flip chart showing enrollment trends. He said the Dean of Students (Samantha Runco) will be working on marketing the school to the sending communities. The Open House for the high school will take place on September 18, 2014. There will be refreshments offered in the cafeteria at that time. There will also be a breakout time for freshmen parents to give them helpful tips on school processes and events, in order to help them with the school's schedule. OHS has 12 students participating in the international program this year and 5 AFS students.

Jeff Paul said the Orono Middle School enrollment is currently 152 students, giving the break down of the number of students in each grade. In addition, Jeff said 22 new students came in to the middle school this year. Some were from families who have moved in and others were from superintendent agreements. The OMS Open House will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2014. There will be time for a question and answer session and the students will serve as guides to their parents. Jeff added that they have already held the school's co-curricular fair and annual sports night. He noted there are currently 100 Orono students participating in 6 activities and 7 students from outside town in which their hometown schools do not offer the programs there are participating in here. Parent laptop information night will be held on Monday, September 15, 2014.

Darcie Fournier said the enrollment is starting at 281 students this year and growing. Grades 2 & 4 are at a student to teacher ratio of 20 to 1. The Asa Adams Open House will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2014 and a flyer will be going home soon to inform parents. Pre-K and Kindergarten already had their open house early before school started this year. It was well attended. Kids get to introduce their families to their teachers. This is a good time for parents to meet the principal and guidance counselor.

C. School Resource Officer

Ed Leskey gave a presentation about his role as the school system's resource officer. His work includes teaching, establishing a presence in the schools, being approachable to students as a law enforcement authority, assisting with school safety and security, crime prevention and crisis planning. In addition he works closely with the principals and expressed how much he loves working in this school system.

D. Results of Efficiency Maine's Energy Audit in buildings

Copies of audits were reviewed by the board regarding last year's free electricity audit completed by Efficiency Maine at Joanne's request. There were suggestions on how the schools could save energy/money. This resulted in a change in the operation of air handlers over the summer. Other recommendations were to turn off lights during off school hours and in areas where janitors were not working, and switching out light bulbs with LED lights.

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E. Supervision and Evaluation – Sharon Brady

Sharon Brady presented a summary of the Supervision and Evaluation work. The group will be meeting throughout the year to refine the evaluation tools.

8. Discussion Items

A. Veazie School Request for guaranteed OHS placement

The Veazie School Committee has requested the Orono School Board consider amending the language in the Veazie Withdrawal Agreement to allow for guaranteed placement at OHS for Veazie students. The current language allows Orono High School to limit the number of students coming from tuition towns if programs are full. There is a safety feature in there for Veazie which stipulates that OHS will accept Veazie even when their program is full but only after the Veazie student demonstrates that they have been refused by all other regional high schools. Board members had concerns that this idea seemed to favor Veazie and not Orono, necessarily. Currently Veazie students have to apply as all other students from sending towns and vie for available positions.

Joanne explained that this may be a time to discuss shared services—Veazie already contracts with the RSU for Special Education Services. The board asked to have the Veazie School Board Chair come to the next Orono board meeting as a way to clearly understand what Veazie is looking for out of this collaboration.

B. Board Goals and Objectives

Joanne reviewed the Board's 2014-15 Goals and Action Steps and gave. Jenna Mehnert stressed that having clear communication with parents and stakeholders and making sure information about activities and deadlines is distributed as widely as possible. Also, keeping the information flowing regularly, so that parents and stakeholders have current information.

C. Extension Approval for Standards-based Diploma



Motion: 08-09A-03. Moved by Jenna Mehnert and seconded by Jake Eckert support and approve submission of an extension for the Standards-based Diploma. Vote: 4-0

9. Action Items

A. Staff Nominations

Motion: 08-09A-04. Moved by Fran Neubauer and seconded by Jake Eckert accept nomination of Jodie Shaw. Vote: 4-0

Motion: 08-09A-05. Moved by Jake Eckert and seconded by Shari Kinnison to approve the slate of co-curricular and extra-curricular appointments (as written below). Vote 3-1 (Opposed: Jenna Mehnert)

Staff Nomination List

Kitchen Manager (combined for both kitchens)
Boys B Soccer
Girls B Soccer

Sarah Trask
Kristen Espling
Brianna Kilgour

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Football Assistant Coach	Adam Gray
Field Hockey Coach	Brieanna Tocci
Cross Country Coach	Chris Libby
OMS Student Council Advisor	Chris Gray
OMS Math Team	Tracey Deschaine
OMS Newspaper	T.J. True
OMS Chess Club	Ryan Tripp
OMS Yearbook	Molly Dalton
OMS Drama	Elaine Bard
OMS Outing Club	Chad Kirkpatrick
Art Club	Julie Anthony

Motion: 08-09A-06. Moved by Jake Eckert and seconded by Shari Kinnison to approve Angela Bowen as part-time (.50 FTE) Spanish teacher at OHS. Vote: 3-0-1 (Abstained: Jenna Mehnert)

B. Emergency Response Plan Approval

Joanne summarized the revisions to the Emergency Response Plan (update of names and phone numbers). There is a more comprehensive revision happening which won't be finished until fall 2015 and includes "after action" plan, and other Maine Emergency Management recommendations.

Motion: 08-09A-07. Moved by Fran Neubauer and seconded Shari Kinnison to approve the emergency response plan as updated. Vote: 4-0

C. Appointment of School Medical Professional

Motion: 08-09A-08. Moved by Jenna Mehnert and seconded by Jake Eckert to approve Dr. Diane Kallen as the school medical professional for the 2014-2015 school year. Vote: 4-0

D. Appointment of Attendance Officers

Motion: 08-09A-09. Moved by Jenna Mehnert and seconded by Shari Kinnison to appoint each principal as the official attendance officers for their schools. Vote: 4-0

10. Subcommittee Reports

There were no reports.

11. Other Business

Jake volunteered to participate with town council to assist in picking a new school board member from the candidates who have applied.

12. Future Agenda Items

A. Jim Chasse will talk about Orono High School SAT results and AP.

B. Student board advisors - Joanne will bring the process for selecting student advisors to the board.

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13. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

14. Executive Session

A. Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(E) Consultation Between School Unit and its Attorney - This item was postponed.

15. Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at the Orono Town Office at 6 p.m.

16. Request for Information and Follow-up

17. Adjournment

Motion: 08-09A-010. Moved by Fran Neubauer and seconded by Shari Kinnison to adjourn the meeting at 8:17p.m. Vote: 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne C. Harriman
Superintendent of Schools

Minutes
RSU #26 Board of Directors Meeting
Orono Town Council Chambers
Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 7p.m.

- Jake Eckert, chairperson
- Fran Neubauer, vice chairperson
- Mark Brewer
- Shari Kinnison
- Jenna Mehnert

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Jake Eckert called the meeting to order at 7p.m.

B. Agenda Adjustments

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

2. Consideration of the Minutes of September 9, 2014 Meeting

 **Motion: 10-07A-01.** Moved by Fran Neubauer and seconded by Jake Eckert to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting. Vote: 4-0-1 (Abstained: Mark Brewer)

3. Approval of Warrant

A. Warrant # 6, Warrant #7

Motion: 10-07A-02. Moved by Fran Neubauer and seconded by Jake Eckert to approve warrants 6 and 7. Vote: 5-0

4. Acknowledgements

There were none.

5. Public Comment

• Lisa Buck – Expressed interest in seeing the school getting involved in the farm to school program. She also commented regarding the board's consideration of amending the Veazie Withdrawal Agreement to consider the past with Veazie and to ask questions about what Veazie might have to offer in return for the guarantee.

6. Presentations

There were no presentations.

7. Discussion Items

A. Discussion of amending Veazie Withdrawal Agreement to guarantee Veazie student placement at OHS – Gavin Batchelder and Rick Lyons

Gavin Batchelder, the Veazie School Board Chairperson and Richard Lyons, the Veazie Superintendent, were in attendance. Gavin spoke to the Orono School Board in regard to Veazie's request for amending the Veazie Withdrawal Agreement. He said the concern is that all of their high school students need to have educational needs met, including special education students who were "not

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able to be accommodated." He said parents would like to know where their children are going to help them adjust from middle school to a high school setting. Gavin said that the Veazie board put out requests to high schools in the area including Orono, asking for a guarantee that all of their high school students would be accepted to their high school over other sending communities.

There were some questions from the Orono Board Members to see what the benefit of this agreement would have for Orono, where Veazie intends to maintain their school choice option. Joanne Harriman said that OHS would benefit from the tuition revenue that would be brought in by Veazie students. She added that OHS depends on all tuition students to maintain current levels of programming and services. OHS recruits students from Veazie and other towns and cannot afford to turn them away. The board will consider the request from Veazie and make a decision whether to submit a proposal to provide this guarantee to Veazie at the October 21, 2014 Orono School Board Meeting.

8. Action Items

A. Staff Nominations

Motion: 10-07A-03. Moved by Jake Eckert and seconded by Shari Kinnison to approve the staff nominations for co-curricular stipends as presented (or amended). Vote: 5-0

B. Process of Selection for Student Board Advisors

Joanne presented a Process for Selecting Student Board Advisors that was a blend of the Maine Board of Education's process and the draft that Shari Kinnison had sent.

Jenna thought the process was problematic. She did not like that students needed three teacher recommendations and would instead like recommendations from peers. She also thought there did not need to be a guidance counselor or principal support letter, she explained she thought this was irrelevant. Shari believed that students needed to be in good standing, needed to focus on studies and that "good standing" means different things to different people. Mark expressed that "good standing" was well defined in our schools. Shari said we needed someone to be motivated to do the work. Jenna did not want principal or guidance selecting advisors. Shari said she would like students to be selected by their peers but recognized that this was a lot of work for the student body. Fran expressed that this process needed to be fair to all students. Ends up same students are doing everything and others end up shying away from it. We need to open it up to all. Mark would like principals impression or evaluation – want something that would give the principals impressions on the students. Shari felt it was important to have a statement from guidance – it should be similar to co-curricular standards. Jenna felt strongly about having a spot open for both a male and female student. Shari felt we should put it out there and see who applies. Mark opposed using a quota system to fill the spots.

Joanne will revise and bring it back to next meeting for approval.

C. Update on the athletic complex fund raising campaign – Jim Chasse

Overview: Jim grad students from UMaine – growing issue with drainage, safety, parking – pulled together people to work on this. Tennis court has been completed. Jim shared a handout of the committee structure for the continued work on the Athletic Complex project and explained the process.

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Joanne is on the planning an engineering group developing an RFP for the project. Jenna is on the capital campaign group developing an initial giving platform that will be expanded as the project progresses.

Motion: 10-07A-04. Moved by Jenna Mehnert and seconded by Mark Brewer that the board resolve to support the athletic complex funding raising campaign. Vote: 5-0

D. Special Budget Meeting for Capital Reserve Funds – Lynn and Joanne

D1. Call a Special District Meeting for the Purpose of Allocating Capital Reserve Funds

There is a need to have a special district meeting for approving more funds out of the Capital Reserve. The final cost of the tennis courts came in \$27,680 higher than anticipated. We have the funds in the Capital Reserve but we need voter approval to spend additional funds from this account. We also need voters to approve \$30,000 to hire a firm to conduct the site analysis and to get the fundraising mechanism running.

Motion: 10-07A-05. Moved by Jenna Mehnert and seconded by Jake Eckert that the board call a Special District Meeting on October 21, 2014 at 6p.m. for the Purpose of Allocating Capital Reserve Funds. Vote: 5-0

D2. Approve Capital Reserve Warrant Articles

Motion: 10-07A-06. Moved by Jake Eckert and seconded by Fran Neubauer that the board approve the warrant articles in the form presented at this meeting for the Special District Meeting called for October 21, 2014. Vote: 5-0

9. Subcommittee Reports

There were none.

10. Other Business

There was none.

11. Future Agenda Items

1. Tuesday, October 21, 2014 Review of Policy Sections A, C and D
2. Bus tallies – Joanne to create parent survey
3. Jim – assessments for the high school

12. Public Comment

Lisa Buck – right now you have choice. I'm concerned that if you make a guarantee you will give up that choice.

Jim Chasse – Jim cautioned the board against entering into guarantee for Veazie students. Currently the acceptance of students is based on available slots. He feels obligated to all student, but clearly Orono students. Makes nervous to give guarantees to any one town and he live in Veazie.

13. Executive Session: pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(D) Public Employer and its Negotiators

Motion: 10-07A-07. Moved by Jenna Mehnert and seconded by Jacob Eckert to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (D) Public Employer and its Negotiators. Vote: 5-0

The board entered Executive Session at 8:04pm
The board came out of Executive Session at 8:55pm

Motion: 10-07A-08. Moved by Jacob Eckert and seconded by Mark Brewer that the Board ratify the Tentative Agreement reached between the RSU 26 Board negotiators and the Riverside Education Association and to authorize the Board Chair to enter into agreement for a successor collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the RSU 26 Board once the execution copy of the agreement has been prepared and proofed. Vote: 4-1 (Jenna Mehnert against).

Jenna Mehnert said she was opposed to step system of pay increases for teachers and favored the merit pay system. She believes that we should not reward longevity, but performance.

Jenna Mehnert excused herself from the meeting at 9:00p.m.

14. Executive Session: pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A) Compensation of Employees/Officials

Motion: 10-07A-09. Moved by Jacob Eckert and seconded by Fran Neubauer to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)(A) Compensation of Employees/Officials Vote: 4-0

The board entered Executive Session at 9:05pm
The board came out of Executive Session at 9:25pm

15. Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at the Orono High School Library at 6p.m.

16. Request for Information and Follow-up

17. Adjournment

Motion: 10-07A-10. Moved by Jacob Eckert and seconded by Mark Brewer to adjourn the meeting at 9:30p.m. Vote: 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Harriman
Superintendent