

Oyster River Cooperative School District

December 16, 2015

OR High School Library

6:30 p.m.

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

ADMINISTRATORS: Superintendent Dr. James Morse, Sue Caswell, Todd Allen, Jay Richard, Corey Parker, Carrie Vaich, and Dennis Harrington

There were sixteen members of the public present.

I. CALL TO ORDER by Tom Newkirk 6:30 – 7:00 Manifest Review

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Erin Sharp, a parent in the District, spoke in favor of a later start time at the Middle School and High School. All the research is in support of this.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Al Howland moved to approve the 12/2 minutes, 2nd by Denise Day. The motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in favor. Kenny Rotner moved to accept the nonpublic meetings of 12/2 2nd by Maria Barth. Revision: Add in “Superintendent Morse left at 9:10 p.m.” The Motion with the above revision passed 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Payroll Manifest: #13 \$865,140.88

Vendor Manifest: #174,015.14

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS:

District: None

Board: Denise Day attended the Internet Safety Program last week at the Middle School. Two things that stood out was the level of sophistication of predators, and that the hours between 11:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. are the most dangerous times. This presentation was recorded and it will be shown on DCAT.

Kenny Rotner announced that there is a gathering on December 19th at the Durham Evangelical Church remembering Martin Brewer.

Sarah Farwell thanked the music staff at the schools. The concerts are amazing. The support staff has helped out also at every level.

V. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Reports: None

B. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Morse mentioned the top ten things they learned from the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Choosing a test date as late in the year as possible provides maximum learning. It is definitely more challenging than the previous state wide testing. Our investment in technology resulted in no breakdowns during testing. Student and school district results are impressive. Math is still an area of growth for the high school. The high school did very well even though 40% of students opted out of the testing.

C. Business Administrator Budget Update FY16

Sue Caswell reported that everything is on target for the FY16 budget.

Default Budget: Sue Caswell reviewed the Default Budget with the Board. It is only \$57,631 less because the budget is based on approved contracts and health insurance.

D. Student Senate Report: Student Representative Caroline Wilson reported that they are working on the Winter Carnival that will be happening in February.

E. Other: Start Time Update:

Jim introduced the survey results from both the narrative and survey monkey. He was very impressed with the staff responses.

Todd Allen and Corey Parker presented to the Board the School Start Time Impact on Athletics:

Corey Parker explained the details of current student athlete expectations. Of the 222 fall student athletes only ten students had a grade below C- in a class.

Unavoidable factors to consider:

Sunset

Distance to away events

Factors to help with later start:

More weekend games/matches

Compete on vacations and holidays
Schedule minimum amount of required games

The Board had a discussion with Todd and Corey about perhaps looking at the school day more creatively.

Student Representative Caroline Wilson reported that students who are on teams that are not affiliated with the schools will be affected also. She feels that students would still get the same amount of sleep with a later start time because they would stay up later at night.

The Board agreed that they will schedule either a workshop or time during a meeting to further discuss this issue.

Full Day Kindergarten Update:

Deb Kolbjornsen, Michelle Parsons, and Dennis Harrington gave the Full Day Kindergarten Update to the Board answering their questions they had previously asked:

Will we be offering a half day option?

Our plan is to offer a full day kindergarten learning experience for students at both elementary schools. If parents wish to dismiss their students at noontime, they will be allowed to do so. Parents should note that academic studies will take place both in the morning and the afternoon.

Board members inquired about the logistics for serving lunch.

Decisions about timing and location with regards to serving lunch will be determined at the building level. Teaching and administration will work with our Child Nutrition Department to ensure a quality lunch option for kindergartners.

Yes, the recommendation for kindergarten class sizes is set at 18 students per class.

Will registration begin earlier than past year?

Yes, we recommend offering an early March registration with one late day option for parents. Most of our registration materials are now available online and parents may print, fill out and bring supporting documents to the school for verification. In addition, we will offer a late afternoon registration time for parents.

Will teachers be provided professional development for a full day model?

All of our teachers are skilled in the kindergarten curriculum materials and are prepared to teach a full day program. Teachers have visited and observed programs currently in place in neighboring communities.

Board Members asked to see a sample full day schedule.

Schedules will be developed by classroom teachers and could vary from one another. Our kindergarten team welcomes the opportunity to provide:

Literacy: 60-90 minutes

Mathematics: 45-60 minutes

Science/Social Studies: 60 minutes

Lunch/Recess: 25 minutes each/play structured and unstructured

Special: 45 minutes

Choice/Free Exploration Time to develop social skills and independent learning: 30 minutes

Could cost be an issue for implementation?

The reallocation of funds from transportation (removal of mid-day travel) and a shift in enrollment sizes at the upper level grades will fund the full day kindergarten program.

How do you suggest handling assignment to schools?

Have families enroll students at their neighborhood schools according to School Board designations.

There will be 54 seats available at each school. If classes fill to the recommended School Board levels at a school, then families will be assigned to their sister school.

We will be offering an earlier registration timeline March 7-11, 2016 for parents to register their students in the spring.

When registering parents will minimally need to provide proof of residency and a copy of their child's birth certificate.

Parents will be informed of their child's classroom assignments in August.

Kenny Rotner brought up the topic of all-day kindergarten having an impact on the first grade curriculum in the future. Superintendent Morse agreed that down the road it will have an impact on the primary grades.

There will be an informational meeting with incoming Kindergarten parents on January 12, 2016 at Oyster River High School in the Auditorium.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Suggested wording for Warrant Articles Pertaining to the Sale of Equipment:

Kenny Rotner moved to approve draft of sample warrant article wording for a revolving fund: Shall the district establish a non-lapsing Equipment Revolving Fund in accordance with RSA 194:3-c to be funded by the sale of unused and outdated equipment for the purpose of providing equipment to students in need, with said amount to be withdrawn from the revolving fund at monthly intervals as needed (Majority vote required)., 2nd by Maria Barth.

Superintendent Morse will come to the next meeting with an explanation of the Warrant Article.

The Board agreed to postpone this warrant until the next meeting.

Corrected 2016 Warrant Articles:

Denise Day moved to approve Article 7, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Article 3 Explanation: Al Howland moved to have the revision read: This project will include an all-weather track, an artificial turf playing field with environmentally friendly fill, and reconfigured baseball and softball fields. The benefits of the project include increased safety, improved drainage and reduced runoff into Beard's Creek, and increased field access reducing the need to rent UNH fields. Assuming the \$1.5 million bond is approved by the voters, \$300,000 for the project which has previously fundraised, will be used to fund the construction of the all-weather track. The remaining \$400,000 will come from the fund balance. The Board anticipates that additional fund raising will make enhancements to the project possible including field lights and dugouts, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Article 5 Explanation: Replace the last sentence with: By placing this money in the facilities capital reserve fund it allows the District to meet capital needs.

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the Article 5 Explanation with above revisions, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Article 6 Explanation: Sarah Farwell moved to approve Article 6 Explanation to read: Due to unanticipated revenues and unexpended accounts there may be funds remaining at the end of the year. Article 6 allows up to 500,000 of the remaining funds to be placed in the facilities development capital reserve fund to address over 2.5 million in unmet facility needs, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

2016-2017 School Calendar: Superintendent Morse reported that this draft calendar is aligned with Dover and Somersworth Schools.

Denise Day moved to approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion approved 7-0.

VII. ACTIONS

A. Superintendent Actions: None

B. Board Actions:

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the following slate of ORMS Activity Nominations, 2nd by Al Howland:

John Silvero	Robotics	\$588
John Silvero	8 th Grade Student Council	\$979
Joe Boucher	Grade 5 Leadership	\$979
Jason Duff	7 th Grade Student Council	\$979

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

Policies:

Denise Day moved to approve Policy JLCF for a first reading 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.

Denise Day moved to approve Policy JFAB Admission of Tuition and Non-Resident Students, 2nd by Sarah Farwell. Motion approved 7-0.

VIII. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Maria Barth reported that the NHSBA Delegate Assembly meeting will be on January 16th in Concord. She will be unable to attend as she has a previous commitment.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Lyons, a parent in the District, spoke about the later school start times in the District. She is in favor of the later start time. She thanked Dr. Morse and the Committee for vetting these options.

Kate McManus, a parent in the District, talked about a flexible schedule at the high school and noted that it doesn't help the middle school and also incurs more busing costs. She also thanked the Board for all their hard work.

X. CLOSING ACTIONS

Future Meeting Dates: January 6, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting High School Library 7:00 p.m.

XI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

This portion of the meeting was postponed to the January 6th meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Maria Barth moved to adjourn the School Board meeting at 10:00 p.m., 2nd by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary