

Oyster River Cooperative School District  
School Board Workshop Meeting Minutes - Draft  
May 14, 2015 - REVISED  
Oyster River High School C120

Administrators Present:

Dr. James Morse, Superintendent  
William Sullivan, Asst. Principal - ORMS

Steve Blatt, Architect

School Board Member Present:

Tom Newkirk, Al Howland, Kenneth Rotner, Sarah Farwell, Denise Day, Maria Barth,  
Daniel Klein

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM – Declared quorum.

Tom explained that this meeting was to prepare us for the May 20<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting pertaining to School Board Goals, both the current and proposed, and a status update on the middle school.

Steve Blatt, Architect provided the Board with a presentation to update them on their work with the staff, community members and Jim Rozycki, Facilities Director. Steve stated the middle school is in the aggregate the oldest, most added-on-to, and most tired of your inventory of facilities. Steve also stated that 9 additions have been added to the existing middle school building from 1925 – 1996.

*A review of the 2011 Facilities and Program Analysis done by Davis Goudreau Architects was used as a resource. Through this report Goudreau documented that:*

- *Scope and projected cost of repairs and/or replacement to systems; the building envelope, including doors, windows, insulation and roofing are all obsolete and inefficient.*
- *Configuration of the building has evolved to the point where it has become sprawling (1,500' of corridor, 60,000 s.f. of roof) and not supportive of general accepted middle school concepts....*
- *From programmatic, physical plant, and site configuration perspectives, we feel that the existing building should not be further expanded nor modified in a piecemeal manner.*

Steve Blatt noted that the 1,500' of corridor which has 60,000 square feet of roof is where heat leaves especially in an old building. It is noisy and also used as space for teaching music.

Academic Grade Level:

- Teams are not together – No team neighborhood.
- Not a good placement of student services.
  
- Site is barely 2/3<sup>rd</sup> the size recommended by NH – 11 acres vs. 17 acres.
- One way streets, conflicts with buses, vehicle traffic.
- Traffic patterns – noisy to all.

Program Space:

- Current program space is 74,770 s.f which for 680 students (current 5-8 enrollment) yields 110 s.f per student. Experience for designing middle school facilities has led us to determining 150 s.f. per student is appropriate standard
- Which in this case translates to a program space of 102,000 s.f. approximately 33% more than currently provided.
- Forecasted decrease in enrollment would not change that the existing facility would still be significantly smaller than the norm. The number of classrooms would remain the same, and core space such as the gymnasium, library, cafeteria/kitchen, music and art spaces would not significantly decrease in size.

More prominent deficiencies are:

- Recommended class size is (900 s.f.) is met by only 55% of the current classrooms. Of the 20 small classrooms, 7 measure under 700 s.f. roughly 25% smaller than recommended.
- Music space (both band & Chorus) occupies 2,800 s.f. which is significantly less than the norm of 4,100 s.f for this student population. Chronic lack of instrument storage space and practice rooms, causing corridors to be used for both functions. Acoustic interruption throughout the school when practice occurs.
- Gymnasium currently 6,230 s.f cannot accommodate two simultaneous P.E. classes need to utilize multi-purpose room to facilitate scheduling of all students for P.E. Use of multi-purpose room for P.E. conflicts with using stage for music instruction.
- Art classrooms at 735 and 750 s.f. should be 1100 – 1200 s.f. each. Lacks storage space and impacts teaching in the two classrooms.
- Special Ed space are mostly makeshift, undersized and some having no daylight. Half the number of resource rooms typically recommended. Small group and testing rooms are virtually nonexistent.
- Tech Ed space is obsolete, STEM space is makeshift and both are significantly undersized, making program delivery challenging.
- Middle School should include informal gathering space for socialization.
- Bathrooms – currently 3,200 s.f. are represented. 20 -30% more space than a similar middle school facility.
- Chronic lack of staff support space, currently one staff workroom and two staff toilets for a staff of approximately 100 persons.
- Configuration of the site constricted by severe geographical constraints and numerous additions throughout the years. Classrooms adjacent to the paved playground suffer from noise interruption during recess and bus operation. Student safety is a concern as there are several approaches to the school, none of which are visible from the administrative area. This makes it difficult to monitor and assure safety where students, visitors and vehicles approach and leave the facility.

In order to provide an effective, efficient and current middle school program, the facility itself must exhibit those same qualities. Impacting instructional time is the inordinately long travel time between classes and activities, and far less than acceptable acoustic separation between spaces, should be mitigated.

The next step would be documenting operating and maintenance costs for ORMS over recent years and further investigation of immediate facility improvements including the impact of costs and scheduling.

School Board Questions and comments.

Denise Day – Library was supposed to be Gym.

Al Howland – Newmarket may have lessons to learn. We've kept life/safety issues working.

Tom Newkirk – What are the next steps?

Jim – Look at options.

Dan Klein – Stress on students and staff. Not just a nice new pretty building. Better environment for learning. Compare the effort to efforts made to create efficient resident care homes for seniors.

Bill Sullivan – Building deters our program – should be program supported by building.

School Board Goals

Jim Morse reviewed 3 carry over goals:

Full Day K,

Middle School

Athletic Field

- Discussion of options.
- Language broad enough to move forward.
- Maria Barth – It's about education.
- Al Howland – it's also about money in addition to crumb rubber.

Jim reviewed proposed administrative leadership goals:

Math

Coordination 5 -12

Wellness and mental health- Kenny Rotner felt it was so important.

Sarah Farwell – Everything starts at elementary

Maria Barth – 70% of addiction due to sports injury.

Admin. Goals – Consensus that Health and wellness goal is critically important.

Tom – Alignment vertically.

- Communication of what we're doing
- Not on rigidity

#2 – Begin to Discuss and provide report to Board – Al Howland

Sarah Farwell – Is it too much for 5<sup>th</sup> grade?

Jim – Will have 5<sup>th</sup> grade – designate, share content so they're not doing all subject areas.

Start Time (Tom)?

Denise – Wrong time.

Maria – Start time could fit under mental health due to research.

Denise – Athletic field connection.

Dan – Important issue don't want to dismiss it.

Al – Agree with Dan, should not put them off.

Sarah – Can administration handle it?

Tom – Research shows major issues start time = 8:00

Some option plus or minus of each.

- Teachers

- Implication of teaching late may be a problem.

Tom – Start time preliminary 1<sup>st</sup> step.

Denise – Need more information – implications on all programs.

Tom – Process is important

Sarah – compelling evidence “reduced levels of depression”

Add as 3

-to continue to gather information to explore option related to late start at middle/high schools

Report on standardized testing assessment.

Al –

1. What test – frequency, time needed.
2. Used for (function)
3. Results/learn
4. Staff prep

Tom – If a test does not give good diagnostic data we should not be using it (STAR @ ORHS)

Sarah – Encourage/support. Understanding of staff and community.

Tom – STAR is a “screening” tool - little reading, solid vocab, no writing. Not an achievement test.

Sarah – STAR can show progress. Are there other things we can drop out?

Kenny – What about Foreign Language – How to incorporate language into elementary and how to broaden offerings.

Consensus was No as a Board goal – Yes, to looking at asking Middlebury to come in to review options

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Kenny – Sustainability – push alternative energy sources.

Jim- Send charge to sustainability vs. Board goal.

Tom – How can we add foreign language to elementary?

Kenny – Not sure.

Jim – Alternative delivery model/Middlebury has a plan

Al – What is the feasibility of adding foreign language?

Denise – Too ambitious/conflict with other efforts like Full Day K.

Kenny – See it more a seed - not necessarily as an implementation in a year or two.

Tom – Invite Middlebury – Visualize how it could work given constraints of time and money ad facilities.

Jim, Al and Tom will work on language on the 7 goals.

A motion was made by Maria Barth, seconded by Denise Day to adjourn at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. James C. Morse  
Superintendent