

Oyster River Cooperative School District

October 5, 2016

Oyster River Middle 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, Catherine Plourde, Jay Richard, Carrie Vaiche Dennis Harrington

Commissioner Virginia Barry was in attendance

There were seven members of the public present

I. CALL TO ORDER:

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Manifest Review/Approval at each School Board meeting

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Kenny Rotner moved to have Commissioner Barry's Report at the beginning of the meeting, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Commissioner Barry said that it was a great way to see the work that is going on with the teachers and the students. Oyster River is one of the highest performing Districts in the state. You clearly put the students first. She is looking at the quality of the leadership. She commended Jay Richard and his staff for the leadership that is going on at the Middle School. They also look at the quality of the School Board to meet all the needs of the District.

Commissioner Barry loved the engagement level of the students in each classroom that she was in. New Hampshire is the third highest performing state in the nation. Across the nation educators look to NH for their leadership. Children who are competent are confident. Skills and tools that children develop are critical and they should be very proud of the work that is going on in the District.

Commissioner Barry discussed standardized testing and that the federal government requires yearly testing. There are 10 schools in pilot testing. She also added that Smarter Balanced is considered a diagnostic tool that is computer adapted. It was designed for teachers to assist them in making instructional decisions.

Commissioner Barry also stated that the Government is focused on STEM. Many wanted it to be STEAM. As far as ethics and social behavior it must come from local communities. NH is focused on socio-emotional role. I know this is a focus of OR as well. Mental Health Issues are important to the State. We have our hands full. When a child gets to be educated in a quality school environment they will grow.

Commissioner Barry noted that NH is the 3rd most aging state in the country need to be connected to all ages. Kids need to be cared for and put into a quality controlled environment.

She detailed how she does work with the State Legislature. Our relationship is based on the elected officials in the State. A quality school board directs the education in the district. She can use OR as a model with other schools.

Commissioner Barry noted that right now the building aid budget for the state is every two years. 50 million dollars in funding have been requested for the budget. 26 schools have made request for building aid. Imminent danger for health and safety is the only time funds can be disbursed at this time. She encouraged letting the state know of intent to do any renovating or building.

NH Department of Education 2016-17 Priorities:

Mathematics knowledge and skills
Career Development
Personalized learning
Educator Preparation Programs
Leadership Pipeline
Safe Schools, Healthy Students
Continuous Improvement for Schools
Early Childhood

The Board thanked Commissioner Barry for spending the day in the District and speaking with them this evening.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dean Rubine of Lee would like to see the packet information on the start times prior to the forum.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Denise Day moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 21st, 2nd by Maria Barth.

Revisions:

Page 2 Replace paragraph 8 with “ He addressed a couple of rumors: “The District had a guaranteed maximum price on the field budget so even though the contractor made a measurement error which cost more the District did not pay more.”

Page 6 Paragraph 10 Replace “K1” with Kindergarten – First Grade” Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

VM #8: \$514,543.88

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS:

A. District: Suzanne Filippone – High School Students request for two Overnight Field Trips:

Suzanne Filippone reported on events happening at the high school: They started the change direction campaign last week. Advisory is working on bully awareness for October. Interim reports went out this week. Financial Aid night and information on a gap year is available on the counseling website.

A group of high school students presented information on the Model UN Club. They are requesting approval for two overnight field trips: Princeton Model UN Conference November 17 – 20, 2016 and Model UN Conference in Boston, MA February 10 – 12, 2017.

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the two overnight field trips November 17 – 20, 2016 and February 10 – 12, 2017 2nd by Sarah Farwell. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Catherine Plourde, Director of Student Services, reported on the compliance visit at the high school last year which looked at indicator 13 which is our transition plan. They received the letter that they are 100% in compliance.

Misty Lowe and the high school staff did a great job. They have also received their annual report card on the indicators and they received a zero, which is the best that you can get and which means the indicators are in compliance.

Carrie Vaiche of Mast Way reported that the school field trip to Bedrock Gardens in Lee was a great success. She thanked the owners of Bedrock Gardens Mr. Munger and Jill Nooney for being so gracious and allowing their field trip. She thanked all the parent chaperones and the enrichment committee for all their hard work to make this come together. They have had two curriculum nights this year and both were well attended. There will be teacher conferences on Friday. Next week is their first PTO on Thursday. They are getting ready for their Halloween Social.

Dennis Harrington of Moharimet reported that the enrollment at 373 has made a great difference this year at Moharimet. He invited everyone to the annual pumpkin stroll from 5- 8 p.m. on Thursday, October 20th.

B. Board: Denise Day commented that the Change Direction presentation was wonderful and the community dinner was fantastic.

Kenny Rotner mentioned the Outing Club that is offered at the Middle School and he thanked the staff for all their work on it. He also read portions an article on addiction by Maia Szalavitz.

Sarah Farwell thanked the staff for the curriculum nights at the different schools. It was exciting to hear about the different things that the kids are learning. They are a reminder of the quality staff and to the quality curriculum.

Dan Klein reiterated what Denise stated about the Change Direction Presentation. It was great and hopes that it continues to stay on the front burner.

Dan also noted that October 15th Powder Major Day at Tibbetts Field in Madbury. He encouraged members of the public to come and there will be guided hikes. If that parcel of land were developed and not conserved, approximately 70 – 80 homes could be built.

Al Howland reported that the Middle School Jazz Band performed at Homecoming and the UNH students joined in and they did a terrific job.

Maria Barth mentioned the upcoming late start forum and sleep deprivation. She feels that caffeine is also a sleep influencing issue, and the amount “blue light” the kids are getting also contribute to sleep deprivation. She also questioned the amount of homework that kids have in the evenings.

Student Representative Troy Lapolice does not think caffeine is the issue, but thinks it is a byproduct of the problem related to homework and all the things we are involved in.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:

A. Assistant Superintendent: Covered under the Superintendent’s report.

B. Superintendent’s Reports:

Superintendent Morse reported that a middle school presentations was given during the high school open house. High school parents provided feedback. Some parents supported the issue but not how it was delivered at the open house. Taking the feedback into consideration we adjusted the format of the presentation during the middle school open house.

Todd Allen discussed that the feedback overall was positive on a proposed middle school. There were a lot of comments regarding the draftiness in the building, the traffic flow in the parking lot, the size of the classrooms, and making sure that the facilities were ADA compliant. There was concern of how the process would work during the construction phase.

Superintendent Morse attended a workshop in Texas and reconnected with the company that did a webinar about a year and a half ago. This webinar emphasized the community telling the Board what they want in a Middle School. He is asking them to create a proposal and invite them to do a presentation.

Superintendent Morse commended Heather Machanoff in Guidance for the work on Change Direction. She did a fantastic job.

He also thanked the reporter from Foster’s Daily Democrat for all the coverage they have received in informing the community.

Todd Allen mentioned that Change Direction was videotaped and will be available for everyone to see. New Hampshire was the first state in the country to launch this effort and it is a national campaign. It is a campaign that talks about the 5 signs of mental health awareness.

At the end of the month there will be Connect Training for 35 staff members on suicide prevention. This will raise the bar on the ability to respond.

October 1 Enrollment:

Mast Way	320
Moharimet	373
Middle School	656
High School	766
Subtotal	2115
Pre K total	29
Total Students:	2144

C. Business Administrator: Moved following student report.

D. Student Representative Report: Student Representative Troy Lapolice reported that Spirit Week was last week and they had their field events. It went fantastic. Many staff have reached out to the Senate and said how positive and successful it was. They will be working on upcoming fund raising events next.

Tom Newkirk suggested talking to the Student Senate about proposed start times. The Board agreed by consensus this was a great idea and they will be coordinating a date.

F. Other:

Commissioner Barry was moved up to the beginning of the meeting.

Business Administrator:

Sue Caswell reviewed FY2018 Calculations with the Board and outlined what our increases might look like for FY2018:

Retirement	\$280,000
Guild Contract	\$527,078
Track and Field Bond	\$156,013
Health at 10%	\$490,000
Total:	\$1,453,089

She noted that this estimate does not include increases for other bargaining and non-bargaining unit employees which includes program directors, central office, maintenance and technology staff. It also does not include additional efforts to address our capital needs. Our goal for our Strategic Plan for facilities has been to continue to increase our efforts until we reach 3% of the aggregate budget.

We also cut one bus out of this year's budget and only purchased two replacements for the transportation department.

Additional revenues from tuition students will help to offset these expenses. We estimate an additional \$350,000 in tuition revenues.

Superintendent Morse reported that there will be some needed personnel requests. The conversation with the administrators are in the initial stages. The high school will have an increase in students next year.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Budget Goal FY18:

Draft for School Board Adoption: October 5, 2016

Budgeting is directly related to our academic vision. The proposed 2017-2018 budget reflects the priorities of the adopted District Strategic Plan which guides the decisions at a realistic and affordable pace.

The proposed budget will include all completed negotiation agreements and health insurance costs.

The general budget goal will not have an overall impact that exceeds a 3.25%.

However, the budget goal does not factor in new revenue from the Barrington tuition agreement that will be used to offset staffing, health care and retirement costs due to the increase in student enrollment.

This does not include any petitioned warrants.

The Board had a discussion with Superintendent Morse on the proposed budget goal.

The Board suggested revising the last paragraph of the draft goal above to read "New revenue from the Barrington tuition agreement and the Benefits

Stabilization Fund can be used to offset staffing, health care and retirement costs due to the increase in student enrollment.”

Superintendent Morse will bring back the modified Board goal for vote at the next meeting.

VIII. ACTIONS

A. Superintendent Actions: None

B. School Board Actions:

Motion to approve Catherine Plourde as Affirmative Action Officer: Maria Barth moved to approve Catherine Plourde as Affirmative Action Officer, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES: None

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:

A. Future Meeting Dates:

10/13/16	Late Start Forum – ORHS Auditorium 6 p.m.
10/17/16	Town of Durham Council Meeting
10/19/16	Regular School Board Meeting
10/24/16	Town of Lee Selectman Meeting

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II: None

NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2: None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Maria Barth move to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary