

**Oyster River Cooperative School District**  
**Regular Meeting – (REVISED- 3/4/14)**

**February 11, 2015**

**Oyster River High School**

**7:00 pm**

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Tom Newkirk, Al Howland, Kenny Rotner, Denise Day, Maria Barth, Sarah Farwell and Student Representative Maegan Doody  
Not Present: Ed Charle

ADMINISTRATORS: Superintendent James Morse, Sue Caswell, Todd Allen, Jay Richard, Dennis Harrington, Carrie Vaich, Carolyn Eastman and Catherine Plourde

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** By Tom Newkirk at 7:00 p.m.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Robert Barth of Lee does not support an artificial turf on the proposed athletic fields. He cited many resources that support his concerns. He respectfully asked the School Board to consider other options, to fully involve the Sustainability Committee,

Kim Clarke of Durham spoke about the Warrant Article for the Track and Field. She is concerned about the safety of the students and is in support of this initiative.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion to approve 1/21/15 Regular and nonpublic minutes:**

Revisions:

Remove Sue Caswell's name on page 1.

Warrant Article III Page 7 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph remove the "the school board recommends these motions".

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve the January 21<sup>st</sup> minutes with the above revisions, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion approved 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Nonpublic minutes: Denise Day moved to approve the nonpublic minutes of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kenny Rotner. Motion approved 6-0.**

**Approval of Manifests:**

Payroll Manifest #17: \$1,257,961.47 Vendor Manifest #16: \$625,642.12

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMENDATIONS**

**A. District:** Todd Allen of the High School distributed a copy of the Mouth of the River to each School Board member. This is an exceptional edition. He encouraged everyone to read it. He also thanked the custodial staff for all their hard work with the recent snow storms.

Dennis Harrington of Moharimet also commended the custodial staff for all their efforts. It is really appreciated. He also recognized the PTO for the Winter Carnival. It was a great time.

Carrie Vaich of Mast Way reported that they took part in the nationwide kindness challenge and the kids did a great job. Thursday evening will be the PTO meeting and she welcomed everyone to join them. Read Across America will be next week.

**Board:** Kenny Rotner recognized Wendy DiFruscio for all her hard work that she does. He would like a presentation that details nuances of the budget process. This would include an explanation of the formula that divides the budget among the three towns and how state funding is derived, how Durham's TIF influences the aforementioned formula and what Durham's considerable new development will do to tax rates in the towns. Kenny was concerned how the picking up of middle school students by parents spills out into the community. The idling of cars and the decreased usage of the bus service are both against our sustainability priorities. He thought it important to understand why this is occurring.

Maria Barth commended everyone involved in the mental health curriculum in the District.

#### **V. DISTRICT REPORTS**

**Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Morse reported that there is a snow removal plan for the roofs of the schools.

**Budget Update:** Sue Caswell reviewed the current budget to date. Superintendent Morse added that they are running a tight budget at this point.

**Student Senate Report:** Maegan Doody reported that they are looking ahead to next year's spirit week and what they can improve on to make it a more effective event.

## **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Elementary Strategic Plan:**

Superintendent Morse reported that the conversations with both staffs were outstanding and the elementary strategic planning committee will be reviewing it and reporting to the Board in March.

**RFP Athletic Field Proposal:** Superintendent Morse talked about the RFP Athletic Field Proposal. They wanted it in order and ready to go in preparation of an affirmative vote by the District. Maria Barth is very concerned about the tire crumb rubber that is proposed in the field proposal. There was a board discussion about the warrant article that is on the table with a certain amount of dollars. The Board discussed looking at alternatives that are available for the same proposed funding.

## **VII. BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT ACTIONS:**

**Motion to approve ORHS Overnight Field Trip – Robotics March 6 – 8, 2015. Kenny Rotner moved to approve the ORHS Overnight Field Trip for Robotics March 6 - 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

## **VIII. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

Al Howland reported that there was a Communication Committee meeting earlier this evening. They are trying to get out the accurate information out on the Athletic Fields Project to as many people as possible.

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Robert Barth watched a presentation from December that was discussing the proposed fields and he noted that crumb rubber was not even mentioned. The composition of the field was never mentioned until he brought it up at the Deliberative Session.

## **X. CLOSING ACTIONS**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:** 2/18/15 Manifest Review  
2/17/15 Candidates Night

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Tom Newkirk mentioned that according to Policy they need to do a self-evaluation.

**Kenny Rotner moved to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Superintendent Evaluation, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**At 9:11 PM, Maria Barth made a motion to return to public session, seconded by Kenny Rotner. The motion passed 6-0.**

At 9:13 PM Kenny Rotner and Maria Barth left the meeting and the manifest review began.

**At 9:25 PM Denise Day made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sarah Farwell. Motion passed 4-0.**

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson  
Recording Secretary