

**Oyster River Cooperative District**  
**Regular Meeting - REVISED**

**December 17, 2014**

**DRAFT**

**SCHOOL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom Newkirk, Maria Barth, Ed Charle, Al Howland, Kenny Rotner, Denise Day, Sarah Farwell, and Student Representative Maegan Doody

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Superintendent Morse, Sue Caswell, Dennis Harrington, Todd Allen, and Carolyn Eastman

There were two members of the public present.

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Tom Newkirk at 6:30 to review manifests. Tom noted the passing of Barbara Houston who served eighteen years on the Oyster River School Board. She was a tremendous contributor to the community.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Dean Rubine of Lee mentioned the article in Foster's regarding declining enrollment and doesn't think that they should worry about it too much.

John Parsons of Durham talked about the athletic field proposal. He listed some donors that have been involved in the Friends of Oyster River Track over the years. FORT was established in 1998. Please forward any donations to John Parsons 16 Stevens Lane in Durham.

**Motion to Approve the December 3, 2014 Minutes:** Revision: Insert into Page 4 paragraph 2: "Sarah Farwell asked for a piece of data: seasonal high water table which Jim Rocycki said he would get for the Board. Sarah also raised both functional and aesthetic concerns."

Ed Charle page 4 Committee Updates remove the second "Sustainability Committee"

**Denise Day moved to approve the December 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes with the above revisions, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion approved unanimously with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

**APPROVAL of MANIFESTS:**

Payroll Manifest: #13: \$879,579.52

Vendor Manifest: #13 \$ 599,883.17

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS:**

**District:** Dennis Harrington of Moharimet mentioned that he has made decisions regarding use of space at the school for next year. He commended the daily work and efforts that the teachers and the staff are engaged in.

Todd Allen of the high school commended Maegan Doody who placed 52 nationally last week.

He commended Danuta Richards who coordinated the holiday baskets for families this year.

Tomorrow evening is the holiday concert in the auditorium at the high school.

Catherine Plourde commended Susan Jackson at the Middle School. She has done a math program using money and real life experiences. She collected change for Toys for Tots. They collected \$1500 for the program. Congratulations on a job well done.

**Board:** Al Howland commended those involved with the Middle School Drama Club. Jay Richard has done a great job with it.

Denise Day attended the music performances and commended the music teachers for a great job.

Kenny Rotner commended Sue Caswell for doing such a great job as a Business Manager.

Sarah Farwell participated in the mock interviews at the high school last week. It is a fantastic experience and opportunity for the students. She has been attending the holiday concerts and the quality was impressive. She has been doing some composting at the middle school and watching the staff engage on a daily basis is great.

**DISTRICT REPORTS**

**A Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report:** None

**B Superintendent's Report:** None

**C Business Administrator:** None

**D Student Senate Report:** Maegan Doody reported that some senate members attended a staff report and gave feedback regarding blocked schedule. They took a vote and the schedule will be going back to a Thursday, Friday schedule.

**E Other:** None

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Superintendents Evaluation:** Will be discussed by the Board in the nonpublic portion of tonight's meeting.

**Warrant Article:** Sue Caswell discussed the proposed warrant articles with the Board.

#### **Draft Warrant Article:**

Article 1: To choose a Moderator for the coming year.

Article 2: To choose three School Board members, one each from Durham, Lee and Madbury for the ensuing three years.

Article 3: Shall the District raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 for the renovation and construction of athletic fields and a track at Oyster River High School and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,700,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance and to determine the term and rate of interest thereon; and in addition to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,833 for the first year's principal and interest payment on the bonds or notes; and \$300,000 to come from an expendable trust fund for this purpose. The School Board recommends this appropriation.

Explanation: Warrant Article 3 asks Oyster River taxpayers to approve a bond of up to \$1.7M over a ten year period to fund the costs for an athletic facility upgrade project at the high school. This project will include and 8 lane all-weather track, an artificial turf rectangular playing field and reconfigured baseball and softball fields. The estimated total cost of the project is \$2 million. An artificial turf field will improve drainage and allow for much greater utilization of the field. The reconfiguration of our baseball and softball fields will provide for multi-use play. Assuming the 1.7 million bond is approved by the voters, the remaining \$300,000 for the project has been privately fundraised by the Friends of Oyster River Track and will be used to fund the construction of the 8 lane all-weather track.

Article 4: Shall the District vote to approve within the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 273-A:3 the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Oyster River Bus increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2015-16: \$69,147

2016-17: \$21,726

2017-18:\$21,274

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$69,147 for the 2015-16 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? The School Board recommends this appropriation.

Article 5: Shall the District vote to approve within the provision of New Hampshire RSA 273-A:3 the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Oyster River Paraprofessionals and Support Staff (ORPaSS) and the Oyster River School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2015-16: \$135,624

2016-17: \$121,343

2017-18: \$ 84,600

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$135,624 for the 2015-16 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? The School Board recommends this appropriation.

Article 6: Shall the District vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 196-20-c, to be known as the benefit stabilization fund, for the purpose of offsetting unexpected increases in various benefits in which the principal and interest may be appropriated and expended. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate a sum up to \$200,000 to be added to the stabilization trust fund, with such amount to be funded from the year-end undesignated fund balance surplus and to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. The School Board recommends this appropriation.

Explanation: this fund if established would be a reserve fund to be used in the event of major or unexpected increases in benefit costs. The funds to support this would come from the current year end surplus. The School Board would be agents of this fund so any expenditure would need prior approval from the School Board.

Article 7: Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not included appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first season, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$40,759,297 distributed as follows: Fund 10=\$39,454,621 (regular operating budget); Fund 21=\$643,676 (expenditures from food service revenues); Fund 22=\$600,000 (expenditures from federal/special revenues); Fund 23=\$61,000 (expenditures from pass through funds)? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$38,858,410 (default budget) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the District or by law; or the District may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI to take up the issue of the revised operating budget only. The Scholl Board recommends this appropriation.

**Kenny Rotner moved to put forward Articles 1,2,4,5 on the ballot, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve Article 3 without the School Board recommended clause, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Kenny Rotner moved to add to article three the school board recommended clause, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-1 with Maria Barth opposing and the student representative voting in favor of the motion.**

**Al Howland moved to approve Article 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Kenny Rotner moved to add \$5K to the operating budget and use to set up a trial program to bring back in newly retired teachers at one school to serve as a mentor for one year, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. The Board discussed the**

possibility of a trial program with the Superintendent and decided that such a program would need to be developed and agreed upon by the Professional Evaluation Committee. **Kenny Rotner withdrew his motion.**

**Al Howland moved to approve Article 7 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Motion to make recommendation on proposed resolutions to NHSBA:**

Al Howland will be attending on behalf of the Board.

**SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

Denise Day reported that the LRPC met and the focus was on how to incorporate the Barrington numbers more accurately. They also welcomed the new members to the group.

Al Howland reported that the Communications Committee met and they will be writing a response to the Foster's article.

Maria Barth cannot find the End 68 Hunger Committee anywhere on the website.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Dean Rubine has been working with the MS 26 forms and he has been looking at different methods of presenting the budget.

David Taylor mentioned that the sheets using for the warrant were not the same as the backup and was very hard for the members of the public to follow along.

**CLOSING ACTIONS**

**Future Meeting Dates:** 1/7/15 and 1/21/15 regular meetings

**Kenny Rotner moved to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Superintendent Evaluation at 8:35 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Upon roll call vote the motion approved 7-0.**

**Motion made to return to public session at 9:48 PM by Kenny Rotner, seconded by Denise Day. The motion passed 7-0.**

**Motion made to adjourn at 9:50 PM by Maria Barth, seconded by Sarah Farwell. The motion passed 7-0.**

Respectfully yours,  
Laura Grasso Dobson, Recording Secretary