

## Oyster River Cooperative School District

April 20, 2016

ORHS Library

6:30 p.m.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Tom Newkirk, Al Howland, Denise Day, Sarah Farwell, Maria Barth, Dan Klein, Kenny Rotner and Student Representative Caroline Wilson filling in for Troy LaPolice

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Superintendent Dr. James Morse, Sue Caswell, Todd Allen, Catherine Plourde

There were forty-two members of the public present.

**I. CALL TO ORDER** at 6:30 p.m. for Manifest Review  
6:30 – 7:00 Manifest Review/Approval at each School Board Meeting

**Ia. Public Hearing - Policy BEC Non Public Session and Policy BDB Board Officers/Board Organization Meeting:**

**Policy BEC:** Change in State law for vote from nonpublic to public.

Tom Newkirk opened the meeting and there being no discussion on Policy BEC closed the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Tom Newkirk opened the next public hearing at 7:01 p.m. and asked for discussion on **Policy BDB:** Board Officers which change responsibility for Chair and added procedure.

David Taylor asked for clarification on Secretary which was added to the top but removed from the bottom.

Kenny and Maria commented on this change.

Tom asked if this could be revised before the second reading, and with no further discussion closed the second public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Tom asked for a show of hands for public comments for football and the Chinese program. Evenly divided amount of speakers, Tom advised that he will allow 2 minutes per comment and will alternate between the football comments and the Chinese comments. He also advised that he will be ending public session after 30 minutes.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Jeff Butts from Lee spoke on behalf of the football parents of Oyster River. They felt that the Board did not have all the information needed. He reviewed the practice schedule including drills of the different grades. He feels that no one has asked any questions on the ORYA football program.

Beverly K. of Lee spoke in favor of the Chinese Program in the District. She has traveled extensively in China and feels this is a tremendous opportunity for the children.

Krista Butts of Lee asked the football families to stand and she gave statistics on traumatic injuries and concussions for football. She is asking the Board to allow the students to play football for Portsmouth or in the District. Krista urged the Board to please don't give up on these kids.

Sara Nadeau is a resident of Lee and her child is in the after school Chinese Program. She encourages the Board to support this program. Sara feels that it will open up job opportunities and culture in their future.

Craig Rucher of Lee spoke in favor of a Football Program. The kids are Oyster River students who play football and encouraged the Board to allow football to be played and urged the Board to have the wording changed in the contract that would meet their expectations.

Rebecca K. of Durham has sent a letter outlining her support for foreign language in the District. There is a lot of support from the community in the District for this program in the District.

Lettie from Lee is parent of the only girl on the team, stated that her daughter loves the game and her team.

Kelly Brant of Durham lived in China for 17 years and spoke in favor of the Chinese Program in the District. There is art plus discipline in the language which has positive effects on the brain. Explained that language acquisition is best when you are young.

Allen a student in the District has played football for three seasons and it is the best sport he has ever played. He really enjoys football. Allen has learned so much from playing football. Went on to say that he hoped the Board understood what a big part of his life football is and maybe someday he would be in the NFL.

Mary Malone of Durham has two students in the afterschool Chinese Program. It is a fabulous program. The teachers are dedicated and a great resource and opportunity in the District.

Ari a student from Lee noted that football has impacted them more than any sport previously played. Everyone helps everyone.

Keith O'Brien of Durham has two students and has written a letter to the Board in favor of expanding the Chinese Program in the District. The earlier you begin studying a language the more proficient you are in the language.

James Bigweather of Lee spoke in support of the Oyster River football community. He coached the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade football team this year and it was a great experience. There is a lot of team building with this sport.

Steve of Durham supports the Chinese Program in the District. We need to expose our children to foreign languages earlier.

Scott Damsel of Madbury is in support of a Football Program in the District. He understands the concerns about concussions and he would hope that this community would let the parents decide what is best for their children.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

#### **Motion to approve April 6, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

**Denise Day moved to approve the April 6, 2016 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland with the following revisions:**

**Page 6 Lighting of the Athletic Fields in the actual motion insert "made a motion to" after Al Howland.**

**Page 5 paragraph 3 last sentence delete the word "on" between mentioned and how.**

**Page 5 paragraph 5 second sentence insert "if" between that and we approve, in the third sentence replace "and" after agreement with "it"**

**Page 3 paragraph 5 at the end of the last sentence add "Moms demand action on Gun Sense in America which is an organization that I support.**

**Page 4 paragraph 4 first sentence add after Forum "about loss and healing"**

**Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative abstaining.**

### **APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:**

Payroll Manifest #22: \$895,201.37

Vendor Manifest #23: \$153,871.67

Tom asked the Board if there was any opposition under Discussion Items if they could move the Chinese Program Update to the first topic of discussion. There were none.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMENDATIONS:**

##### **A. District:**

Cristina Dolcino spoke for Dennis Harrington of Moharimet School. The annual pancake breakfast was successful. We have moved to a more sustainable model. Congratulations to Moharimet 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus for a great job.

Mike McCann of the High School announced that the Apple Award Winner is Kathy Pearce. The World Language Department Spanish Club is leaving for Costa Rica on Friday. The Environmental Science Class has completed a two-year study on the natural area and did a great job presenting their results and provided a lot of information on how important that area is. Results are available if anyone wishes to view them.

Dr. Morse spoke for Carrie Vaich of Mast Way pertaining to the play “Annie” put on by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders last week, and it was fantastic. He also gave credit to Pam Felber and Beth Struthers for the wonderful job they did with the production.

**B. Board:** Denise Day reported that the Moharimet Breakfast was a shining day. The Middle School Jazz Band played and did a great job.

Kenny Rotner reported that the Green Beans Group, comprised of middle school students, created and put up great signs urging drivers not to idle while dropping off or picking up students.

Dan Klein reported that the Annie Performance was wonderful. Great job to everyone involved. Pancake breakfast including the sustainability efforts was tremendous.

#### **V. DISTRICT REPORTS:**

**A. Assistant Superintendent’s Report:** Todd Allen updated the Board on the Summer Reach Program. Registrations are available on the website. A very comprehensive program. There is a wide range of offerings out there primarily taught by Oyster River staff. The Reach program is offered Monday – Thursday from 8:30 – 11:30 and then a free lunch, thanks to Doris Demers and staff from school nutrition, is offered to any school age child from 11:30 – 12:30, at which point a bus will be provided to students attending the Durham Recreation program in the afternoon.

On May 5 there will be a Mental Health and Wellness fair in the multipurpose room at the high school which will be running alongside the community dinner being offered that same evening that will have a Mexican theme.

**B. Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Morse commended Doris Demer's work in providing free lunch in the summer for students.

Michael McCann, Maria Barth and Superintendent Morse attended a presentation on opioids. This was very informative and Dr. Morse would like to use this information to have another community presentation and hopefully continue to bring these forums to the community on a quarterly basis.

Superintendent Morse discussed high school enrollment numbers and the work that the long range planning committee is doing. He spoke on the tuition student aspect of the projections, detailed below, and will use this information as a framework for later discussion.

**High School Long Range Planning Committee Projected Enrollments:**

2017	778 Students
2018	779 Students
2019	794 Students
2020	780 Students
2021	778 Students
2022	763 Students
2023	745 Students
2024	731 Students
2025	687 Students

**Property on Orchard Drive:** There has been an interested buyer for the property. They have a footprint of approximately \$300K valuation and Dr. Morse would like authorization to work with Sue Caswell and the District's attorney on a closed bid process.

**Al Howland moved to authorize the superintendent to proceed with a closed bid process on the Orchard Drive property, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maria Barth. Motion passed 7-0.**

**C. Business Administrator:** Sue Caswell updated the Board on a two bids that she received for the Mast Way School boiler room roof bid and a generator for the high school.

**Kenny Rotner moved to accept the bid for the Mast Way School boiler room roof, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Kenny Rotner moved to accept the NJPA Contract #080613-CAT for an emergency generator at the high school, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**D. Student Senate Report:** Caroline Wilson reported that class elections were today for the class officers and student senate. The Board thanked her for her work on the Principal search Committee.

**E. Other: Sustainability Report: Cristina Dolcino**

Cristina reported that several years ago the Committee decided to align itself with the United States Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Program. The aim of this program is to “inspire schools, districts, and highlighting promising products and resources that all can employ.” There is an annual Green Ribbon award that recognizes schools and districts striving for excellence in the following three areas which are referred to as pillars:

Pillar 1: Reduce environmental impact and costs

Collaboration by Middle School Green Team leader and Green Bean Club students with the Durham administrators to create a “no idling” zone at the school. This campaign will soon extend into the community using the signage designed by the students in the Green Bean Club.

Pillar 2: Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff.

Advocate for locally sourced produce and meats for the school nutrition program. In addition to the Child Nutrition staff, ORSC members assisted with the Community Dinners served at the High School.

Pillar 3: Provide environmental education which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Chinese Program Update and Proposal for 2017-18 School Board Goal – Foreign Language:**

Yusi Turell spoke to the Board on the second year update and proposed 2016-17 Goal.

2015-2016 Update:

The Oyster River Chinese Program for elementary students continues to thrive. Classes are held at the middle school with transportation provided from Mast

Way and Moharimet Schools. There are two levels of classes and classes run from 4:00 – 4:40 p.m. and after care is available until 5:30 for \$5 per day. Families also participate in monthly community dinners that consist of a “teach back” by the children and a cultural activity such as dumpling making, Kung Fu lessons or adult lecture.

This programming is possible through a partnership with UNH’s Confucius Institute.

Their reflections and lessons learned:

1. Many community partners were vital to the success of the afterschool program and related activities.
2. There is now clear evidence of both “deep” and “wide” Oyster River community interest in Chinese culture and language.
3. Despite successes to date, we believe the current model of elementary afterschool classes will always be limited.
4. UNH’s Confucius Institute continues to be a reliable and flexible partner, with the capacity to do much more for our District.

### **Proposal for 2016-17 School Board Goal:**

Their 2016-17 School Board goal: by January 2017 develop a plan to add Mandarin to French and Spanish as Oyster River language offerings in 2017-2018 which has no significant budget implications. Also, plan to begin classes in all three foreign language classes in fifth and six grades starting in 2017-18 as part of a broader effort to update the District’s position on foreign language education along students K-12 trajectory.

The goal has three components:

1. By January 2017 develop a plan to add Mandarin to French and Spanish as Oyster River language offerings in 2017-18 which has no significant budget implications;
2. Plan to begin classes in all three foreign languages in fifth and sixth grades starting in 2017-2018;
3. Update the District’s position on K-12 Language Instruction: They are proposing that the School Board appoint a committee to develop a report to update and clarify the District’s position on foreign language along students K-12 trajectory. Commissioning this report would not commit the District to providing language at the elementary level, though that could be a recommendation. This process would ensure a thoughtful and up to date point

of view on how foreign language plays into Oyster River's K-12 education and that we have the opportunity to align our curriculum accordingly.

The Board had an in-depth conversation on the Chinese Program. Al Howland suggested that the plan be developed by November 2016 in order to address any budget implications. It was discussed that there should be a discussion on what the right languages to teach in the District. It's an important conversation to have either within the Administration or the community and will be put on a future agenda to determine the next steps and to have a clear sense of direction.

**Authorize Two Board Members to meet with Portsmouth on Start Times:**

Denise Day suggested talking with Administrators at Concord who had changed the start times and then reversed them. This would be a great way to find out what the negatives were. They agreed that meeting with the Superintendent and Board members in Portsmouth would be beneficial as well. Kenny Rotner and Tom Newkirk will meet with Portsmouth Administrators. Denise Day and Dan Klein will go and meet with Concord Administrators.

**Transportation Drop off Protocol:** Lisa Huppe presented the 2016-2017 K-4 School Bus Drop off Protocol:

Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: The ORCSD Bus Drivers will no longer drop off any Kindergarten, first or second grade students without the presence of an adult, an older sibling or responsible person waiting at the bus stop.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Third and fourth grade parents or legal guardians who wish to allow the District to drop off their third or fourth grader without the presence of an adult may do so, but must complete the authorization form. If this form is not on file before the start of the 2016-17 school year, then the drop off process will pertain to third and fourth graders as well. Parents, or legal guardians who choose this option assume all legal responsibility when doing so.

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve the 2016-17 Transportation Drop off Protocol, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Revisit Staffing Needs for 2016-17:**

For the upcoming school year, Oyster River High School is expecting an increase of 29 students in the freshman class from last year, and a projected increase total of 63 students overall. As enrollment increases it becomes increasingly important to maintain flexibility in the schedule to ensure course options that are consistent with our career pathways.

World Language:

Request: Provide additional .2 FTE increasing current .8 FTE to 1.0 FTE.

This request was included in the budget deliberations and is needed to address the increasing need for entry level World Language courses. Along with students within the District who are starting a language for the first time, any students from outside of the ORCSD enter into the high school with little or no World Language experience, increasing the need for more level 1 and 2 courses.

Business:

Request: Due to increasing demand for business course and increased need for elective offerings to meet graduation requirements the high school is requesting an additional .3 FTE to increase the current position from .5 to .8 FTE.

English:

Due to enrollment numbers and increased student interest in the high school, we would like to request an addition of a .5 FTE English Teacher. This position would be responsible for teaching three classes in the fall and two classes in the spring. The course taught by this position would be two classes of Essentials of English and one class of Poetry and Fiction.

Social Studies:

Due to enrollment numbers and increase student interest in the high school, we would like to request an addition of a .5 FTE Social Studies teacher. This position would be responsible for teaching three classes in the fall and two classes in the spring. The course taught by this position would be two classes of World Cultures and one class of Unity States History I.

Accessibility/Assistive Technology Specialist: \$88,065 for contracted services or \$38,000 for Speech Language Assistant

There was also a discussion of adding back in the \$75,000 for Facility and \$25,000 for technology.

**Al Howland moved to approve the staffing needs with \$38,000 for Speech Language Assistant and restoring \$75,000 for facility and \$25,000 for technology, 2<sup>nd</sup> Maria Barth. Motion passes 7-0.**

**VII. ACTIONS:**

**A. Superintendent Action Items:** None

**B. Board Action Items:**

**Motion to accept ORHS Resignation:** Al Howland moved to accept the ORHS Resignation of the video production teacher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.

**Policies:**

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve Policy ADC - Use of Tobacco Products Strictly Prohibited, Policy BDB - Board Officers/Board Organization Meeting/Procedure, Policy BEC - Non Public Minutes, and Policy GBAA Sexual Harassment Employee/Staff for a first reading, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Motion to accept Mast Way Speech Language and Pathologist Retirement:** Al Howland moved to accept the retirement of the Mast Way Speech Language and Pathologist, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sarah Farwell. Motion passed 7-0.

**VIII: SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:** None

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Dean Rubine of Lee spoke on the start time and encouraged the Board to create a plan. He approves of spending the money on the teachers. But the money for the lights seemed poor stewardship of the taxpayer's money.

Kelly Brant of Durham spoke regarding the benefits of Chinese with music.

**X. CLOSING ACTIONS:**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:** May 4<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting at Mast Way and May 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting at Moharimet

**XI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91 A:3 {If needed}:** None

**NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91A:2 {If needed}:** None

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Maria Barth moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson  
Recording Secretary