

Oyster River Cooperative School District

REGULAR MEETING

April 5, 2017

Oyster River High School

6:30 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Denise Day, Dan Klein, Kenny Rotner, Maria Barth, Michael Williams, Tom Newkirk, Al Howland and Student Representative: Hannah Wilson

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

There were four members of the public present

I. CALL TO ORDER:

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Manifest reviewed and signed.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Payroll Manifest #20: \$1,228,886.82

Vendor Manifest #22: \$613,821.24

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chair:

Superintendent Morse called the meeting to order and noted that the Board needs to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chair.

Maria Barth nominated Tom Newkirk for Chairperson, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Tom Newkirk abstaining and the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Maria Barth nominated Denise Day as Vice-Chair, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Denise day abstaining and the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Kenny Rotner suggested adding the committee assignments into the agenda. They agreed to add it into the school board action items.

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the agenda with the addition of committee assignments at the end of the School Board Action items, 2nd by Michael Williams. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the March 22, 2017 regular meeting minutes:

Denise Day moved to approve the March 22, 2017 meeting minutes, 2nd by Kenny Rotner.

Page 2 second paragraph change the motion from “4-1-0” to “4-0-1”

Page 2 third paragraph change the motion from “4-1-0” to “4-0-1”

Page 2 fourth paragraph change the motion from “4-1-0” to “4-0-1”

Page 2 fifth paragraph change the motion from “4-1-0” to “4-0-1”

Page 5 2nd paragraph change the motion from “4-1-0 to 4-0-1”

Page 3 1st paragraph replace last line with “on the agenda’s list serve prior to the meeting. This is also available online”.

Page 6 IX 2nd paragraph replace it with “Kenny Rotner discussed that he sat in on a Sociology Class. He wants to make sure that the total amount and quality of homework that is being assigned is kept on the front burner and continue to pay attention to the mental health of our students and in particular issues of anxiety and depression.”

The Motion with the following revisions passed 5-0-2 with Tom Newkirk and Al Howland abstaining and the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District

Valerie Wolfson and Janet Martel Oyster River Teachers’ Guild Co-Presidents read a letter that they wrote to the Board. They wanted to express their gratitude for the positive working relationship they have enjoyed with the School Board and Dr. Morse.

Carrie Vaich of Mast Way commended the PTO Teachers and Students for all their work on the Spellathon. The teachers worked really hard to represent this to the kids in a positive way. They raised approximately \$14,500 for the playground with this fundraiser.

Carrie reported that there is a Boys Night Out this Friday night. It will be a fun night with dancing and food.

The musical will be on April 18th at the high school at 7:30. The Enrichment Committee has been working on Earth Day as a school wide event. There will be a series of stations in the school. Smarter Balance Testing starts in May.

Superintendent Morse reported for Dennis Harrington that the Pancake Breakfast was held last night at Moharimet. It was a great turnout. This make-up date in the evening was a great success.

B. Board: Kenny Rotner noted that there was a YouTube video done in honor of Dennis Harrington last night.

He asked Todd Allen for an update on homework. He has been asked by community members.

Kenny Rotner mentioned with sadness the passing of Tom Merrick. He served on the Advisory Budget Committee and was very involved and contributed a lot to the community.

Al Howland has also heard from a parent with an incoming freshman that is concerned about homework.

Al Howland mentioned that a student who is very involved in drama at the school put together a great presentation request for funding.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Reports: Todd Allen updated that they are at the beginning of looking at homework. Mike Anderson, a consultant they are working with, wrote a letter to the Superintendent raising some questions related to homework. They are discussing a potential survey tool. There is a lot of variables on how much homework a student should expect. As this develops, Todd will keep the Board updated. How does homework fit into the learning process is one of the questions. They have to be cognizant that students take a wide array of courses. Some of the students take seven courses and those students would have more homework.

Todd announced that the summer 2017 Reach Program Catalog has been published. There are 43 camps being offered. There are a couple of new offerings this year: Pam Felber will be offering a week long drama camp. There will also be a three day back packing trip in the White Mountains for incoming

freshman. All the programs will be at the Middle School. Free lunch will be offered in the cafeteria.

B. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Morse reported that the District had budgeted 14.1 percent for health insurance and the actual increase will be 9.8 percent. This will free up about \$150K, but he is recommending that we go through the hiring process and see what the remaining funding is before we use any of the funds. They are at the beginning stages of interviewing and at a future Board meeting will be able to nominate some positions for the fall.

Superintendent Morse also reported that the Kindergarten enrollment at Mast Way is at 69 students and is in the low 40s at Moharimet. They will be determining how to balance the enrollment of Kindergarten at the two elementary schools. They are beginning to see a trend in Lee that was unanticipated.

C. Business Administrator: Sue Caswell presented the MS-22 Form which needs to be approved and signed by Board members.

Denise Day moved to approve the MS-22 Form, 2nd by Maria Barth. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

D. Student Senate Report: Student Representative Hannah Wilson reported that today freshmen had STEM testing, sophomores had PSAT testing, juniors had SAT testing and seniors did community service. The drama department is performing a one act play this Thursday evening. It is written by student Kristen Short. Also, the senate has been working on planning a spring festival the day before April break.

E. Other: ORMS Report Card Format on the Middle School: Jay Richard, Aaron Ward and Valerie Wolfson presented the Report Card format to the Board.

Competencies and Habits of Learning Scale:

- M Meets high expectations consistently
- P Progressing towards competency
- B Beginning to develop competency skills

ELA Habits of Learning:

HOL-1	Respectful
HOL-2	Responsible
HOL-3	Engaged
HOL-4	Growth of Mindset

Jay Richard, Aaron Ward and Valerie Wolfson had an in-depth conversation with the Board on the proposed report card format. Jay reported that these competencies were created by the teachers.

Tom Newkirk has asked what happens if a student goes through a math class and they are not given a competent grade. Jay Richard states that they will be identifying students that are not and they will be targeting them to give them the assistance, support and services that they need during the academic school year. They have discussed revamping their RTI Program to be able to offer students more opportunities for students.

There was a discussion that there isn't a fourth category for exemplary competency on the learning scale. A narrative that assesses the effort can also be used as a motivator. Jay Richard discussed that they have spent a lot of time and effort debating having three or four categories. Aaron Ward presented that three categories makes more sense to roll out this system for ease of implementation. This is something they can look at to implement in year two.

Tom Newkirk requested a survey be sent out to ask questions to staff. He would like to be certain that the teachers particularly in eighth grade are confident with this new proposed system. State law requires high school to have competencies aligned with the courses. There isn't a state requirement at the middle school.

They will be bringing it back to the Board in May for a vote.

Jay Richard also mentioned that while interviewing teacher candidates for potential hiring he asked them about homework and they are saying they are not big fans of a lot of homework.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Start Time Bus Schedule: Transportation Director Lisa Huppe has generated new bus routes for the afternoon schedule. The morning routes will remain the

same as this year. Lisa has worked to keep the elementary runs less than 40 minutes, but the high school rides are a little longer.

Superintendent Morse is recommending that we revert Chestnut Farms back to the Moharimet neighborhood.

The proposed start times for the schools in the fall are: Elementary 8:55 – 3:10 and MS/HS 8:15 – 3:05.

Al Howland moved to approve the above start time bus schedule, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Kenny Rotner would like to look at our transportation system to reduce bus ride times for students moving forward. It is also a goal to increase ridership of students on the bus.

School Bus Leasing Bid:

Lisa Huppe reviewed the summary of bids for school buses with the Board. She is recommending using Dattco for a vendor at a cost of \$86,261 for 60 months.

Al Howland moved to approve Dattco Inc. for the vendor for school buses for \$86,261 for 60 months, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

VIII. ACTIONS:

A. Superintendent's Actions: None

B. School Board Actions:

Motion to nominate and approve non-continuing Contract Professional Staff Members as submitted by the Superintendent: Denise Day moved to nominate and approve non-continuing Contract Professional Staff Members as submitted by the Superintendent as presented, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0 with the student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Motion to approve ORMS overnight field trip to Washington, DC on April 21-24. Al Howland moved to approve an ORMS Field Trip to Washington DC on April 21-24, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Motion to approve ORHS overnight Field Trip to New York 5/11/17-5/13/17: Denise Day moved to approve the ORHS overnight Field Trip to New York 5/11/17 – 5/13/17 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

There was a Board discussion about learning of proposed field trips earlier in the planning process.

Motion to approve list of Policies:

Policies for a First Read:

School Board Self-Evaluation and Goal Setting:	BA
Evaluation Questions/Individual Board Worksheet:	BA-RI and R2
Roles and Duties of the School Board Chairperson:	BBAB

Maria Barth moved to approve the above list of policies for a first reading, 2nd by Kenny Rotner.

Michael Williams moved to amend the motion to add clarification and align Policy BBAB to Policy BDB, 2nd by Dan Klein. The amendment passed 7-0 with the Student Representative abstaining.

The motion as amended passed 7-0 with the Student Representative abstaining.

Denise Day moved to approve Policy KD School District Social Media Websites/Platforms and Guidelines, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative abstaining.

Committee Assignments: Policy Committee: Kenny Rotner, Maria Barth and Denise Day have offered to stay on the Policy Committee for next year.

Al Howland moved to approve Kenny Rotner, Maria Barth and Denise Day to the Policy Committee for the next year, 2nd by MW. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative abstaining.

At the next meeting, they will be reviewing the remaining Board committees for assignment for the next year.

Maria Barth thinks it is important to take a stand that we use science when we make decisions.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Superintendent Morse reported that Tom Newkirk and Todd Allen met with the executive staff at UNH about crafting a memorandum of understanding that will enable students to have an early college experience.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT: Dean Rubine commended Tom and Denise for their reappointments to Chair and Vice Chair of the Board.

Dean Rubine talked about the Power School experience. He feels like the competency in Math has less feedback to the parents.

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

April 19th: Regular meeting at the High School

May 3rd: Regular meeting at Mast Way School

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS: RSA 91:-A:3 II (a)

Kenny Rotner moved to enter into nonpublic session at 9:00 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Superintendent Contract, 2nd by Denise Day. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.

NON-MEETING SESSION: None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Maria Barth made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. 2nd by Denise Day. Motion Passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,
Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary