

Oyster River Cooperative School District

December 7, 2016

Oyster River High 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, Carrie Vaich, Suzanne Filippone, Heather Machanoff

There were 2 members of the public present

I. CALL TO ORDER:

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Manifest reviewed and signed.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Payroll Manifest #13 \$942,241.64

Vendor Manifest #13 \$570,596.52

Tom Newkirk took a moment to acknowledge the passing of David Michaud a former principal for the Mast Way School who contributed greatly to the Oyster River School District.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Kenny Rotner moved to approve the Agenda, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve revised 11/2/2016 Regular Meeting Minutes:

Revisions:

Page 2- 1st paragraph, 1st line replace Hanes with Haines.

Page 9- third paragraph last sentence add the word “monetary” in front of donations.

Page 6- second paragraph – replace whole paragraph with the following:

Kenny Rotner acknowledged the community input that was received, both from those in favor of changing the start time as well as from those who were opposed to do so. He also recognized his fellow School Board members and the open, constructive discussion that was had. He was confident that the proposed change in the start time for the ORMS and ORHS would pass, based on the comments made by other Board members. He felt that this was a good thing and being sure of a majority vote in

favor, stated that he would vote against the proposal. By doing so, he hoped to encourage and impel the School Board to not stop at this step, but instead, to be sure to consider in the future other concerns and opportunities. These could include studying the amount and quality of homework our students receive, exploring options for a flexible type of school day as well as other areas.

Denise Day moved to approve the revised November 2, 2016 meeting minutes with the above revisions, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Denise Day moved to approve the Regular November 16, 2016 meeting minutes, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 6-0, Tom Newkirk abstaining with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS:

A. District:

Carrie Vaich, Mast Way Principal explained that the Town of Lee sponsored and paid for the Dearborn Group to come in and speak with the fourth graders about Revolutionary History. Also, mentioned the third and fourth grade holiday concert conducted by Pam Felber was a great success and was dedicated to David Michaud. The PTO will be meeting tomorrow from 6:30 – 7:30 and all are welcome and to be sure to wear an ugly sweater. You could win a prize.

Suzanne Filippone, High School Principal announced that tomorrow at 5:30 in the library was Partnership Coffee and the theme is Student Life – How does homework fit in. Also, on December 13 they will be having a college application help session.

B. Board:

Denise Day mentioned that the ORHS Sustainability Club is hosting a fundraising dinner to benefit the Powder Major Project on December 9 from 6:30 – 8:30 at the high school.

Kenny Rotner spoke on the two incidents in the past two weeks and commended the central office on the timely response of getting the information out to the community.

Sarah Farwell asked about Scoliosis Screenings. Do we do it? Should we? She also asked if there would be a presentation on Science resource selection as was done in the past with the Math program? Can the technology policy be done at the Board Level?

Dr. Morse explained that we will bring the topic of Scoliosis Screenings with the District Nurses.

Kenny Rotner suggested that the District Physician be consulted for guidance on this.

Todd explained that this year the focus on NextGen Science is getting knowledgeable on the standards and next year we will focus on curriculum alignment and resources. They will use IMET to evaluate different programs.

The Student Senate have been discussing cell phones and electronic use at the school.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report: None

B. Superintendent:

Superintendent Morse explained that he received the architects report back on the Yager Property. It is a beautiful piece of land, but very steep with many hills and valleys that would not be suitable for a school site. The cost would be enormous to try to adapt this property for school usage.

NH Public Radio interviewed him about the late start decision. They want to do a follow up interview with three students to get their perspective. They interviewed the student rep. Troy LaPolice and the Wierchert girls at the SAU office. Their broadcast will be out next week.

Superintendent Morse updated the Board on the incident from Friday, December 2 pertaining to the high school student being approached on his way to school. He will send out a second School Messenger that he worked on with Madbury Police Chief McGann that will clarify the information that was previously reported out by the Madbury Police Department. Every school addressed the situation and I am very proud of the District as a whole.

Pertaining to the high school bomb scare. Excellent response by administration and staff. The protocol set in place was followed and executed in a very timely and orderly manner. School administration, SRO Malasky and State Police walked through and cleared the building for occupancy for the next day.

I received a request from a UNH Doctoral Student who wishes to survey the middle school students and staff, but District policy requires School Board Approval. Information is in your Board folders. Do you wish to bring this back to the 20th for a decision or delegate me to approve/disapprove?

A brief discussion ensued. Tom asked the Board to allow the superintendent to address the survey issue without bringing back to the Board for their approval.

Maria Barth made a motion to authorize the superintendent to approve or deny requests for surveys of ORCSD staff and students, 2nd by Tom Newkirk. Motion passed 7-0, with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

C. Business Administrator:

Sue Caswell reviewed the FY17 budget update and explained that she usually makes a comparison to last year at this same time. With the exception of the Special Education budget, that has taken a large hit due to the number of move ins, with one adult to one student, we are on track. She recommended to the Board that they do not look at utilizing the Special Ed trust funds until April or May.

D. Student Senate Report:

Student Representative Troy LaPolice discussed the drafted cell phone policy that they are working on and will bring it to the next Policy meeting on December 14 with two other student senate members.

E. Other: Lisa Allison – LRPC November 2016 Report

Lisa thanked the current and past members of this committee for all of their hard work and dedication. She presented her power point presentation and explained her methodology for their 10 year projections and that they are always refining their process. She explained that the model is regularly adjusted for new variables.

She shared highlights of the LRPC Report:

Total ORCSD enrollment is projected to remain over 2,000 for the entire projection period. Enrollment declines by only 109 students, from 2,115 this year to 2,006 projected in 2026-27.

Full day kindergarten is assumed. The size of the kindergarten class remains close to the current level of 116 for five more years, then rises to 127 in 2026-27.

The number of elementary school students will decrease. Elementary enrollment drops from 693 now to 602 in 2020-21, when Mast Way and Moharimet will have equal enrollment. Elementary enrollment then rebounds to 660 in 2026-27.

Middle school enrollment, now 656, drops to 569 in 2026-27. High School enrollment (including Barrington), now 766, rises to 837 in 2019-20, then remains between 830 and 840 for 6 years before dropping to 777 in 2026-27 (617 plus 160 tuition students).

The Board thanked her for their report and explained that they use this report as a reference for many District discussions.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2017-18 Draft Budget Proposal:

Superintendent Morse explained that he took the suggestion of the School Board at their last meeting and created five key points for the proposed FY18 budget.

Keep the budget impact to 3.25%. The Board Goal addresses the impact of an overall 3.25% increase. The proposed budget, with the \$200,000 recommended additional cuts, stands at an increase of 4.6%. The use of NEW revenue does not decrease the budget, but does decrease the impact of the increase.

Reduce dependency on emergency funding - By agreeing to the additional \$200,000 in cuts we use less of our emergency reserves.

Include the ELO position at the high school. There are three ways to include the ELO position. The Board can: increase the budget, the Board can use the retirement incentive to free up funds to buy 'yellow sheet' new positions, or the Board can cut an additional \$100,000 from the proposed budget.

Use retirement incentive to offset increase. The retirement incentive will increase the availability of funds for the Board to include some of the NEW

yellow sheet positions at the high school and middle school. Due to the growth at the high school, the high school yellow sheets are important to keep class sizes within Policy IIB guidelines. The middle school position is necessary to reduce Algebra class size to be in compliance with Policy IIB. The strings tutors to keep reasonable class size without adding a professional teacher.

Maintain effort on Capital Improvement. Last year we flat funded capital improvement which added an additional year to meet the Board Goal of having a reasonable budget for capital improvement. I included an additional \$200,000 in the draft budget to place us back on track toward our Strategic Plan Goal.

To maintain our effort toward a reasonable capital improvement budget requires Board support of the funds already in the draft budget.

Retirement Incentive:

Superintendent Morse brought back the retirement incentive proposal that was postponed from the November 16th meeting until there was full Board representation.

Al Howland moved to reopen the discussion and motion offered at the November 16, meeting to the proposed retirement incentive and keep it uncapped, 2nd by Dan Klein.

Clarifying questions asked and, pros and cons to having another retirement incentive so close together and a lengthy discussion ensued.

Dr. Morse suggested that if approval granted, he will come back at the next meeting with the number of binding requests that are received and at that time the Board can determine their next step.

The Board voted to move the retirement incentive through without a cap. Vote 6-1 with Sarah Farwell voting against and the Student representative voting in the affirmative.

Draft of the 2017 Warrant:

Sue Caswell reviewed the proposed draft 2017 warrant articles with the Board. There was confusion with the warrant article as the previous version was in the School Board back up in error. Alexander Taylor made hard copies of the

warrant for Board discussion. The warrant will be discussed further on December 21.

Draft 2017-18 School Calendar:

Dr. Morse shared that the calendar was in their packets for review and that no action needs to happen this evening. He mentioned that this aligns with the Dover and Somersworth calendars for our vocational students. Question asked if kindergarten would start the same day.

Dr. Morse stated that he would be meeting with the kindergarten teachers and would clarify and let the Board know at the next meeting.

Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Dr. Morse informed the Board that he knows that they shifted this responsibility to the administrators, but wanted to let them know if they have someone that they wished to nominate to submit the name to him or Wendy.

Draft of the 2017 Warrant Resumed:

Sue Caswell continued her explanation of the newest warrant articles that were added and the reasoning behind the suggestions. It was noted that there may be a citizen's warrant article. The Board will review again at the next meeting.

VIII. ACTIONS:

A. Superintendent Action Items: None

B. Board Action Items:

Denise Day moved to approve ORMS Jazz Band Overnight Field Trip 5/18/17 – 5/22/17 to Orlando Florida 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Maria Barth would like to see a future agenda item for a representative to be nominated to attend the NH Resolution Workshop and be able to vote for any current resolution set forth. She also wanted to let everyone know that the End68Hours group will be sponsoring a fundraiser dinner on January 18th in Newmarket.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dean Rubine commended Lisa Allison on her report and explained how the percentage worked. He also stated that there was another death in the District and hopes that we are not just sweeping it under the rug.

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: 12/21/16 Regular School Board Meeting
1/4/17 Regular Board Meeting
1/9/17 Superintendent w/Durham Town
Council Budget Update
1/11/17 Budget Public Hearing -7:00 PM
OR High School - Auditorium

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Superintendent Evaluation

A motion was made by Kenny Rotner to enter into nonpublic at 9:03 pm under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) 2nd by Dan Klein for discussion of the superintendent evaluation. Upon a roll call vote motion passed 7-0.

NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2 (if needed): None

By general consensus the Board agreed to re-enter public session at 10:20 pm.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Maria Barth moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 p.m., 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,

Wendy DiFruscio