

**Oyster River Cooperative School Board
Regular Meeting Minutes**

January 4, 2023

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT: Michael Williams, Denise Day, Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Yusi Turell, Heather Smith, Matt Bacon

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Paige Burt

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Morse, Suzanne Filippone, Catherine Plourde, Sue Caswell, Rebecca Noe, Jay Richard, Misty Lowe, David Goldsmith

STAFF PRESENT:

GUEST PRESENT:

ABSENT:

I. CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Michael Williams

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Michael Williams made the following changes to the agenda:

- Remove a motion for the 2023 Warrant Article
- Add "Tentative Meeting after the Deliberative Session Discussion" to Discussion & Action Items

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the amended agenda, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None provided

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Denise Day moved to approve the December 21st, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District

Misty Lowe from Mast Way spoke about a water leak that occurred in the building over break. She thanked facilities, maintenance, and administrators for promptly lining up vendors to take care of the issue. The leak did not impact the accessibility of the building or the return of students. Misty let the listening audience know that school psychologist Felicia Sperry, who oversees SEL for the district, is hosting a 5-session series of the Open Circle curriculum for parents. The first one begins tonight and will occur on Wednesdays. The next series will be offered on a different evening.

Dr. Morse further discussed the water damage explaining that it was due to a coil leak in the HVAC system. While some floors had to be repaired, he commended maintenance workers along with Suzanne Filippone, Sue Caswell, and Misty Lowe who quickly reported to the building to remove items and prevent further damage.

David Goldsmith of Moharimet reported that it was a nice transition back to school and he is hoping conditions will be right for a maple sugaring season. He credited Madbury Fire Representative Jim Davis for being an integral part of the operation. He helped build the sugar shack, participates each year, and this month he will be training parent volunteers who will learn the process and continue the maple sugaring legacy.

Jay Richard of ORMS announced the Drama Club, led by Sarah Kuhn and Juliann Woodbury, will perform Seussical Jr. in the ORHS auditorium. He encouraged the community to come out and support the 70+ student

actors and crew members during their four performances on Jan. 13th at 7pm, Jan. 14th at 1pm and 7 pm, and Jan. 15th at 1pm.

Rebecca Noe of ORHS announced students are in the last two regular weeks of the semester and informed the audience of the following dates:

- Jan. 17-20th Midterm Week
- Jan. 20th Grades Close
- Jan. 23rd Teacher Workshop Day (No School)
- Feb. 2nd 8th Grade Parent Info Night

B. Board

Denise Day made a statement of her intention to run again for an at-large school board seat this March.

Brian Cisneros shared he's glad Denise is running again but discouraged board members from announcing their candidacy during a school board meeting since the platform is not available to all candidates.

Chair Michael Williams announced he will not be running again and thanked the board for their trust, flexibility, and patience throughout his term. He encouraged anyone in the community that is interested in running to contact him and he'd be happy to provide information and answer questions about serving on the board.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction Report(s)

Suzanne Filippone stated that planning with Durham Parks & Rec for the summer REACH program and with administration for other summer offerings has begun. More information will be available in the upcoming months.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Morse announced the middle school has been LEED Gold Certified by the US Green Building Council. Fewer than 800 school buildings in the US have received this distinction and currently ORMS is the only school building in New Hampshire to receive this certification. He credited members of the school and community for all their sustainability efforts and support.

C. Business Administrator - None provided

D. Student Representative Report

Paige Burt shared she had a great time as a player and volunteer at the annual holiday basketball tournament. The next MOR Coffee House will be held on January 26th from 6:30-8:30pm and the cost is \$5 at the door. The senior class is hosting a Paint Night fundraiser on January 12th from 6:00-8:00pm in the ORHS cafeteria. Art teacher Maria Rosi will lead an art lesson and the evening will include pizza and refreshments. The cost is \$30 and registration is available by [clicking here](#).

E. Finance Committee Report – None provided

F. Other – None provided

VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA – Michael Williams asked if any items needed to be discussed separately and the board had no concerns.

- List of Policies for Second Read/Adoption: IHBA – Programs for Pupils with Disabilities, IHBAC – Developmental Delays as Qualifying Disability, IKFC – Alternative Diploma for Students with Significant Disabilities, JICK – Bullying and Cyberbullying – Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention and Policies for Deletion: IHBA – Programs for Pupils with Disabilities {Current Version} and ACE – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Handicap/Disability {Current Version}.

Michael Williams made a motion to approve the Unanimous Consent Agenda, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

2023 Warrant Article

The 2023 Warrant Article will not be approved for signature until after the budget hearing on January 11, 2023. The board had no comments or questions at this time.

FY24 Default Budget

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the FY24 Default Budget, 2nd by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Schedule a tentative school board meeting after the deliberative session

Michael Williams suggested holding a board meeting after the deliberative session, as they have done in the past, to address any changes to the warrants that come out of the discussion. A Feb 7th meeting date was decided.

Public Hearing Discussion

The public hearing will take place next week. There was no discussion, only the announcement.

Assign Presentation of Warrant Articles for the Deliberative Session

The board decided upon the following presenters during the deliberative session:

Yusi Turell - Distinguished Service Award, Michael Williams - Warrant Article #3, and Matt Bacon -Warrant Article #4.

Superintendent Self Evaluation

Dr. Morse shared his self-evaluation with the board and listening audience. A summary of key points from his reflection are as follows:

District work has transitioned to pre-pandemic work with a larger focus on students, student learning, and refining board policies impacting students. Work around MTSS intervention to support all learners made great progress and he credited the administrative team and the board for being so supportive.

He commended principals Rebecca Noe and Jay Richard for their alignment of the middle and high school schedules, which occurred for the first time in the district's history. Providing math and world language opportunities across buildings and utilizing the music staff more efficiently has been an incredible accomplishment.

Regarding grading and reporting, the district recognized an inconsistency at ORMS and improved reporting of their competency-based learning. The feedback from parents has been positive.

SEL learning in the classroom and work that center around the whole student continues to be an emphasis. The district has moved away from punitive models for most situations and has put into place restorative justice practices to help students assume responsibility and make better choices.

Work on safety has been monumental as the town's three chiefs and departments came together in collaboration to address how the district reacts to safety issues. A report of weak spots served as a roadmap for improvement and Resource Officer Nicolosi was credited for his pivotal role bringing together the administrative team, the town police departments and UNH.

The lawsuit with other school systems for adequacy of state funding will most likely do to court in April, but then, the process will continue with appeals. The fight to get adequate state funding will continue to be important work for our district and NH schools.

Although the pandemic has no longer been the center of focus, Catherine Plourde stepped up and took charge during that time. She reviewed recommendations by DHHS and the CDC and worked with nurses to stay on top

of the latest data, trends, and requirements. Her reports and updates were essential to maintaining our district's health and safety procedures.

Board support of the new DEIJ position has already been fruitful to teachers and students. Rachael Blansett has begun professional development planning to address areas of need. The new communication coordinator, Gen Brown, is a hard worker and an amazing asset in our efforts to communicate more effectively.

Board action to add tutors and a new LADC counselor at ORHS has provided a valuable resource to students.

The administration team and teachers have worked hard on district projects, building initiatives, and classroom learning that focuses on students. Dr. Morse praised staff and shared how pleased he is with the collaborative nature of ORCSD.

Choose Superintendent Search Committee Outside Vendor and appoint Catherine Plourde as the District Liaison to the Board Search Committee

The board reviewed the Superintendent Search Options memo from Michael Williams, Denise Day, and Dan Klein. After careful consideration of proposals by the New Hampshire School Board Association (NHSBA) and the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), the search committee recommended NESDEC as the preferred vendor. Initial costs, services provided by each party, guarantees if the initial search does not result in a candidate, and a warranty that the candidate will stay were factors considered. They also made the recommendation to appoint Catherine Plourde as the administrative liaison to the search committee.

Yusi Turell made a motion to choose NESDEC as the outside vendor for the Superintendent Search and appoint Catherine Plourde as the District Liaison to the Board Search Committee, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

There will be a Manifest Review meeting next week on January 11th prior to the Budget Hearing.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None provided

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

January 11, 2023 – Public Budget Hearing – ORMS Recital Hall @ 7:00 PM
 January 18, 2023 – Regular Meeting – ORMS Recital Hall @ 7:00 PM
 January 23, 2023 – Superintendent Lee Selectman Budget Update @ 6:00 PM
 February 6, 2023 – Superintendent Durham TC Budget Update @ 7:00 PM-
 Rescheduled from January 6, 2023

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II (c)

- Superintendent Evaluation

NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2 I {If Needed}

Michael Williams made a motion to enter Non-Public Session at 7:33 pm under RSA 91-A:3 II (c), 2nd by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Heather Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at: 8:18pm, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

The School Board reserves the right to take action on any item on the agenda.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Karyn Laird, Records Keeper