

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Regular Meeting

October 23, 2013

6:30 p.m.

DRAFT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Maria Barth, Tom Newkirk, Kenny Rotner, Megan Turnbull, Ed Charle, Al Howland, Ann Lane and Student Representative Peter Zwart

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent James Morse, Susan Caswell, Dennis Harrington, Jay Richard, Carrie Vaich

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were approximately forty-two members of the public present for this meeting.

I CALL TO ORDER: Chair Maria Barth called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Maria Barth would like to add an afterschool stipend position later in the agenda. This was approved by consensus of the Board.

III PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chris Mueller of Durham spoke regarding the distribution of enrollment at the elementary schools. He remains concerned about the bus line option for the distribution of students. This decision must also address a long term solution. Repurposing schools will ensure that all future consistent predictable enrollment across the board.

Dr. Christie Beemer of Durham is one of the families that are being affected with the bus line option for the distribution of students. They are very upset about this. Feels that this needs to be researched and they need to know the implications.

Richard Wecker of Durham is in favor of the K-2 plan. This will allow for many advantages for their children.

Beth Holly in Durham is one of the families that would have to change schools if the bus line option was accepted. She noted that the Administrators prefer

the K-2 option. This will minimize the impact of the students. This option will remove the divide between the two schools.

Brian Turnbull of Durham presented a petition that is requesting to hire an educator to teach string instruments from Elementary through High School in the District. Music enhances learning at a fundamental level. He thanked the Board for their consideration.

Nichole Toy of Durham is one of the families that are affected by the bus line option in the District. She is in favor of the K-2 School option.

Holly Byrd of Lee suggested two new options for the Board. Option 1: Close Moharimet to all new families in the district. Option 2: Move the Kindergarten classes to Mast Way.

Kristen Houle of Durham is one of the families that would be redistricted. She sees positives in the K-2 model. She would like this configuration to be looked at it as a two buildings but a one school feel with one PTO.

ANNOOUNCEMENTS

Dennis Harrington reported that there were over 1000 people at the pumpkin stroll.

Todd Allen announced that ORTV News new episode has premiered. Tomorrow night is the fall concert for the band and chorus at the high school.

Carrie Vaich of Mast Way reported that that Marty Kelly the author visited the school today. He talked to the students about being a children's author. He is also an illustrator. This Friday the PTO is hosting the Halloween Social from 6-8 pm.

Carolyn Eastman commended the teachers for all their committees they serve one. The Tech Mentor committee met this week and it went fabulous. There was a Professional Development Master Plan Meeting today. They are working on their Master Plan and had a very productive meeting. The Writing Committee is looking at K-12 what the progression looks like and what are the goals and criteria they want to create across the District.

Catherine Plourde announced that the District received their Para Involvement Survey from the State. They scored a 67% completion rate which is above average. They received an indicator report from the state and have also scored a 2. In years prior, they had 7 and she thanked the staff for all their hard work to make this happen.

Jay Richard reported that the 1st dance was last week. They have had ski club sign ups at the school. NECAP testing was last week. The Guidance Staff worked very hard to organize the NECAPs. ORMS has started composting last week and its going really well.

B Board: Kenny Rotner announced that he feels it is important that writing and endorsing policy is a very crucial part of the school board. He referred to the Boards Policy that was brought up at the last meeting. He would like for the Policy Committee to review Policies BHC and GBB for discussion and first read. It is important that it is interpreted the same amongst all Board members.

VI DISTRICT REPORTS

A Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report: Carolyn Eastman reported that Title I kicked off the year with a family night. Title II is using Professional Development Funds to maintain high quality staffing. They are working on summer enrichment programs for next year.

Carolyn is also the homeless liaison in the District. It is important for families to know who to contact if they need services.

Superintendent Report: Superintendent Morse is recommending the stipend position as strings instructor in the District for \$1500 be funded. This is an ongoing afterschool program.

Al Howland moved to fund the stipend position for the Strings Instructor in the amount of \$1500, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. The Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Business Administrator Report: None

Moharimet Cafeteria Update: Steve Blatt is the Architect who has been brought in to create the design for the Moharimet Cafeteria. He has been in the District several times in the past few weeks and spent a good deal of time in the school and have a good understanding of what is needed.

The addition that they are proposing allows for a dedicated cafeteria space and a dedicated gymnasium space. This allows for a better safety and health environment. This addition is about 1700 square feet in total. This is an approximately a \$575,000 project.

Ann Lane asked about potentially adding 10 feet onto the side of the gymnasium thus creating a larger cafeteria space. Steve Blatt replied that this add would not need a variance but increase the cost of the project.

Superintendent Morse noted that this construction will be funded by the LGC settlement.

Ann Lane moved to authorize the Superintendent to use these one-time holiday LGC funds and also use the capital improvement fund for \$45K to use in hiring an architect of choice and the remainder to approve the Moharimet Cafeteria Project, 2nd by Megan Turnbull. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

VII DISCUSSION ITEMS

First Draft of Broad Goals for the Strategic Plan:

Superintendent Morse and Carolyn Eastman presented the Strategic Plan update to the Board:

Key Focus Area: Student Engagement and Achievement:

Overarching Goal: ORCSD is committed to creating an environment where all students become both independent learners and knowledgeable critical thinkers who live ethically and make a difference in their world.

Broad Goals:

Goal #1 Personal Excellence:

ORCSD inspires all learners to pursue personal excellence, academic challenge and success.

Goal #2 College and Career Ready:

ORCSD students are encouraged to be critical thinkers, creative problem-solvers, effective communicators and social responsible citizens who are collage and career ready, prepared to pursue the paths they choose.

Goal #3 Innovative Personalized Instruction:

Innovative, student-centered instructional practices will support personalized learning for all ORCSD students.

Goal #4 Assessment for Learning:

ORCSD will develop and implement a systemic approach to assessment that:
Monitors and documents learner progress toward achievement of ORCSDs common set of learner expectations;
Informs Instruction of each learner;
Includes frequent feedback specific to learning goals;
Incorporates multiple diverse and authentic ways to demonstrate learning

Goal #5 Reporting Learner Progress

ORCSD will develop and support an evidence based system that:
Uses a technology platform that allows students information to be shared among ORCSD staff to inform instruction;
Provides a clear, accurate record of achievement, and communicates progress of all learners;
Is user friendly, easily accessible to all learners, parents and staff;
Collects evidence of learning using creative and varied strategies;
Is supported by quality training for all users especially staff.

Sue Caswell presented the Finance and Operations Workgroup Goals:

Operations and finance will ensure that facilities and operations support educational goals through a sustainable education system.

The education, health and safety of our children are our top priorities. Decisions made regarding transportation, food service, technology and facilities shall support this group.

Oyster River Schools will maintain and increase sustainability through food, gardens, transportation and energy and incorporates these into the curriculum.

Financial prudence should guide all decisions to be among the best performing schools in New Hampshire.

Superintendent Morse presented the proposed Communication goals:

Overarching Goal: ORCSD will enhance communications to accurately report District performance to engender a culture of trust, respect and support.

Internal Goal: ORCSD will communicate with and engage the school community consistently and in an ongoing manner.

External Goal: ORCSD will communicate with and engage the member communities of Durham, Lee and Madbury in a consistent and an ongoing manner.

Kenny Rotner moved to adopt these broad goals in the three areas that have been outlined above, 2nd by Al Howland. The motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dean Rubine of Lee thanked the Board for their kind comments about his position paper.

Todd Allen is concerned also about the comment by the Board chair regarding drugs and alcohol in the school and cautioned against making comments that have no merit.

David Eddy of Madbury spoke about the potential redistricting in the District. He is in support of the K-4 model.

Ann Lane is recommending that regular meeting be conducted in this room. Superintendent Morse replied that due to the number of people attending he

had recommended a larger room be used when they anticipate large volumes of people.

CLOSING ACTIONS:

Future Meeting Dates: 10/24, 10/30, 11/19 Budget Board Workshops; 11/6 and 11/20 Regular Board meetings.

Al Howland moved to adjourn the meeting 9:50 p.m., 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary