

# Oyster River Cooperative School District Board Meeting

## Regular Meeting (REVISED 5/6/15)

April 15, 2015

Oyster River High School

6:30 pm

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** by Tom Newkirk at 6:30 for Manifest Review

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

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

There were twelve members of the public present.

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Dr. Glutting, a Durham resident, spoke in support of exploring the later start times at the high school.

Dr. Malone, a Lee resident, is in favor of the proposed shifting of school start times.

Tom Newkirk commended Alexander Taylor for all his work setting up this meeting in the library.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve 3/31 Training Minutes and 4/1 regular meeting minutes.**

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve the March 31 Training Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0.**

### **April 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Minutes:**

Page 3 Section VI Insert the committee assignments in the motion.

**Denise Day moved to approve the April 1<sup>st</sup> minutes with the above amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion approved 7-0.**

**Barrington Update: Superintendent Gail Kushner:** Gail Kushner gave an update on the Barrington students attending Oyster River High School. She reported that there are currently 83 students in the Oyster River System. They are projecting 98 students for next year at Oyster River. They are on track for

the registration process. They discussed with the Board working with the Curriculum Coordinators to make sure that they are aligned with the different schools that Barrington students attend.

A Barrington resident who is a junior at Oyster River High School spoke about how positive his experience has been.

Superintendent Morse commended Superintendent Kushner who has been great working with in making this agreement very smooth.

**APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:**

Vendor Manifest: #21: \$249,390.75

Payroll Manifest: #22: \$858,280.23

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS:**

**A. District:** Todd Allen noted that the cultural assimilation of the Barrington students has been very smooth.

He mentioned that there was an issue that was brought up about the shortage of copies of A Kill A Mockingbird. This is a misperception and there is more than enough copies of this book.

Todd also announced that grades closed last week and they will be available online this Friday.

Carolyn Eastman reported that the second season of the summer enrichment program is now online. She commended the staff involved with organizing the 58 camps that will be available this summer.

Jay Richard of the Middle School announced that Professor Sharma has been the best professional mathematics in his experience. They are headed to the Washing DC trip next week with 108 eighth graders.

Carrie Vaich thanked the PTO for coordinating a great staff luncheon today. It was appreciated. She congratulated the third graders who performed Freedom Bound. They did a great job. The fourth graders will be presenting Honk next week.

Catherine Plourde Director of Student Services discussed offering different technology tools to students.

Dennis Harrington of Moharimet announced that the Pancake Breakfast is this Saturday.

**Board:** Denise Day mentioned the “How to Keep Our Lives Healthy Balanced Forum” that was offered at the high school was excellent.

Kenny Rotner commended the Environmental Services class for all their hard work. The Todd’s Trot event was excellent and it optimized community involvement and spirit.

Sarah Farwell thanked Carolyn Eastman for bringing in Professor Sharma for the Math Developmental Services.

Al Howland noted that the Middle School Play was very well done. It has been a great experience watching these students grow.

Dan Klein commended Pam Felber for getting the students prepared for a great performance and they had a great time as well.

## **V. DISTRICT REPORTS**

### **A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Reports**

Carolyn Eastman gave the Board an update on the various committees that have been meeting. She reported that the Professional Growth Committee put out a survey asking for their developmental needs.

The Math Committee will be making a decision on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This process has created a great dialogue on great mathematics.

The Social Emotional committee is being formed and will begin working on their goals.

### **B. Superintendent’s Report:**

Superintendent Morse commended Alexander Taylor for all his work in putting together this meeting. The May meetings will be at Mast Way and Moharimet and he thanked him for all his hard work in coordinating this effort.

Tom Newkirk appointed Kenny Rotner as the Board member on the Athletics Fields Committee.

### Cinco De Mayo

Superintendent Morse introduced Chief David Kurz of the Durham Police Department and the unique situation that they have been dealing with. Last

year there were 3000 students at UNH celebrating Cinco de Mayo. The Middle School sits in the middle of Fraternity Row.

Recommendations for Cinco De Mayo:

Redo Durham bus routes to minimize bus going downtown and have a police escort if necessary for that bus to be assisted in moving through town.

Reroute all Durham buses to move toward the high school.

No late buses for the middle and high school on Monday and Tuesday.

Release ORMS and ORHS students fifteen minutes early in order to account for the change in bus routes noted above.

No open campus at ORHS on Monday or Tuesday so our students are not driving to town.

Ask parents to allow walking students to ride the bus.

Encourage parents to allow their child who are normally picked up to ride home on the bus Monday and Tuesday.

Continue to refine this plan with faculty and town input.

Long term continue to work with UNH to address their calendar in order to mitigate the free time UNH students have to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

They plan on communicating these actions multiple times.

Kenny Rotner would love the School Board to propose to President Huddleston their plans and to suggest that they provide entertainment. Superintendent Morse noted that President Huddleston is aware of their plans and plans to bring it up with the Faculty Senate.

**C. Business Administrator:** Sue Caswell shared with the Board recognition they received for energy savings from the EPA for their pledge for low carbon IT campaign. They were also recognized by Eversource for their lighting at the high school.

**D. Student Senate Report:** Caroline Wilson reported that the student senate is meeting with Principal Allen on their proposal for open campus.

**Start Time Report:** Jeannie Sowers and Erin Sharp presented the School Start Time Working Group Presentation:

Working Group:

Superintendent Morse asked ORMS and ORHS Principals for informal working group:

Response to summer 2014 parent letter

Long standing concern: Wellness Committee Letter from 2009, signed by MOH  
Wellness Committee Chair, members of the committee, and concerned teachers, parents and councilors.

Working Group Process:

Assessed current state of research and findings on adolescent sleep, educational attainment, and physical/emotional health.

Reviewed prior work done by ORCSD in 2010/11.

Assessed what other districts have done – how did they address common concerns? What worked?

Identified preliminary options for start times

Coordinated with ORCSD transportation to explore possibilities.

Adolescents are sleep deprived:

70% of teens found to be sleep deprived

40% of teens get 6 or fewer hours of sleep/night

20% sleep in class

ORCSD Transportation system: constraints and opportunities;

ORCSD transportation system provides:

Door to door elementary school pickups.

Middle and high school are clustered pick-ups with some walking.

Kindergarten AM and PM.

Pre-school program

Late buses, athletic buses, activity buses

Working Group General Conclusions:

Early start times at ORMS and ORHS are detrimental to student health, academic performance, athletic and artistic achievements, and emotional wellbeing

The evidence that later school start times benefit adolescents is compelling and substantial.

Change is difficult and requires leadership from the School Board, from district administrators, and from parents.

Community outreach is important. Can be more constructive when focused on specific proposals, so that costs and benefits can be adequately shared and discussed.

Working Group Specific Recommendations:

- 1 Adopt later start times at ORMS and ORHS as a key priority for this year.
- 2 Authorize transportation study to see how bus schedules and later start times can work and why ridership is so low right now.
- 3 Work in consultation with administration, teachers, staff, athletics, and other extracurricular providers to resolve any scheduling concerns.
- 4 Once a feasible option is complete, reach out to the community for feedback.

Denise Day said that it would be important to gather as much information as possible regarding the impact on students, staff and parents before making a decision.

The Board had a dialogue with the presenters and thanked them for all their work in preparing this report.

#### **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Licensing Agreement: Sue Caswell presented the agreement for approval.

**Kenny Rotner moved to authorize the Board chair to sign the Sullivan property licensing agreement, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maria Barth. Motion passed 7-0.**

#### **School Board Policy Review for BBAA-SB Member Authority and BDF**

**Advisory Committees to the Policy Committee:** Tom Newkirk is suggesting that the Policy Committee review and revise these as necessary. It is not clear from the Policy how they are categorized.

**Maria Barth moved to have the Policy Committee review and revise these policies as necessary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.**

#### **VII. ACTIONS:**

**Motion to Nominate and Approve Non-Tenured Professional staff.**

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve the non-tenured staff members as submitted by the Superintendent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.**

#### **Motion to approve list of Policies:**

Policy IHAE                      Physical Education

Policy IHAMA                    Teaching about alcohol, drugs, tobacco and other  
abused substances

|              |                                       |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Policy JIHD  | Student Interviews and Interrogations |
| Policy JICI  | Weapons on School Property            |
| Policy ILBAA | High School Competencies              |
| Policy IIB   | Class Size                            |

**Denise Day moved to approve Policies IHAE, IHAMA, JIHD, JICI, ILBAA, and IIB for a first reading, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kenny Rotner. Motion passed 7-0.**

**VIII. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

Tom Newkirk nominated Ruth McDonald and Corinna Tucker to the End 68 Hours of Hunger Committee.

**Maria Barth moved to appoint Ruth McDonald and Corinna Tucker to the End 68 Hours of Hunger Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kenny Rotner. Motion approved 7-0.**

Maria Barth reported that the End 68 Hours of Hunger Committee met last week. They expressed their thanks to all those who have supported this. They have revised their list of food that they are looking for to improve quality. There are now food pantries in both the middle school and high school.

Superintendent Morse, Maria Barth and Kenny Rotner attended a webinar how a school district used a program to back up traditional methods of communicating. This particular program is designed to be a supplement as a way to reach out to the residents of the towns using both traditional and nontraditional methods. He is having follow up conversations with them next week to see how it could help the District as a broad tool to help engage the community with the Athletic Fields, and in the future the Middle School Building.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Dean Rubine of Lee is suggesting a five year plan to raise a certain amount of revenue for the Fields each year which would only require a 50% vote and make it easier to pass. 60% is a hard number to reach.

Jennifer Lyon of Lee thanked part of the working group that presented to the Board tonight. She is hopeful that the District can come to a solution.

**X. CLOSING ACTIONS**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:** May 6 and May 20 Regular Meetings

**XI. NON-PUBLIC/NON-MEETING SESSION:** None.

Tom Newkirk would like to propose a Board goal work shop in May. Wendy will survey the Board members to see what date will accommodate everyone's schedule.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Maria Barth moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion approved unanimously.**

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson  
Recording Secretary