

Oyster River Cooperative School Board

Long Range Planning Committee Meeting

June 23, 2014 ORHS 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Lisa Allison, Katrin Kasper,
David Taylor, Tom Merrick
School Board Representative Present: Denise Day
Guest Speaker: Alyson Mueller, Keller Williams Realty, Durham
Administration Guests: Todd Allen, Jay Richard, Dennis Harrington, Carrie Vaich

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Alyson Mueller reported that 70 home sales have closed year to date in the ORCSD, compared to 73 in the same time period last year. In addition, there are now another 39 properties under contract. She reported that the rental market is very tight. Katrin Kasper will investigate new developments proposed on Kelsey Road in Lee and Hayes Road in Madbury to determine how many new homes may be completed this summer.

Building principals presented their end of year enrollment and expectations for beginning of year 2014-15. Dennis Harrington and Jay Richard both thanked the district for allowing them to hire teachers at the end of last summer to absorb the unexpected move-in bubbles at their schools. Todd Allen said that the number of Barrington tuition students expected exceeds the minimum contracted number for 2015. Dennis Harrington and Carrie Vaich are expecting kindergarten classes in 2014 slightly higher than last year but first grade significantly lower than fall of 2013. They expressed uncertainty around these numbers and will know more in August.

Lisa Allison reported her correspondence with Janice Aviza of Durham Landlords Association. Janice Aviza circulated the committee's inquiry among the landlords and discovered no instances of families renting apartments that were previously rented to students. She did offer to distribute the ORCSD welcome letter to landlords so that they can make it available to families who might rent in the future.

Regarding the welcome letter, Superintendent Morse has agreed to produce a letter welcoming new families to the school district and urging them to register their children for school as soon as possible. The best source of addresses will be the town halls at the three towns. Lisa Allison will follow up with Dr. Morse to determine whether the LRPC is expected to provide the address list of new families to the SAU. It was suggested that we need only focus on families who have moved in after May 1.

We decided to reconvene in early August when we have more information on the summer move in situation. Alyson Mueller and the principals are invited to the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for August 4 at 7PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa M. Allison, LRPC chair