

REVISED 04/03/20

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Emergency Meeting

March 16, 2020

ORHS - Library

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD: Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Tom Newkirk, Denise Day, Michael Williams. Absent: Kenny Rotner, Al Howland

Student Representative:

ADMINISTRATORS: James Morse, Todd Allen, Sue Caswell, Suzanne Filippone, Catherine Plourde, Misty Lowe, David Goldsmith, Jim Rozycki, Josh Olstad, Jay Richard, Doris Demers.

STAFF PRESENT: Technology integrators were present before the meeting began but were released to go home before the meeting started.

There were no members of the public present.

I. CALL TO ORDER at 5:40 PM by Superintendent Morse

Jim opened the meeting with a question to the 5 members of the Board that were present. Normally the election of Officers would have happened with motions for Chair and Vice-Chair, do you wish to move forward with those nominations or wait until the next regularly scheduled meeting? Also, if it is the decision to wait, do we proceed as normal with Tom and Denise acting in the capacity of Chair and Vice-Chair?

Dan Klein felt that we should postpone. The remainder of the Board agreed.

At this point Jim turned the meeting over to Tom Newkirk to continue with the meeting.

5:00-5:30 Manifest Review by Denise Day and Dan Klein

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Denise Day moved to approve the agenda as amended, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 5-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

~~IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:~~

**~~Motion to approve 2/19/20 regular meeting minutes:
Revisions:~~**

~~V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS:~~

~~A. District:~~

~~B. Board:~~

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:

~~A. Assistant Superintendent Reports:~~

B. Superintendent's Report:

Jim began by stating that there was a lot of work being done over the weekend by the administrative team, the technology integrators and himself so that the Remote Learning aspect would be ready for the Monday workshop day. Jim thanked everyone that was involved in this very exhausting weekend.

Jim explained that he met with all the unions last week to discuss the roll out of Remote Learning and how it will affect the District in the coming weeks. Jim explained that for the Workshop day on Monday, he remotely broadcasted his opening statement to all four of the District schools. Jim handed out a copy of his opening statement to the Board. Jim explained that Remote Learning is a new process for all and we will have a learning curve as well as hiccups as we move forward in using Remote Learning. Also, he just heard that Maine has closed down the schools, but do not have a plan in place for educating their students.

Jim commended our administrators, technology staff, school nurses and counselors for their continued dedication and support to all as we tackle this COVID-19 situation.

Jim asked each of the principals and Directors to come up one at a time and give a brief update on how their schools faired today.

Suzanne Filippone, HS Principal explained that they have two different styles of learning, synchronous and Asynchronous. Synchronous is when the student and teacher live stream and Asynchronous is when a student can learn at any time with prerecorded videos. She also explained that they will not be using the blue and white scheduling, but day 1 and day 2 with 1 hour long periods. They will also begin the day with office time where emails can be checked and answered. They will be able to offer flexibility with content area, but also structure if needed. They will be able to offer parent support as well. There is also a plan in place if there is no student contact for 72 hours.

Denise Day asked about counseling services for students.

Suzanne explained that the counselors will continue to do what they always do. They are still in their master scheduling period.

Jim stated that he was in the counseling office that day and their whiteboard was full of their plans for students.

Tom Newkirk asked about the possibility of face to face contact and if we were using Zoom.

Denise asked about other subject areas like art. What if students need supplies?

Suzanne explained as an example that Mike Troy found some amazing activities that can be done at home. There was also input about art studies that can also be done at home and activities outside in the student's yard.

Jim explained that he has reached out to the transportation department for dropping supplies at student's homes.

Jay Richard, Middle School Principal explained that he has an amazing staff and that they sent the laptops home with the kids on Friday. He also polled the student body and it was discovered that less than 10% of the student body do not have Wi-Fi at home. They will keep this in mind when rolling out the Remote Learning. He explained that they are fortunate to have 1:1. In terms of schedules he is using the same one as Suzanne. He stated that he is very fortunate to work with Suzanne.

David Goldsmith and Misty Lowe, Moharimet and Mast Way Principals worked together today with Brian Ryan, Asst. Special Education Director. They started the day with Superintendent Morse's address to everyone and then worked in micro teams for their Schoology training. Their goal is to build consistency with their grade level teams. They will work through any learning challenges with Special Education and paraeducators for learning consistency. David went on to explain that the schedules will be very different as they are working with a 5 year age range. They will provide enriching learning opportunities for all grade levels.

Denise Day questioned what would happen if households did not have internet access.

Josh Olstad stated that he is currently researching a company "Hotstop" that could be utilized for \$200-250/family, but the lead time is 2 to 4 weeks and he is working on a quote. They could possibly have a short term lease of 4 months.

David explained that more students need a device than internet access. Misty wants to make sure that each student has their own laptop.

Tom Newkirk asked if there was any way to have collaborative groups.

David stated that there would be book groups and math works with teachers.

Josh stated that the IT department along with the tech integrators have been working hard to assist staff with the abundance of information that is required to roll out the Remote Learning and wanted to acknowledge and thank them for all of their hard work. Additionally, questions raised about phones for remote access and people are concerned about releasing their cell numbers. Today was troubleshooting day. We are making corrections as they happen, but we still have a back log of waiting requests and we are working on that. We still need to clean the equipment and we are still brainstorming on how we are going to set up a way for parents to contact the staff. We are continuing to support the tech integrators, we have lots of meetings right now, principals are working on identifying families with no access to technology. We need to develop video guides for step by step training. Unfortunately, this is changing hour by hour. I cannot say enough about my staff and how great they are.

Jim invited Doris Demers, School Nutrition Director to report out on the silver lining in this situation. Doris explained that as of tomorrow we will have Meals on Bus Wheels. I was proactive on Friday when I placed an order for tons of paper goods and

supplies. Also, with State of NH permission and due to the past summer program, this allows us to be able to access free meals for our students during this current closure. We sent a survey out to parents asking who wished to receive free breakfast and lunch and as of right now we will be providing over 550 meals. We will have a certified school nutrition worker for safe food handling on each of the buses that are dropping off food.

Doris went on to say that the parents are thrilled that we are doing this as there is a hardship for some. She wanted to thank everyone who has been dropping off food and monetary donations for the End 68Hours of Hunger. It is greatly appreciated.

Jim explained that he was just informed of a \$500 donation that will be forthcoming to help with End68Hours of Hunger.

Catherine Plourde, Director of Special Education, thanked all colleagues, staff and every administrator who are working closely with us on providing Remote Learning. She stated that at 3:00 PM today they received a memo offering guidance, but it was not very supportive for us. She explained that she is working closely with staff on how we are to provide services to our students. She stated that some of the services are direct services and some are consultations. They will be sending directions home to parents. She went on to say that some services are not going to be able to be provided. The staff are keeping logs on the services that are being provided and not being provided. A review of all logs will happen when we reconvene. Catherine stated that we will not be providing services in home or schools. The residential placements will remain where they are, and the day placements will be providing the remote learning to our students.

Denise Day asked what was happening to the Special Education process.

Catherine explained that they are continuing with timeline compliance. The evaluations in process have a 90 day timeline. The new evaluations cannot be tested now but we will work with families. If support is needed, we will do that now.

Michael Williams asked if the needs for compensatory education is based on the students current IEP and the goals within that IEP or the level of service?

Catherine responded that student growth is based on goal attainment.

Jim Rozycki, Facilities Director stated that he also was proactive and ordered extra cleaning supplies, hand soap and hand sanitizer. He also let the Board know that we have plenty of toilet paper. Jim explained that he has modified the custodial schedules to attack the touch points. He also explained that his staff were questioning whether they come to work or not. The Board said, "Yes." Jim thanked the Board. Additional, Jamie and I meet with the head custodians daily to plan schedules. We feel that security is a big concern and recontamination of rooms after cleaning. We are reverting to a summer clean with top to bottom cleaning, rugs and sigh off sheets for completion of areas. This would also include contractors coming in to do work. We will be placing closed signs around the property and cancelling the room reservations within our facilities.

Jim Morse explained that the SAU office will be alternating staff on a two day rotation so that a limited number of staff will be in the facility at all times. The office will be closed on Friday for a deep clean and the SAU staff will work from home on their off days, with everyone working from home on Fridays.

Jim Morse explained the Lisa Huppe was not at the meeting, but our plans are to keep bus drivers working, but different missions every day.

Todd Allen explained that he has received inquiries regarding the NH Standardized Testing and the SAT Testing. At this time the testing is still on at this time.

Jim Morse stated that the shut down is assuming that we are returning, but there is a very high likely hood that this will be extended. This could carry into the spring and also to the end of this school year.

Tom Newkirk praised the extraordinary work that you have done in such a short time frame.

Denise Day asked about the daycares that are in our schools.

Catherine stated that Growing Places has already closed.

Mast Way Principal Nomination

Jim asked the Board to endorse his nomination of Misty Lowe as the new Mast Way Principal. He explained to the Board the interview process, and the broad base committee that made up the search committee. He explained that Misty had tough competition, and that he honored the work she has done for the past 6 years in the District. He explained that the staff are responding excellently to Misty's leadership and hope that the Board will honor his recommendation.

Michael Williams asked if it was procedural correct to do this nominate outside of a regular meeting.

Jim explained that the Board can always add items to an agenda at any meeting, and when we needed to cancel the March 18, 2020 meeting we consolidated information.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to endorse the Superintendent's chose of Misty Lowe as the new Mast Way Principal, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 5-0.

C. Business Administrator:

Sue Caswell reported out to the Board that this is the traditional report that is signed every year after voting takes place. She asked for a motion to sign this form.

Denise Day made a motion to authorize the signing of the MS22 form, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 5-0.

~~D. Student Senate Report:~~

~~E. Other:~~

F. VII. DISCUSSION ITEM:

VIII. ACTIONS

A. Superintendent Action Items: None

B. Board Action Items:

Cancel all Spring Events and Field Trips

Jim asked the Board moving forward to cancel all district events for the remainder of the year with the exception of graduation. This means no prom, award ceremonies, Baccalaureate.

Denise Day spoke of the chatter that is on Facebook that parents are talking about doing something for those seniors. The silver lining is the community is coming together to do what we can if it is safe.

Michael Williams asked if we took an incremental approach to cancelling events up to the end of April or mid-May.

Suzanne Filippone asked that if this approach was taken, she advised the Board that ample time to plan and prepare staff would be needed, as an example they are already planning for graduation.

Brian Cisneros suggested that we give full discretion for cancelling to the Superintendent.

David Goldsmith stated that there is a financial piece to cancelling events.

Denise Day understands how heartbreaking the outcome of this decision will be not only on students and parents, but also the staff. She feels that cancelling all is best, or at least until the end of May, but she also felt that administration has enough to deal with right now.

Suzanne Filippone stated that it breaks her heart to have to cancel all of the major events but going with cancelling to the end of May will not allow for enough time to plan.

Dan Klein takes Michael's point, but felt that cancelling all major events at this time until the end of the year with the exception of graduation is best.

Todd Allen asked a clarifying question, Is the cancellation including all sports events.

Dan Klein thought that this was for events, not sports.

Tom Newkirk questioned the NHIAA and their take on sporting events. We would need to keep this separate. He also was trying to figure out what the motion could be.

Jim stated that sports are NHIAA and we do not have control over that and it would need to be a separate motion.

Dan Klein suggested that the safe and reasonable way is to keep it open and not make that decision now.

The Board had a lengthy discussion surrounding the sports programming.

Jim Morse stated that bringing people together, students in groups is problematic.

Tom Newkirk made a motion to approve the cancellation of all major spring events and field trips with the exception of graduation, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed. Vote: 4-1 with Michael Williams voting no.

Denise Day made a motion to nominate and approve Continuing Contract Professional Staff Members as submitted by the Superintendent, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed. Vote 4-0-1 with Michael Williams abstaining.

Jim asked the Board how they wished to proceed with Board meetings for the remainder of the year. Do they wish to continue to meet publicly keeping the social distancing between all like we are doing today, or to remotely meet if this is possible?

Brian Cisneros felt that we should continue to meet publicly.

Tom Newkirk is reluctant to do that. He felt that this was putting people at risk.

Jim Morse asked Josh if remote meetings were a possibility?

Josh stated that we are streaming live right now and thinks that it is possible. He and Alexander will look into this and get back to Dr. Morse with the answer.

There was discussion surrounding the law for making sure that meetings were still open to the public.

Michael Williams asked about items on the agenda moved from the March 18 meeting to today that required action during an emergency meeting, if this was acceptable practice.

Jim Morse reminded the Board that they have the authority to place any item on an agenda at any time.

There was no further discussion.

X. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

A. Manifests Reviewed and Approved by Manifest Committee:

Denise Day and Dan Klein reviewed the manifests.

Payroll Manifest #18 \$867,282.96

Vendor Manifest #20: \$166,640.12

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:

- A. Future Meeting Dates: 4/1/20 Regular Board Meeting – ORHS Library 7:00 PM -
{Possible Remote Meeting}
4/15/20 Regular Board Meeting – ORHS Library 7:00 PM –
{Possible Remote Meeting}

~~XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91 A:3 II {If Needed}~~

~~NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91 A:2 I {If Needed}~~

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Brian Cisneros made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m., 2nd by Michael Williams. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy L. DiFruscio
Executive Assistant to
Superintendent of Schools