

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Regular Meeting

December 18, 2013

6:30 p.m.

DRAFT

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

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent Jim Morse, Susan Caswell, Jay Richard, Todd Allen, Dennis Harrington, Carrie Vaich, and Catherine Flourde

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

I CALL TO ORDER: By Chair Maria Barth at 6:30 pm

II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Maria Barth noted that because the Policy on Public Speaking has not been clarified and her opinion on it, Vice Chair Tom Newkirk will be sitting in as Chair this evening.

III PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Shirley Thompson of Durham presented a sizable check to the track fund in the District. She would like to see the track come to fruition in this District. Todd Allen accepted the donation on behalf of the District and thanked Shirley on behalf of the District on her generosity.

Erick Mason of Durham has a special needs child who could be negatively affected by the K-2, 3-4 elementary school proposal.

Vail Cox of Madbury is for the K-4 system. She is opposed to the K-2, 3-4 proposal.

Dean Rubine of Lee spoke about the high school tuition and is currently not in support of the Newmarket option. He feels that the contract does not get reviewed frequently enough and that the tuition amount is not enough. Dean feels that the families should be grandfathered with the elementary enrollment options.

Beth Holly of Durham is a Moharimet family that is affected by bus lines should they be redrawn.

Michael Williams of Durham is strongly in favor of a K-4 model.

Rob McEwan of Madbury has sent the Board an analysis of school configurations throughout the country. He recommended staying with the K-4 system.

Jocelyn O'Quinn of Durham feels that the K-2, 3-4 is the best option for the District. She sees the benefit of grouping the grades together.

Jacklyn Bruhn of Durham is in support of the K-4 proposal in the District.

Kristin Eckard of Durham is in favor of the K-4 proposal in the District.

Rachel Higginbotham in Durham spoke and is in favor of the K-4 model in the District.

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve 12/4 and 12/11 Minutes: December 4th and December 11th Minutes: Kenny Rotner moved to approve the December 4th and December 11th, 2nd by Maria Barth.

Revisions: December 4th Minutes Vail Cox is opposed to the K-2, 3-4 models, should read in favor of. The vote in which Kenny Rotner excused himself should be 6-0-1.

The word "remove" needs to be added in to Kenny Rotner's motion to remove Warrant Article Five.

The motion with revisions passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Approval of Manifests:

Vendor Manifest #14: \$636,289.09

Payroll Manifest #14: \$822,698.67

V ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS:

District: Moved to a future meeting

Board: Moved to a future meeting

VI DISTRICT REPORTS:

A Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report: None

B Superintendent's Report: Moved to a future meeting

C Business Administrator: Moved to a future meeting

D Student Senate Report: None

VII DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Tuition Decision: Superintendent Morse presented the findings of the two Districts with the Board:

Compare and Contrast the Fundamental Differences of the Two Agreements:

	Barrington	Newmarket
Exclusive Agreement Board has Voted:	Yes	No
Number of Students	125 min to 200 max	254
Multi-Year Contract	10 years	15 years
Per Student Tuition	\$14,000	\$14,000
Transaction	Increase slowly To reach minimum	254
School of Record	When min. is reached	2015
Special Education	Yes in agreement	2015

There is a proposed contract with Barrington and not for Newmarket for the Board's review.

Superintendent Morse had a question and answer period with the Board.

Kenny Rotner moved that the Board accept the tuition agreement as outlined from Barrington, 2nd by Tom Newkirk. This motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Kenny Rotner commended the Superintendent's Advisory Committee and all those involved in this process for all their work and efforts in this process.

Tom Newkirk feels that the transitioning in of students works best for this District. He commended the Administrators in Newmarket for all their work in the best interests of their District.

Superintendent Morse commended Al Howland and Tom Newkirk for all their hours and meetings that went into this process.

Elementary Enrollment Balance Options: Superintendent Morse really appreciates the community participation on this issue.

K-2, 3-4,5 Proposal: Ann Lane moved to direct the Superintendent to develop a plan, build and gain community consensus and at which time, implement a K-2, 3-4(5) elementary program. In the interim, the Board directs the Superintendent to address the elementary school enrollment inequality employing his professional judgment and experience, 2nd by Maria Barth.

Ann Lane believes that each Board member has spent the last few months attempting to inform ourselves on the magnanimous issues before them.

Al Howland is not in favor of this motion and strongly feels that it is not in the best interest of the District.

Maria Barth believes in the K-2, 3-4(5) because of the grouping of grades, the curriculum would become equitable across the grades, and makes better sense financially.

Kenny Rotner is in favor of keeping the K-4 model and does not see the value educationally of moving to a K-2, 3-4 model. He feels that the Board has heard from the community and that they would like to maintain the K-4 model.

Ed Charle also feels that the community is vested in their schools. He is strongly supporting the continuation of the K-4 model.

Megan Turnbull asked the Superintendent if he and the Leadership Team is still is in support of the K-2, 3-4 model. He responded that yes they are still status quo and that they would support any decision that the Board makes.

Tom Newkirk feels with that the K-2, 3-4 model the students are making too many transitions.

Student Representative Peter Zwart feels that with the K-4 model, it allows a valuable relationship to develop with the teachers and would not develop fully with a K-2, 3-4 model.

The motion failed 2-5 with Megan Turnbull and Ann Lane voting in favor of the motion. The Student Representative opposed this motion.

Superintendent Morse discussed the Management Enrollment Proposal and the Redistrict Buses Proposal with the Board. He is recommending the Redistricting Bus Proposal to the Board. It is a predictable pattern and eventually those streets become Mast Way neighborhoods. This will be a five year process but will attain equity in enrollment in year three.

Megan Turnbull referenced Policy JEAB and feels that by simply redrawing the lines and grandfathering the students is not enough to eliminate the overcrowding at Moharimet. She feels that the exceptions have to be limited or the redistricting needs to be in more areas.

Megan Turnbull moved to redraw the bus lines and discuss the extent of them under a separate motion, 2nd by Al Howland.

Kenny Rotner moved to amend the motion to redraw the bus lines and would like to use the exception criteria as proposed that if you are currently in the elementary school, they can stay in that school and siblings can attend if they are in the school at the same time, 2nd by Tom Newkirk.

Kenny Rotner moved to withdraw his amendment to the motion, 2nd by Al Howland.

The original motion as stated passed 6-1 with Ann Lane opposed and the Student Representative in favor of the motion.

Al Howland moved to use the exception criteria that if you are currently in the elementary school, they can stay in that school and siblings can attend if they are in the school concurrently, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion passed 4-3 with Megan Turnbull, Ann Lane, and Maria Barth opposing. The Student Representative voted in the affirmative.

Al Howland moved to include the entire Wedgewood neighborhood in the redistricting and that neighborhood would attend Mast Way, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Ann Lane moved to charge the Superintendent to gain community input and consensus on the best elementary school model for the Oyster River Cooperative School District, 2nd by Megan Turnbull.

Ann Lane modified her motion to: charge the Superintendent to lead the Board in the discussion to learn through community input and consensus what the best elementary school model is for the District, 2nd by Megan Turnbull. The motion passes 4-3 with Al Howland, Kenny Rotner and Tom Newkirk opposing.

Megan Turnbull moved to have Policy JEAB reviewed at the Policy Committee level and report to the Board, 2nd by Ann Lane. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES: Moved to a future meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dean Rubine congratulated the Board on making decisions. He thinks that they may have shifted too many children in the elementary school equity enrollment.

Lauren Selig of Durham asked what the cost of an average student in the District not receiving any additional services. She encouraged looking at the exceptioning rule that was put in place.

Jocelyn O'Quinn congratulated the Board on making a decision. She feels that the equity will not be done in a timely manner. This process has somewhat divided this community and hopes that they move forward have a more fruitful dialogue and engage the leadership team in a more productive manner.

Jacklyn Bruhn of Durham mentioned that the teachers that are in the portable classrooms do an incredible job.

CLOSING ACTIONS

Future Meeting Dates: January 2, 2014 and January 15th

NON PUBLIC SESSION: Kenny Rotner Moved to go into a nonpublic meeting at 9:45 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3, 2nd by Al Howland. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary