

**Oyster River Cooperative School District
Special Deliberative Session I
Oyster River High School
February 5, 2019 7:00 PM**

School Board Members:

Thomas Newkirk (chairperson)
Michael Williams
Denise Day
Brian Cisneros
Allan Howland
Daniel Klein
Kenneth Rotner

Moderator: Richard Laughton

Clerk: Susan Caswell (Pro-Tem)

Legal Consultant: Diane Gorrow

Superintendent: Dr. James Morse

Business Administrator: Susan Caswell

Student Board Representative: not present

71 members of the public in attendance in the auditorium.

Moderator Laughton called meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

School Board Member Michael Williams presented the Distinguished Service Award to Holly Burt. Michael read a proclamation to honor all the work Holly has done for the district. He went on to highlight the many activities she has been involved in. Holly thanked the many who have collaborated with her to help bring education to life for the students of Oyster River.

Moderator Laughton read the certification for posting of MS-26 as follows:

I, Wendy DiFruscio, certify that on January 25, 2019, I posted the MS-26, the default budget and the written warrant attested by the School Board of the Oyster River Cooperative School District: in the Town of Durham at Oyster River Middle School and Oyster River High School, the place of meeting; in the Town of Lee at the Mast Way School; and in the Town of Madbury at the Moharimet School.

Moderator Laughton read the School Warrant as follows:

To the Inhabitants of the Oyster River Cooperative School District of Durham, Lee, and Madbury qualified to vote upon District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Oyster River High School in said district on the 5th day of February 2019, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for Session I of the Annual School District Meeting for discussion of Articles 3 through 4 and for any amendments thereto. Warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended and no warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article at Session I.

Official ballot voting for school district officers (articles 1 and 2) and on articles 3-4 will occur at town polling locations on Tuesday, March 12, 2019:

Town of Durham	Oyster River High School	7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Town of Lee	Lee Safety Complex	7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Town of Madbury	Madbury Town Hall	11:00 am to 7:30 pm

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the coming year.

ARTICLE 2: To choose two At-Large School Board members for the ensuing three years.

Allan Howland read Article 3 as follows:

ARTICLE 3: Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$47,405,510. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$ 46,850,794 (Default Budget) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the District or by law; or the District may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X, and XVI to take up the issue of the revised operating budget only? *The School Board recommends this appropriation.* (Majority vote required)

Note:

Fund 10 = \$ 45,940,460 (regular operating budget); Fund 21 = \$ 824,050 (expenditures from food service revenues); Fund 22 = \$ 600,000 (expenditures from federal/special revenues); Fund 23 = \$ 41,000 (expenditures from pass through funds).

Motion made by Al Howland to accept Article 3 as written. Seconded by Tom Newkirk.

Al explained the process the School Board has gone through to develop the budget and the plan for all schools. He also went through the goals set by the Board for the next school year. He then passed the presentation on to the middle school group.

Jay Richard, principal of the middle school and a group of teachers discussed the challenges the current building presents for students and staff. They highlighted the many safety issues especially the traffic around the building during drop off and pick up.

Chris Hall talked about the physical spaces and how they are distracting and disruptive to students. Teams are not together to collaborate.

Andrea Von Oeyen explained the challenges the building presents for the music program. The lack of space forces her to use the cafeteria for instruction. This space is often noisy and disruptive for students. She highlighted the lack of storage space for instruments.

Alida Carter and Emma Hewson both presented the challenges the building presents for the physical education department.

The World Language Department experiences many space issues with the current building. The expansion of the program has required they use shared spaces including the kitchenette area. This makes it very challenging to move furniture to accommodate students.

Jay invited the community to contact him if they would like to visit his building.

Dr Morse introduced Ron Lamarre. Ron presented the plans they have worked on for the new middle school. He outlined the timeline for the new building with the goal to move students into the building in March of 2022. He showed a slide with the proposed placement of the new building in relation to the current building.

Al followed up with how the middle school fits into the 2019-20 budget. He also described the work done to Mast Way to restructure the front, and the proposal in the budget to do the same for Moharimet. He went through the major drivers increasing the budget. He explained how this increase impacts each town in the cooperative and why the impact on Lee was greater than the other 2 communities.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on Article 3. There was none.

Moderator Laughton called for a vote on Article 3 as written. Article 3 passed as presented.

Daniel Klein read Article 4 as follows:

ARTICLE 4: Shall the District vote to approve within the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 273-A:3 the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Oyster River Educational Support Personnel Association and the Oyster River School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2019-2020	\$ 41,378
2020-2021	\$ 45,532
2021-2022	\$ 48,809

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 41,378 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? *The School Board recommends this appropriation.* (Majority vote required)

Motion made by Dan Klein to accept Article 4 as written. Seconded by Tom Newkirk.

Daniel Klein presented information on this article. He outlined the changes to the contract and the costs for each year of the contract.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on Article 4. There was none.

Moderator Laughton called for a vote on Article 4 as written. Article 4 passed as presented.

John Parsons thanked the School Board and administration for moving ahead with the middle school plan and the staff for describing the challenges of the current building.

Moderator Laughton reminded everyone of polling times and places on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

John Parsons moved to adjourn. Tom Newkirk seconded the motion.

Moderator Laughton adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Caswell, School Clerk, (Pro-Tem)
Oyster River Cooperative School District