

**Oyster River Cooperative School District Board Meeting
Regular Meeting - REVISED**

September 16, 2015

Mast Way School

6:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER: by Tom Newkirk at 6:30 for Manifest Review.

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

ADMINISTRATORS: Superintendent James Morse, Sue Caswell, Carolyn Eastman, Todd Allen, Carrie Vaich, Catherine Plourde, Dennis Harrington and Mark Milliken

There were 10 members of the public present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dean Rubine of Lee thinks the plan for the field is great but it is insane to do without public vote.

David Taylor of Durham read policies BDF and BBAA and is concerned about Policy BBAA still giving unlimited authority to do anything and it seems that the Communication Committee is the issue.

Liz Shay of Lee addressing the email she sent to the Board pertaining to PE/ELO – sports students involved in. Questioned why OR has 1.5 credits needed and state has 1 credit for PE. Willing to draft petition for change. Please review the policy. Wants the Board to change policy so that ORHS students can have physical activity that is not part of ORHS be credited toward graduation.

Nicki G of Durham speaking on behalf of Liz Shay and is in support of using student's sport activities for PE credit.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the September 2nd non-public and regular meeting minutes.

Revisions:

Non-Public: None

Regular: Page 5 replace "Rotner" with "Moulton" in motion. Add that a non-meeting happened after the non-public session. Page 3 under FY2016-17 Budget Goal in first sentence of third paragraph add the words "as presented" before "will include".

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the September 2nd regular meeting minutes as amended, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative

Al Howland moved to approve the September 2nd non-public meeting minutes, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative abstaining.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS: Payroll Manifest #6: \$793,742.66 and Vendor Manifest #6: \$321,429.35.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS:

Dr. Morse recognized the Sustainability Committee who received an award for being a “District of Distinction” from the National Organization - District Administration and that the plaque will be placed at the District office for all to see. Christina Dolcino was honored to accept the award on behalf of the sustainability committee.

A. District:

Carrie Vaich hoped that everyone was able to see the amount of work that has been done to the outside of the building. The water retention garden, the new garden placed out by the new parking spaces which still has one more part to be completed. The planting of 600 perennials in which the students will be talking part in this project by each planting one perennial. The remainder of the planting will be done with volunteers on October 3rd in three, two hour time frames of 8:00–10:00, 10:00–12:00, and 12:00–2:00. This has been an exciting project. The Family Picnic and Ice Cream Social was rescheduled to 9/18/15.

B. Board:

Kenny Rotner lives close to the middle school and commended the amount of children that he observed riding their bikes to school. He also spoke of the number of high school students who he had seen running along the road.

In addition, he asked if we could move the fields to the beginning of the discussion items.

Dan Klein explained that he is the Board representative to the Sustainability committee and was very impressed at the amazing work that is being done by this committee and the strong culture that it is developing within the District.

Tom Newkirk shared that he was impressed and awed by the number of middle school students who ran by him while practicing for cross country. He believes that the number of students is 115.

V. DISTRICT REPORTS:

A. Assistant Superintendent:

Carolyn Eastman shared all of the work that transpired over the summer that showed creativity and collaboration with the staff which included at the high school level: Constructing Modern Knowledge-STEM, Freshman Skills Collaborative, Maker Space Development, Microcontroller Training for Educators, HS Advisory Program, World Language – realignment, Common Rubrics and Writers Guide.

District Wide: Counselor Referral Data Base.

Middle School: Joint Research Project – UNH and ORMS Reading Intervention Program, Pre-Algebra Curriculum Review.

Elementary: Using Portfolios in Standards Based Evaluation, Executive Functioning Skills, Listen and Learn Journal – Music, Mathematics Collaborative Work – Eureka Mathematics

On October 9th middle and high school staff training for Professional Learning Community (PLC) will take place.

Star Assessment is happening right now which establishes a baseline and occurs two additional times this year in January and May.

Smarter Balanced testing results will be released on November 12th and will be sent out to parents.

B. Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Morse reported out that he met with the Durham Town Administrator, Todd Selig and members of his staff to discuss the option of a solar generation facility proposal within the District. Mr. Selig put his proposal in writing to report back to the School Board that the Moharimet School is the ideal location, that this is of no cost to the District, and that this fits nicely into the District's sustainability efforts. Dr. Morse has given the town a verbal agreement at this time.

C. Business Administrator: None

D. Student Senate Report:

Caroline Wilson reported that they are preparing for spirit week and that changes were made to the satisfaction of both the students and administrators. Monday of spirit week will be separate colors per grade level and Friday will be blue and white day to show school unity.

E. Other: Sustainability Committee – Cristina Dolcino reported that the committee met last week and reviewed the current charge and made changes. She highlighted that they will look at the USDA Green Ribbon Pillars and work to set the District goals around those. She explained that the three green team leaders have been in the schools discussing recycling, that the facilities have moved forward with changing cleaning supplies to all green. She explained that the next Harvest Dinner will be on October 8th with the focus of local farmers and their products. They are planning on an Earth Day celebration in the spring and are in the process of gathering information for teachers to use in their classrooms. She thanked the committee and District.

Kenny Rotner commended the committee and recognized how important the work that is being done is well received and changing the culture of the District.

Sarah Farwell would love to see the Green Team Leaders report back to the School Board on some of the things that they do.

Tom Newkirk congratulated the committee on the really exciting work that is being accomplished.

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the Sustainability Charge as revised 2nd by Maria Barth. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Athletic Field Recommendation:

Todd Allen introduced members of the committee and did a brief overview of what we intend to do as a project.

Karen Larsen and Kathy O'Brien talked about the track. How sports are a way of bonding. How a track would benefit not only the students but the communities of Oyster River as a whole. Kathy listed other NH school districts that have tracks.

Corey Parker spoke about the alternatives to crumb rubber, and how he and Ben Genes, Bob Barth and Kevin Gardner looked at alternatives, visited sites, and looked at safety issues, costs, environmental impact, and quality of playing fields to unanimously agree upon a product called EPDM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer).

School Board Members asked clarifying questions pertaining to length of time EPDM has been around, what research shows the new age products are safe, how long turf lasts and overall cost.

Corey and the committee members were able to answer all question satisfactorily.

Kenny Rotner thanked all parties involved for the extensive research, time committed and site visits to accurately report this information to the School Board.

Kenny Rotner moved that we accept as infill EPDM for athletic project at the recommendation of the athletic committee for the fields, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Athletic Field Funding:

Superintendent Morse informed the School Board that they have received three memos from him pertaining to funding. The first memo is the direction of no bonding that he thought the Board wanted to go, but in a succeeding meeting the Board wanted to see less bonding options.

Jim - This is a complex issue which I will break down into three separate years, current, FY17 and FY18.

Current: can identify \$995,000 of amount needed for project, we know \$300,000 in track fund, \$400,000 in Healthtrust lawsuit and assuming we move forward with Orchard Drive property \$295,000*
{*yet to be decided by Board and voters}

FY17 Proposed Budget – Anticipate – no guarantee – likely \$400,000 Healthtrust lawsuit, commit \$350,000 to project as part of operating budget, Bond range of \$550,000 - \$955,000.

FY18 – Sarah Farwell commented that if you go into this year you are obligating future Boards to a project.

Denise Day suggested placing a separate warrant article on the ballot that does not include bonding.

After a thorough discussion the Board will consider all aspects of funding and be ready to decide on October 7th.

In summary

1. Given the funding sources above the Board has the choice to bond or not bond.
2. In order to avoid bonding, the model assumes the Healthtrust lawsuit funds materialize and a financial commitment is made in the operating budget.
3. If the Board decides not to bond the project, it will require the project be staged over the summer of 2016 and the summer of 2017, or the Board can decide to delay the entire project until the summer of 2017. A delay

requires warrants to direct funds to the track capital fund in order to preserve them for future use.

Not Bonding:

1. Advantages of not bonding: saves the District thousands in interest and lowers voter threshold for approval to 50%.
2. Disadvantage: it stages the project over two summers or delays the project until the summer of 2017.

Bonding:

1. Advantage of bonding is the project is done in the summer of 2016.
2. Disadvantage: Requires a 60% voter support.

Orchard Drive Variance/Process:

Dr. Morse explained that he had a meeting with Todd Selig, and members of his staff along with Sue Caswell and Kenny Rotner to discuss the Orchard Drive Variance process. He felt that the conversations were positive and that Todd's staff offered different options, like a road could be brought in instead of the Cul de Sac.

Al Howland explained the five questions that need to be answered for a variance to be granted by the town.

Kenny Rotner stated that public safety/fire department would need to be involved.

Additional discussions and further action will need to take place before moving forward with this project.

FY2016-17 Budget Goal:

This topic was tabled and will be moved to the next School Board meeting on October 7th.

Recommendation for Assistant Superintendent Position:

Jim explained that he met with principals and the special education director and asked if position was necessary, reviewed job description and memo from Carolyn Eastman outlining her duties, whether to post internally which would be easier for a transition if someone in District was interested as Carolyn would still be here for transition, or to post externally.

It was discussed that the position is needed, but more for support of principals than the superintendent. Duties outline in Carolyn's memo were assigned to different administrators to take over and to post externally. Over the long weekend a candidate came forward internally prompting my memo to the School Board for recommendation.

Sarah Farwell does not support internal search and is shocked that in this District we would not do the same due diligence as we would to hire a teacher. We are a desirable District and recommend that we post internally and externally with a full and formal hiring committee. For the first time in a while see progress made toward the academic goals. In terms of the memo statements 1- 3 are true and have value. On 4 I would argue that none has knowledge of what's going on in Carolyn's position unless they have curriculum background and 5 a smooth transition for who?

Al Howland – Internal candidate you know them, is a plus. An internal candidate knows the work done and can build on it.

Denise Day – If we advertise openly, an internal candidate could turn out to be best.

Dan Klein – Interim position an option?

Kenny Rotner – Interim are place holders. Progress is stopped.

Al Howland – Jim knows the position.

Maria Barth – we are in a hole – position filled – still have opening – which hole is bigger. If a position was filled internally there would still be an opening in the District.

Al Howland – I do like the idea of cultivating our own talent.

Sarah Farwell – Look everywhere. I think the community would be upset.

Jim Morse suggested that since the Board members were in different places on this topic, he asked if he could return this to the administrator's for further discussion and bring this back to the Board at the next meeting.

VII. ACTIONS:

A. Superintendent: None

B. Board Actions:

Nomination of ORHS Department Heads/Advisor for 2015-16.

Nate Oxnard	.5 FTE Science Department Head	\$1,250.00
Jon Bromley	.5 FTE Science Department Head	\$1,250.00
Jon Bromley	Sustainability Club Advisor	\$3,132.00

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the above ORHS Department Heads/Advisors for 2015-16, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0.

Motion to approve Mast Way Teacher Mentor Activity Stipends for 2015-16:

Pamela Felber	New Teacher Mentor	\$500.00
Melisa Baker	New Teacher Mentor	\$500.00

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the Mast Way Teacher Mentor Activity Stipends for 2015-16, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0.

Policies:

This topic was tabled and will be moved to the next School Board meeting on October 7th.

VIII: SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES: None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dean Rubine of Lee recommends an external assistant superintendent search. Field funding - no staging do all in one year, no bond – you know it is going to fail. Voters know total cost. All warrant articles should ask to put money into athletic fields.

David Taylor of Durham explained that capital improvement warrant articles are usually supported and are not very different from bonds. Trade off of 150 negative votes versus bonding.

X. CLOSING ACTIONS:

A. Future Meeting Dates: September 30th Manifest Meeting at ORHS C120
October 7th Regular Meeting at Moharimet
October 21st Regular Meeting at ORMS

XI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: None

NON-MEETING SESSION: None

Kenny Rotner made a suggestion that ELO's are a work in progress pertaining to PE and suggested that this be added as an agenda item at a later date.

XII. Adjournment:

At 9:46 PM, Maria Barth made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Dan Klein. The motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. James Morse and
Susan Caswell