

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Regular Meeting

March 19, 2014

6:30 p.m.

School Board Members: Maria Barth, Tom Newkirk, Al Howland, Denise Day, Sarah Farwell, Ed Charle, Kenny Rotner, and Student Representative Maegan Doody

Administrators: Superintendent James Morse, Sue Caswell, Jay Richard, Dennis Harrington, and Todd Allen

There were fifteen members of the public present.

There was Review of Manifests from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

I CALL TO ORDER by Superintendent Morse called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pam Felber, Elementary School Music Teacher, introduced students Colette and Evie who sang the National Anthem. They did a great job!

II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

School Board Member Introductions: Superintendent Morse introduced and welcomed the new School Board members Denise Day and Sarah Farwell. Maegan Doody is the new Student Representative.

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chair:

Election of Officers: Kenny Rotner nominated Tom Newkirk as the Board Chair, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion approved 6-1-0 with Tom Newkirk abstaining with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Superintendent Morse and the Board commended Maria Barth for all her hard work as Board Chair.

Review of ORCSD Policy BDB – Board Officers/Board Organization:

Meeting and review NHSBA Policy BBAB Duties of the Chairperson:

Kenny Rotner moved to approve Policy BBAB, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Kenny Rotner nominated Al Howland as the Vice-Chair, 2nd by Denise Day. Maria Barth nominated Denise Day as Vice-Chair 2nd by Ed Charle.

Motion to elect Al Howland as the Vice-Chair passed 6-0-1 with Maria Barth opposing and the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Motion to elect William Leslie as the ORCSD District Clerk: Denise Day moved to elect William Leslie as the ORCSD District Chair, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Motion to elect Lisa Harling as the ORCSD School District Treasurer: Kenny Rotner move to elect Lisa Harling as the ORCSD School District Treasurer, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Motion to elect Dr. Katy Lilly as ORCSD School District Physician for the 2014-15 school year. Maria Barth moved to elect Dr. Katy Lilly as ORCSD School District Physician for the 2014-15 school year, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-1-0 with Kenny Rotner abstaining and the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Welcome of School Board Representative: Maegan Doody introduced herself as a sophomore who is looking forward to the valuable learning opportunity as the Student Representative.

III PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dean Rubine of Lee congratulated the new Board members. He reminded the Board that the tuition will be mostly used to offset taxes as per the Superintendent's letter in the Annual Report. He also discussed the class size guidelines.

David Taylor of Durham also congratulated the new members of the School Board. He also mentioned the student size guidelines of 18-22.

Brian Turnbull of Durham discussed a pay scale adjustment of the leadership team. He continues to be impressed by the exceptional staff and leadership. He is also involved in the effort in bringing an orchestra into the District. The

Music Department in the District has a bright future due to the hard work of the Leadership Team.

Rob Drugan of Madbury and Friends of Oyster River Track spoke and would like to have the Board approve the endorsement for the \$40,000 expenditure of the Athletic Track/Fields.

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve 2/12/14 and 3/5/14

Minutes:

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the February 12th minutes, 2nd by Ed Charle. Motion approved 5-2-0 with Denise Day, Sarah Farwall, and the Student Representative abstaining.

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the March 5th minutes, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion approved 5-2-0 with Denise Day, Sarah Farwell and the Student Representative abstaining.

Approval of Manifests:

Payroll Manifest #21: \$767, 047.45

Vendor Manifest #20: \$222,654.63

V ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS:

District: Todd Allen of the High School has recommended June 13th as the graduation date and requests the Board's approval. **Maria Barth moved to approve June 13th as the graduation day, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

Jay Richard of the Middle School reported welcomed the new School Board members. Congratulations to the Math Counts team for coming in first in the seacoast and fourth in the state this year. There was a very successful Internet Safety Meeting Presentation last week which was sponsored by the PTO. They are the only middle school in the nation that will view Ted Talks tomorrow in the High School Auditorium. They will be able to participate in discussion via skype.

Dennis Harrington of Moharimet reported that there will be a Maple Sugaring Field Trip involving both Elementary Schools. There will be hands on tapping

demonstrations, a tour of the sugar house and the boiling process, a mini nature trail hike, as well as a history lesson of Moharimet sugaring.

Carrie Vaich of Mast Way is excited about exploring the Sugaring Process at Moharimet. There will be a UNH Student speaking to the students tomorrow on a World Energy Program that she is working on. Jim West, a puppeteer who makes life size puppets, will also be coming to the school tomorrow.

Board: Kenny Rotner thinks it's wonderful to see shared endeavors between the two elementary schools. He sat in on Mrs. Raifords class and he is unbelievably impressed with the students. The seniors expressed so much confidence in their education foundation.

Al Howland attended the fourth grade Moharimet Band Concert. They did a great job.

VI DISTRICT REPORTS:

Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report: None

Superintendent's Report: He also echoed what Kenny Rotner said about Mrs. Raiford's class. It is refreshing to have a direct conversation with the students.

Last Friday there was Strategic Planning meeting and the K-12 feedback from teachers was really positive. They were engaged and it was a rewarding experience. This work is ongoing and is being embraced by the staff.

Business Administrator: None

Student Senate Report: Student Representative Maegan Doody reported that they are working on creating a new advisory system. She also reported that they had a successful Margaritas fundraiser recently.

Music Presentation – ORCSD Music Staff: Music Curriculum Revision:

Jeff Leonard of the Lexington Public Schools spoke and has never seen such a team effort in this endeavor.

Pam Felber Beth Struthers of the Middle School spoke about the foundation principles:

Music is an expression of our humanity

ORCSD students will experience the great works and cultivate and awareness of our cultural history and literacy

The students will have the opportunity to play an instrument

The students will be aware of and control their voice as an instrument

They will have the experience of being a performer.

Sarah Kuhn teaches elementary School and Band spoke about Why Revise:

Add a string program

Increase high school music participation

Grow 7 and 8th grade ensembles

Better utilize strengths of the music faculty

Common standards for all students at each level

Improve performance quality

The grown of emotional intelligence

Create culturally and artistically literate adults.

Jeff Leonard detailed the Areas of Strength:

High competent musician/teachers that are motivated and deeply dedicated

Engaged community; parents and students

Proximity to UNH, which provides an opportunity to enhance our relationship in a symbiotic way.

Very supportive administration and school board at the building and district level.

Challenges:

There is a lack of a vertically articulated curriculum (Band, Chorus, Jazz, Orchestra, General/nonperformance electives) in grades 5-12 summer of 2014.

Scheduling Issues: Fitting the music program within the school day at the secondary level.

Involving more students in a greater variety of music classes and activities in the upper middle and high school levels.

Recommended Changes in the Elementary School:

General Music: They see the students for approximately 27 hours per year. Kindergarten meets 1 time per week for thirty minutes in a half day program. In a full day program they would meet 2 times per week.

Grades 1 and 2 meet two times per week for thirty minutes. Recommendation: 2 times per week for thirty minutes.

Grades 3 and 4 would meet once a week for 45 minutes:

Chorus: Grade 3: All students once per week for 35 minutes. They would participate in the Holiday Concert and a small musical play.

Grade 4: All students meet once per week for 35 minutes.

Band – To eliminate beginning band.

Orchestra: OREO (Oyster River Elementary Orchestra) “advanced”

One time per week after school at their home school, one time per week combined at one of the elementary schools. Only plays with one or more years of group or individual lessons.

Recommended Changes for the Middle School:

Biggest Challenges: Scheduling Band, Orchestra and Chorus during the day for academic credit.

Speciality ensembles that meet outside of the school day should continue to exist and to grow.

General music will continue for students not enrolled in Band, Chorus or Orchestra.

All grade 8 students will have the opportunity to take guitar class.

Year 1 First Transition Year:

Grade 5: Students will choose between continuing band, beginning strings, or general music.

All Grade 5 students will be in Chorus.

Grades 6 and 7: Choices will be between Band, Chorus String ensemble or General Music.

Grades 8: The same as Grades 6 and 7 plus Guitar for all grade 8 students. There will be a grade 5-8 String Ensemble for experienced players.

Year 2: Transition Continues:

Grade 5: Beginning Band, Beginning Strings or General Music
All students participate in Chorus

Grades 6 and 7: Students will choose either band chorus orchestra or general music

Grades 8: Same as Grades 6 and 7 additionally Guitar for all Grade 8 students.

Mark LaForce discussed The Potential Outlook for the High School:

Team teaching:

Offer Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Studio Orchestra, Concert Band, and Chorus as performing ensembles during the school day.

All ensembles must meet for a full year.

Electives: Piano, African Drumming, Others

Eventually add other choral groups, guitar ensembles, percussion ensemble, instrumental, chamber groups and non-performance electives.

High School Challenges/Considerations

Schedules – as participation increases, classes can't only happen during E block

Current master schedule limits opportunities

Flexibility so that study halls can be available part time.

There was an in-depth question and answer period with the Board on the transition. The Board thanked the teachers for all their hard work on this presentation.

Megan and Brian Trumbull were also commended for all their hard work with the Strings Program in the District.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Expenditure of \$40,000 for Athletic Fields/Track: Todd Allen described the proposed Athletic Fields/Track to the Board. The \$40K expenditure coming from the year end fund balance will be used to get the project shovel ready, providing test digs and detailed surveys. It would also allow an architect to design a final concept.

Kenny Rotner moved that the Board authorizes up to \$40K to be used in providing test digs, detailed surveys and allowing an architect to design a final concept, 2nd by Denise Day.

Maria Barth moved to postpone this discussion until the 2nd meeting in May, 2nd by Ed Charle. Motion failed 2-5 with Sarah Farwell and Maria Barth in favor of the motion.

Motion on the original motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative in the affirmative.

Salary Schedule for Administrators/Directors: Superintendent Morse discussed the salary schedule for administrators. The ORAA has met with the ORCSB Negotiation Team to discuss the salary scale that would place all principals, assistant principals and directors within an appropriate range based upon market factors, internal integrity and job responsibilities. The goal of the ORAA is that all administrator's salaries be in the upper quartile of the state, that responsibilities, longevity, relevant experience and performance be factors considered when determining salary. This will be on the April 2nd agenda.

Consideration of Early Retirement Incentive: Superintendent Morse discussed a consideration of an early retirement incentive with the Board. The deadline for such an incentive would be the end of April. He is seeking authorization to put this out to the staff to see if there is any interest in taking advantage of this incentive.

Al Howland moved to authorize the Superintendent to offer an early retirement incentive, 2nd by KR. Motion approved 7-0 and the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

ACTIONS:

Motion to Act on Superintendent Contract for the 2014-15 School Year: Al Howland described the changes to the Superintendent Contract for the 2014-2015 School Year including adding on an additional year to the contract.

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the Superintendent Contract for the 2014-15 School Year, 2nd by Ed Charle. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

MS-22 Form: Maria Barth moved to sign the MS-22 Form, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Mast Way Activity Stipends:

Cathy Baker	Jump Rope Club	\$400
Rebecca Yerkes	New Teacher Mentor	\$500

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the above Mast Way Activity Stipends, 2nd by Maria Barth. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Motion to Approve Spring Coaches:

Volunteer Positions:

Ryan Walfield	Varsity Baseball
James Hoyt	Varsity Baseball
Kate Potvin	Girls Lacrosse
Geoff Jablonski	Varsity Baseball
Sam Kerrigan	Boys Lacrosse
Nancy Bulkley	Girl's Tennis

Paid Positions:

Nicholas Ricciardi	Head Outdoor Track	\$5,288
Greg Gephart	Boys Asst. Outdoor Track	\$3,617
James Thibault	Boys JV Baseball	\$2,856
Craig Walfield	Boys Varsity Baseball	\$3,933
Bob Heuching	Girls Varsity Tennis	\$3,370
Casey Reynolds	Girls Varsity Lacrosse	\$4,308
Daniel Brown	Boys JV Lacrosse	\$2,566
Emma Wilson	.5 Girls Asst. Outdoor Track	\$1,621
Jacob Renaud	.5 Girls Asst Outdoor Track	\$1,621
Andy Allen	Boys Tennis	\$3,070

Middle School:

Dave Montgomery	MS Outdoor Track	\$2,377
Sunpreet Sadana	MS Outdoor Track	\$2,452
Megan Hinz	MS Outdoor Track	\$2,302
Lauren Tebbetts	MS Outdoor Track	\$2,377
Nate Grove	MS Baseball	\$1,994
Nicole Casimiro	5/6 Boys Basketball Intramural	\$ 576

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the above slate of Coaches, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Policies: Maria Barth moved to approve JFABB for adoption, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Chair Tom Newkirk asked the Board for Manifest Review Volunteers to serve for six month. Kenny Rotner, Tom Newkirk, Denise Day, and Ed Charle have volunteered to Review the Manifests.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Matt Pappas congratulated the new Board members and as a teacher thanked the Board for presenting the retirement incentive.

Kenny Rotner moved to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a), to review and discuss the superintendent evaluation 2nd Al Howland. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary