

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Regular Meeting

October 16, 2013

6:30 p.m.

DRAFT

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

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent James Morse, Susan Caswell, Dennis Harrington, Jay Richard, Carrie Vaich

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

I CALL TO ORDER: Chair Maria Barth called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Maria Barth is confident that whatever decisions are made that the staff in the District will handle it very well. She also noted that staff members are prohibited from talking at this meeting due to a policy in place. Their method of communication is through Administration. Maria also mentioned that this is not a forum for staff input, it is one for the community.

III PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dean Rubine of Lee talked about tuition in the District. He read the tuition framework that went out to the schools. He feels that it is a great deal for Newmarket.

Tom Newkirk moved to overrule the Chair and allow teachers to speak and have a voice this evening, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion failed 3-4 with Al Howland Tom Newkirk and Kenny Rotner voting in favor of the motion.

Megan Turnbull suggested that a member of the community read the letters presented by the teachers at both schools.

Kenny Rotner moved to have a community member read the letters of the staff, 2nd by Ed Charle. Motion approved 6-1 with Ann Lane opposing.

Brooke Keeler, a resident of Madbury read the letter from the Moharimet staff. They believe that the students respond best to the K-4 framework for learning.

David Eddy of Madbury agrees with the K-4 model for the elementary schools. He noted that it will split up siblings in the schools.

Sue Chase of Lee read the letter from the Mast Way staff. They strongly believe that a K-4 configuration is the best way for students to learn.

Jody Walker of Madbury thought that they had already discussed the K-2 concept and that it wasn't being considered. This was already talked about at the listening sessions last spring.

Jocelyn O'Quinn of Durham is confident that whatever configuration is chosen the kids will be okay. She noted that change is coming. The situation at Moharimet is not ideal.

Krista Butts of Lee is in favor of the K-2 configuration. She is okay with either option. She urged the Board to make a decision.

Jennifer Pribble of Durham would like to find out more information on the K-2 configuration.

Ed Ricker of Durham feels that the participation of parents is what makes the District so good.

Sarah Farawell of Lee feels that the K-4 model is what makes sense when it comes to kids. She is concerned what would happen to parental involvement if they moved to the K-2 configuration.

Carrie Kline of Durham talked about the kids who would be affected by the redistricting.

IV APPROVAL Of MINUTES:

Motion of the October 2nd Minutes: Kenny Rotner moved to approve the October 2 minutes, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Ann Lane abstaining and the Student Representative voting in approval.

Approval of Manifests: Payroll Manifest #9: \$616,555.77
Vendor Manifest #9: \$698,139.08

V ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS

District: None

Board: Kenny Rotner thanked everyone that came this evening to be part of this process.

VI DISTRICT REPORTS

Superintendent's Report:

Tuition Update: Superintendent Morse reported that there has been an offer sent out to both Barrington and Newmarket. They have been asked to respond to the Board by November 1st.

Student Senate Report: Ryan Carrigan reported that Spirit Week just finished and went really well.

VII DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Equalized Elementary Enrollment:

Superintendent Morse presented the Equalized Elementary Enrollment:

Problem Statement: Mast Way and Moharimet enrollment have become so disparate that education, safety and equity are now impacted.

The current 115 student difference needs Board action to align the enrollments of the two schools for the fall of 2014.

School Profiles:

NECAP Testing demonstrates that both Mast Way and Moharimet perform extremely well

Climates at both schools are very good

Parents are supportive at both schools

The elementary schools are important to the towns of Lee and Madbury

Option 1: Equalize enrollment by redefining bus routes

Most favored by current parents and staff

Both schools remain in their current configuration of K-4
Maintains tradition of K-4 schools
Busing change impacts specific neighborhoods, parent and students not whole districts
Would need to be reviewed every five years to ensure balance
Redefine routes as population trends dictate
Maintains maximum forty minute bus rides for most children without additional buses

Option 2 Reconfiguring Mast Way and Moharimet K-2 3-4 (5):

More cohesive collaborating among grade levels
Stronger focus on Early Childhood Education
Coordinated programs grades 3 and 4
Provides opportunity to balance student loads
More flexibility for class placement at all grades
Eliminates modular classrooms at Moharimet
Creates a more collaborative atmosphere among grade levels

The Board had a lengthy in depth discussion with the Superintendent. Superintendent Morse discussed the how the K-2 model could impact future UNH interns. The administrative team is unanimously in favor of the K-2 3-4 model.

VIII ACTION ITEMS:

Board Actions:

ORMS/ORHS Coaches and Volunteers:

Paid Positions:

Craig Randall	Boys JV Hockey	\$3,242
Griffin Richards	Boys Varsity Ice Hockey	\$5,363
Jamie Long	Girls Varsity Ice Hockey	\$4,988
Greg Gephart	Girls Indoor Track	\$3,828
Nick Ricciardi	Boys Indoor Track	\$3,828
William Reeves	Swimming	\$3,445
Lynn Santosuosso	Diving	\$2,295
Laura Fant	Girls Asst. Swimming	\$2,145
Nick Scuderi	Boys Reserve Basketball	\$2,494

Stuart Mitchell	Boys Varsity Basketball	\$5,213
Jeannette Allyson	Girls JV Basketball	\$3,242

Volunteer Positions:

Bill Cole	Varsity Wrestling
Geoff Jablonski	Girls Junior Varsity Basketball
Paul Kerrigan	Boys Basketball
Jill MacDonald	Girls Varsity Basketball
Frank Ronan	Indoor Track
Amberlee Lustgraff-Fant	Swimming and Diving
John MacArthur	Girls Varsity Ice Hockey
Tim McNamara	Girls Ice Hockey
Chet Murch	Boys Ice Hockey
Burns Foley	Boys Ice Hockey
Aaron LaCross	Boys Ice Hockey
Sam Higgs	Boys Ice Hockey
Tryg Engen	Alpine Ski Team
Emma Wilson	Alpine Ski Team
Jake Jacobsen	Alpine Ski Team
Ned Clarke	Alpine Ski Team
Pamela Raiford	Ultimate Frisbee Club
Guy Capecelatro III	Ultimate Frisbee Club
Paul Franz	Martial Arts Club

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

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Tom Newkirk moved to nominate Robert Mohr as a member of the Long Range Planning Committee, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

X PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Loren Selig of Durham talked about the options the School Board is facing. She wants the decision to be made sooner than later.

Daniel Day of Durham would like to see the K-4 system remain in place.

Matt Mayberry, who is a Dover resident, noted that Kevin and Kera Abbott would like to keep Option 1.

Chris Mayer of Durham asked where all day kindergarten fits in with these models.

William Hall of Durham is in favor of the K-2 model.

Laura Williams of Durham feels that there has not been an in depth analysis for changing education models. She strongly supports the K-4 model.

Erin Sharf in Durham wants to know that the Board will make a very informed decision and would like to know the budget impacts of each model.

Diane Moore of Durham feels that the numbers will solve themselves in a few years. She feels that staying with Option 1 will be less expensive. Diane Moore also feels that the PEP Program should stay at the high school.

Dave Eddy of Madbury thanked Superintendent Morse for his presentation. The K-2 model would not allow for the multi-age classrooms.

Krista Butts of Lee also thinks that the PEP Program should remain at the high school. She thinks that that they should do events that include both schools.

Kristin Eckert of Durham is in favor of the K-4 model. She is also in favor of keeping the multi-age classrooms.

Christine Rinko of Durham questioned the process of transitioning if the District moved to the K-2 model.

XI CLOSING ACTIONS:

Future Meeting Dates: October 23, November 6 and November 20

XII ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary