

Oyster River Cooperative School District

February 1, 2017

Oyster River High School

6:30 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Tom Newkirk, Denise Day, Sarah Farwell, Dan Klein, Kenny Rotner, Maria Barth, Al Howland, and Student Representative Troy LaPolice

ADMINISTRATORS: Superintendent Dr. James Morse, Sue Caswell, Todd Allen, Suzanne Filippone, Heather Machanoff, Jay Richard, Dennis Harrington, Catherine Plourde,

There was nine members of the public present

I. CALL TO ORDER:

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Manifest reviewed and signed.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Payroll Manifest #16: \$1,213,441.67

Vendor Manifest #17: \$167,891.37

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Revisions:

A field trip request to be put at the beginning of the meeting.

There is a letter from Todd Selig on the changes of retirement contributions that will be in Board Actions.

We need to tentatively schedule a meeting for after the Deliberative Session in Board Actions

Graduation Policy to be placed on top of the Board Actions

Denise Day moved to approve the agenda with the above revisions, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Michael Williams, a candidate for School Board, wanted to address the petition warrant article. He thinks that there will be a lot of interest in amendments at the Deliberative Meeting.

Robert Barth a resident of Lee who is a physician and former ORYA Coach. He objects to his tax dollars paying for high school football. He cited studies of

long term damage later in life and is against high school football being approved in the District.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve January 11, 2017 Public Budget Minutes, January 18, 2017 regular and nonpublic meeting minutes.

January 11, 2017 Public Budget Minutes: Denise Day moved to approve the Public Budget Minutes of January 11, 2017 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0.

January 18th Regular Minutes: Revision Page 2 Paragraph 4: Replace “Al Howland shared a letter” with “Al Howland informed the Board of a letter”

Page 6: Kenny Rotner talked to the Board about the nominee who has put forward to be the Secretary of Education. He does not believe that she supports public education. In a nonpartisan way, he feels that Betsy DeVos would be inappropriate to be the Secretary of Education, a position that should advocate for all students and support public education.

Page 5 paragraph 6 insert at end of Maria’s sentence: Maria Barth knows that there are consulting firms that can accurately predict the total amount that can be raised in the District.

Denise Day moved to approve the January 18th regular meeting minutes with the above revisions, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

January 18th nonpublic meeting minutes: Denise Day moved to approve the nonpublic meeting minutes of January 18, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS:

A. District:

Suzanne Filippone announced tomorrow evening at 6:30 is the 8th grade parent night at the high school. This Friday is opening up registration for next year. Suzanne also added that the NEASC visit is coming up in March.

Shawn Kelly and Andrea Staples talked about the proposed High School Field Trip for Mouth of the River. There will be twelve students attending New York March 15 – 17. **Al Howland moved to approve the English Field Trip March 15 – 17th to Columbia University, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

Field Trip for Orchestra and Music Program to All State in Concord: There are seven students who qualified. **Al Howland moved to approve the All State Field Trip for the qualifying students from March 30th - , 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

Carrie Vaich of Mast Way announced two upcoming PTO events: Friday night is a girls night out event and all are welcome to enjoy night of games and fun. Next Thursday is a PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m. They would love to see some new faces! They are celebrating Chinese New Year in the Library at Mast Way.

B. Board: Maria Barth is so excited about Durham trying to become a bee city. This is great because it has a more environmental program.

Denise Day commended the 8th grade renaissance team that did a great job at the guitar and writing concert. The students did an outstanding job. It was very creative.

Kenny Rotner noted that the floors in the high school look great and wants to acknowledge the staff responsible for doing an incredible job maintaining the floors. They are spotless and look great.

Tom Newkirk reviewed who was presenting the Warrant Articles at the Deliberative Session:

Warrant Article 3: Tom Newkirk
Warrant Article 4: Denise Day

Warrant Article 5: Maria Barth
Warrant Article 6: Sarah Farwell
Warrant Article 7: Al Howland
Citizen's Petition 8 They will decide how to move forward

Sarah Farwell thanked all elementary staff for a great job on the progress reports. They are definitely appreciated.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report: Todd Allen thanked Sue Johnson for all her work behind the scenes helping with the elementary progress reports. They have one completed sabbatical form and will need a representative from the School Board for the committee. Kenny Rotner has volunteered to represent the Board.

B. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Morse attended the Town of Lee meeting and previewed the Budget for them. It was a positive meeting. He also attended the high school concert and it was magnificent. The 8th grade concert was really cool. It was pure engagement and joy.

There is a budget power point in the Board's packet. Superintendent Morse asked the Board to review their warrant and ask him or Sue Caswell if they have any questions.

C. Business Administrator: Sue Caswell reported that the budget is trending on track.

D. Student Senate Report: Student Representative Troy LaPolice reported that they have just concluded mid-term and finals. As a Senate they are moving towards creating an earth day style event in the spring before vacation for the whole student body to become engaged.

E. Middle School Competencies: Aaron Ward, Diane Pelletier, Jason Demers, Alida Carter, Andrea Lawrence, Lynn Ellsworth, and Jason Duff presented the Middle School Competencies to the Board:

Key Terms

Competency: an overarching concept that encompasses multiple learning standards which are interconnected. These are developed by each grade level for each discipline.

Standard: A non-negotiable measurable learning objective that gives instruction. Three content specific standards have been developed either at the state or national level.

Habits of Learning: A set of work habits and behaviors on which lifelong success is built reported separately.

Traditional vs Competency Based Grading:

Traditional Grading:

One grade sums up achievement in a subject and often includes effort and behavior. Formative and summative assessments, classwork, homework and extra credit are averaged together to determine a final grade.

Misconception at times: Students are either high achievers or low achievers. Students are sometimes moved to the next topic without mastery.

Content subject matter is the focus of instruction and assessments.

Quality of student work is assessed by teachers using their own individual criteria.

Competency Based:

A grade sums up achievement on a competency. There are several grades per subject per competency. Effort and behavior are reported separately. Final grades are strictly a transparent reflection of a student's current learning of what they know and are able to do.

Overarching skills and concepts are the focus of instruction and assessments.

Quality of student work is assessed by teachers using publicly known criteria derived from content standards. The focus is also on teacher collaboration.

Competency Based Learning Benefits:

All students clearly show their understanding of concepts/skills.

Clearly defined competencies and student progress for students, parents, and teachers.

Students are learning more with CBL.

Focus is on reflection of concepts learned instead of points earned.

Students take ownership of their learning.
Common rubrics are used on every math summative assessment.

They detailed a rubric sampling. Designing rubrics without points but with qualitative analysis. This allows conversations for goals for learning. This allows to more personalized learning. They also presented to the Board what reporting will look like.

This team has done many surveys with the staff at the Middle School to make certain they were included. It is an exciting process that has brought the school together.

A big aspect of making this work is make RTI Time to provide enrichment or competency recovery for students. This needs to be part of the schedule. The schedule needs to be streamlined a little to make this happen. Jay Richard also discussed WIND (What I Need) Time which might also be students working on standards for the upcoming year. It meets all students' needs. They need to keep in mind how to meet the needs of students while organizing them in a meaningful way.

Sarah Farwell feels that communication with parents is going to be very key. Once the RTI begins it will potentially be time intensive. This communication will help them to understand all the work they are doing. Feedback will be very important from both students and parents.

Al Howland asked how it will be implemented in the fall of 2017. We keep adding more things into the schedule and need to see how we can make the day more effective.

Tom Newkirk noted the energy to write that much narrative for each student. The longer narratives would be for students that either don't meet or exceeds meets.

Superintendent Morse detailed that the goal is to have two additional presentations to the School Board. They will be ready to make a recommendation to the Board at that point to prepare for the fall.

Tom Newkirk asked about grading at the fifth grade level. Currently K-5 is using standards based reporting.

Jay Richard appreciates all the work and leadership that his staff is accomplishing. Newmarket and Barrington have come in to see how they are evolving with the competency based system and they have had many other inquiries from other schools that are interested.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Don Maynard, John Morin, and Emily Rogers from the PE Department at the high school level talked about not reducing the PE credit for graduation from 1.5 to 1. They have a lot of thoughts on electives or mentor programs that could be tied to that half credit. Tom Newkirk thinks that one idea would be to create a series of electives for students to take. This is a community of kids that are very physically active and high participation in sports.

The teachers have a concern that students would be mixed by grade levels. Their facility is not in any current condition to offer a weight room or weight conditioning elective. Emily Rogers talked about the VLACs online PE option. They created an Oyster River online course and she would run it through google classroom style. This was an alternative for students who could not fit PE into their schedule. They were learning about both team and individual sports.

Superintendent Morse discussed that the program has not had any investment in a long time. Building a five year strategic program for the Department is needed.

Denise Day feels that it make more sense to postpone and revisit this next year. Superintendent Morse mentioned the issue for the master schedule is pretty powerful and with the increase in student population we would not be able to contain the status quo and have PE for freshman and sophomore year. Their ideal situation would be to have the freshman for one year and then have them fit the remaining semester in over the next three years. If they have freshman all year long then Health is not an option until sophomore year.

Todd Allen discussed that the goal is to create a personal choice for their students. It is ideal to have their schedules cleared up by Junior and Senior year to allow them ELO experiences.

Al Howland understands by shifting to the ELO model there will be growing pains at the high school.

Al Howland moved to approve Policy IKF graduation requirement for adoption, 2nd by Sarah Farwell. Denise Day feels we need to look at facilities and make that a priority for next year. Sarah Farwell and Dan Klein does not think we should be putting this on the next board for taking on the strategic plan for the facilities. **The motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative opposing.**

VIII. ACTIONS

A. Superintendent Action Items: None

B: Board Action Items:

Motion to approve 2017-18 School Calendar: Todd Allen reported that the Kindergarten teachers felt strongly to have Kindergarten students start on the second day. Sarah Farwell thinks that should be looked at and maybe have them start on the same day.

Denise Day moved to approve the 2017-18 School Calendar as proposed, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion to support letter on state funding to building schools: Al Howland moved to authorize the Superintendent to send a letter to restart the building aid funding to the governor state senators, house and education committee, 2nd by Maria Barth. Motion passed 7-0.

Kenny Rotner moved to authorize the Board to support House Bill 413, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion on Communication Committee Drafted Response for Board's position on Football:

The Board had a discussion on their position on Warrant 8 – authorizing football at the high school. Kenny Rotner is against football in the high school

because of the health issues and he cannot support the Board's position without health included. Al Howland suggested having a physician explain the health piece that it is more than concussions. Tom Newkirk said the Board has never investigated the health piece. Denise Day suggested removing number 5 because it would question unfairness about field use. Sarah feels that number 5 is important because they would need to rent fields to accommodate all sports and the cost piece needs to be included. She struggles whether the medical is the decision of the Board. Maria would have a hard time supporting this without a medical piece included. One of the Boards' goals is mental health and wellness.

The health piece is crucial because it justifies why football isn't valid as a sport at the high school.

Eliminating 5 and move cost of fields to 3. Dan Klein said we did not do a deep dive into health issues and we focused on impact to current programs and resources.

Al Howland suggested including: The Board has concerns with the increasing number studies pointing out the health risks of football.

Al Howland moved to include as number five: The Board has concerns with the increasing number studies pointing out the health risks of football. 2nd by Tom Newkirk. Motion passed 7-0.

Board Position on Warrant 8 Authorizing Football at Oyster River High School:

The ORCSD School Board voted unanimously not to recommend support of this warrant.

The Board considered football at length in 2013 and chose not to support the program then. The issues today are the same as in 2013.

1. Title IX: Title IX was created to provide equity of opportunity between male and female athletes. Currently the Board is in compliance with the federal law. Since football is a predominantly male sport, creating a football team would place the District out of compliance. This means the District would have to eliminate some current boys' sports or add girls' sports. If sports are added, that would involve incurring costs not reflected in this warrant.

2. Policy: The warrant is not compliant with Board Policy JJIF which requires a sport to go through a formal adoption process. This process examines: cost, facilities, student interest, the feeder system, compliance with federal law, and other factors. The vetting is essential for the effective establishment of a sport.

3. Cost: The Board believes that the warrant understates the cost of a football program for the District. Athletic Director Corey Parker estimates the start-up costs would be \$62,000, a sum that would recur about every five years as equipment is replaced. This warrant raises no new revenue, and even assuming the fundraising and parent contributions are as indicated, significant funds will have to be diverted from other parts of the budget.

Furthermore, associated costs are not considered. A football program requires storage areas for equipment, uniforms, helmets, and padding. Current programs use all of the available storage in the school. Additional storage would have to be built or rented.

4. Stability: The warrant proposes a football program, to be supported almost entirely through fundraising and pay-for-play contributions. The Board questions how sustainable this model will be in the future. If fundraising falters, the district will have to come up with funds to maintain the program. Programs in comparable schools cover the considerable core costs of football, and we would anticipate the same would be necessary at ORHS.

5. Health: The Board has concerns with the increasing number of studies pointing out the health risks of football.

The Board appreciates that the advocates of a football program believe in the sport and want it as an option at ORCSD. However, for the reasons stated above, the Board does not believe this warrant should be approved.

This will be printed and read at the deliberative session.

Denise Day moved to add an additional meeting at end of the Deliberative Session, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Maria Barth attended the NH School Board Association. There are going to be some changes in the staff. The first presentation was from Hooksett K-8 and they won a state award from the association for being innovative. They have consolidated their sports program which pairs regular students with special needs students for sportsmanship. They also had a presentation on planning and student empathy map which makes sure parents students and teachers feel about changes. Also attended a session on non-public meetings and the laws have changed. We can now go into non meeting to read legal advice by letter. Any vote in nonpublic session needs to be done by roll call vote. PDF archival format is now allowed. Our resolution about background checks passed. The resolution on guns did not pass.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:

A. Future Meeting Dates: 2/6/17 Superintendent with Madbury Board
 2/7/17 Annual Meeting Session I

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and (c)

- Negotiate Superintendent Contract/Evaluation
- Student Matter

Kenny Rotner moved to enter into nonpublic session at 10:05 p.m. to discuss a student matter, 2nd by Dan Klein. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Morse left the nonpublic session at 10:10 PM.

By general consensus the Board agreed to re-enter public session at 10:11 pm.

Kenny Rotner moved to enter into nonpublic session at 10:13 p.m. to discuss the superintendent contract/evaluation, 2nd by Dan Klein. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.

By general consensus the Board agreed to re-enter public session at 10:30 pm.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Maria Barth made a motion to adjourn at 10:32 p.m. 2nd by Sarah Farwell. Motion Passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary