

**Oyster River Cooperative School District  
Regular Meeting**

**March 21, 2018**

**ORHS Library**

**7:00 p.m.**

**SCHOOL BOARD:** Denise Day, Brian Cisneros, Tom Newkirk, Kenny Rotner, Dan Klein, Al Howland, Michael Williams, and Student Representatives: Hannah Jane Wilson and Patty Andersen-New Student Representative

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Sue Caswell, Superintendent Morse, Suzanne Filippone, David Goldsmith, Josh Olstad, and Jay Richard

There were 9 members of the public present.

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** By Superintendent Morse at 7:00 p.m.

**Election of Officers: Kenny Rotner nominated Tom Newkirk to serve as the Board Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Williams. The motion passed 6-0-1 with Tom Newkirk abstaining.**

**Nomination of Vice Chair: Kenny Rotner nominated Denise Day as Vice Chair of the Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Denise Day abstaining.**

**Welcome of School Board Student Representative:**

Tom Newkirk thanked Hannah Jane Wilson for all her work as the Student Rep on the Board. She thanked the Board for giving her the great experience and introduced Patty Andersen as the new Student Representative to the School Board.

**Kenny Rotner moved to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II c, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.**

**APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:**

Vendor Manifest #20: \$83,967.60

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Addition to the Agenda:** The attorney for the ACLU has contacted Tom Newkirk and talked to him about the possibility of Oyster River getting involved if the Senate Bill passes. Tom Newkirk suggested a Board conversation on this matter. **Brian Cisneros moved to approve the agenda with the addition, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion passed. 7-0.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Dean Rubine of Lee congratulated the Board members on the election. He also congratulated the District on passing the budget.

Keith O'Brien spoke briefly on the cell phone issue at the middle school. He agrees that it is the parent's prerogative if they want to give their children cell phones, but it is up to the schools to make the decision on what is allowed in the buildings. He also believes that cell phones in the middle schools do not keep them safer. The policy he is asking for does not put the safety of kids at risk.

Deana Pilkenton is a parent of four children in the District. She pointed to research that concludes that cell phones in the middle schools are a distraction to students. This review of the policy district wide is an opportunity to set the bar of the culture of the core values of the schools.

Sarah Farwell of Lee has three kids in the District and there is so much research that clearly supports keeping phones out of the middle schools. She feels that kids are getting cell phones younger and doesn't support use of them at the middle school.

Lori Bromley of Durham spoke to the Board. She is a teacher in Greenland and the issue of cell phones isn't brought up because there is a cell phone policy that they are not used in the school. If the technology is needed for learning, then she feels that the District needs to provide it.

John Polagi of Durham feels that the District needs to: Establish separate policies for School District management of technology devices vs. personal mobile devices. He feels that policies should include the following: clear and encompassing definitions of school devices vs personal ones, a acceptance use policy of what is acceptable and what isn't, consequences for disruption and misuse, and a user agreement for both user and parents.

Chris Skoglund of Durham spoke in support to ban cell phone use for any reason during the school day in the middle school. He also added that this policy would not preclude the use of screens by teachers to enhance learning or enrich student academic experience through the use of district provided technology.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve 3/14 regular and non-public meeting minutes:**

Kenny Rotner recommended postponing the public minutes until the next meeting.

**Nonpublic 3/14 Minutes: Al Howland moved to approve the nonpublic minutes of 3/14, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion approved 6-1-0 with Michael Williams abstaining.**

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS**

**A. District:**

Lisa Huppe, Transportation Director, mentioned that the NH School of Transportation has a dinner annually to acknowledge drivers for safe driving. She commended driver Brenda Small who received a 25 year safe driving award, and Jim Flasher for receiving a 20 year safe driving award.

Jay Richard of the Middle School reported that the Durham Police Dept. is sponsoring a social media forum for the parents. It will be on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the high school.

**B. Board:**

Denise Day attended the joint Moharimet and Mast Way PTO meeting last week. The presentation was on social media. It was really well done and informative.

**VI. DISTRICT REPORTS**

**A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction Report:** None

**B. Superintendent Report:**

Superintendent Morse and Sue Caswell attended a Durham Town Council meeting and asked for the release of school impact funds that the town collects to assist in the Mast Way expansion. It was a unanimous vote that they released the funds. Durham has collected \$96,174 plus accrued interest. Kenny Rotner asked if Lee and Madbury garner that fee as well. Superintendent Morse replied that Lee and Madbury do not.

Superintendent Morse reported that the health insurance costs will be 0.3%. It will be over 200K savings to the District and Sue Caswell will have the exact numbers at the next meeting.

Superintendent Morse also thanked Yates Electric for their generous \$5K donation to the scoreboard for the baseball field.

The Middle School was recognized as a NELMS Spotlight School. There are only 30 Spotlight Schools throughout New England.

**Cell Phone Discussion:** Superintendent Morse discussed the cell phone use survey at the middle school from the parents and the teachers. They received 800 responses from parents on the survey. There is clearly an interest that our current policy needs to change and that it needs to be more restrictive.

Denise Day feels we need to figure out something that makes sense that may be more restrictive than what we have now, but she could not support a total ban.

Tom Newkirk feels that there is a general sense that we need to have a tighter policy at the school.

Kenny Rotner discussed that the parents that were asking for cell phones be allowed in the schools feel that safety was a concern, and also the convenience of being in touch with students about arranging rides. Parents that are against cell phones feel that it is a distraction and a mental health issue. It is a goal of a Board to look at these concerns. We are providing the technology that is needed in the schools.

Al Howland asked where are we moving with technology, what are we providing? We have built a demand for technology by building a rich infrastructure and now the technology is robust. Everything must be equitable in the District.

The Board discussed what other information do we need to go forward with a policy. How do they handle the request for usage of technology and how do they handle the personal devices? Are they waiting to the end of the day or going to the office? Kenny Rotner thinks part of the decision is to think philosophically about what is best.

Dan Klein feels that the Board needs to be purposefully thinking through the role of technology through curriculum. We will find ways for parents to communicate with their child if they need to. We may need to find a short time

frame during the day, perhaps before lunch, if they need to communicate with a parent.

Hannah Jane Wilson suggested that if a parent needs to reach the child during the day, to go through the office.

Brian Cisneros added that we need to make any policy changes clear to the parents. Brian Cisneros and Tom Newkirk will be visiting other schools to see their policy and collect data. They will report their findings to the Board. At that time, the Board will set guidelines they want to see, and the Policy Committee will craft the policy to bring back to the Board.

**Kenny Rotner moved that Tom Newkirk and Brian Cisneros have the approval to go forward and examine policies at other schools and bring back their information to the School Board 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

The Parent Survey Results:

The Oyster River School Board is in the process of evaluating our middle school cell phone procedures. Which of the following options would you support for Oyster River Middle School?

No cell phones allow on the bus or at school	14.45%
No cell phone use allowed during school hours	30.74%
No cell phone use unless with expressed permission from A school adult	19.41%
Continue the current practice of allowing u se during lunch, Recess, or with adult permission	36.41%

Middle School Teacher Cell Phone Survey:

The Oyster River School Board is in the process of evaluating our middle school cellphone procedures. Which of the following options would you support for Oyster River Middle School?

No cell phones allowed on the bus or at school	1.54%
No cell phone use allowed during school hours	15.38%
No cell phone use unless with expressed permission From a school adult	47.69%
Continue the current practice of allowing cellphone Use during lunch, recess or with adult permission	35.38%

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**Bus Transportation Bid:**

Lisa Huppe reported on the bus transportation bid with the Board.

Bus Transportation RFP-RFQ Bus Lease:

77 Passenger School Bus Lease

The contract was awarded to W.C. Cressey based on warranty, site location, proposal on service, and cost.

**Denise Day moved to approve the transportation bus bid to W.C. Cressey for \$82,250, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion approved 7-0 and the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**C. Business Administrator**

**Budget Update:**

Sue Caswell updated the Board on the FY 18 budget and stated that she will have the Health Trust hard numbers available at the next Board meeting.

**D. Student Senate Report:**

Hannah Jane Wilson reported that today the 10<sup>th</sup> graders took PSAT exams, 9<sup>th</sup> Graders had a Wellness Day, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade had SATs, 12<sup>th</sup> graders completed a community service day. She also noted that spring sports have started.

**E. Other:** None

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**E-Rate:** Josh Olstad reported to the Board the RFP/RFQ erate category 1 wide area network fiber.

**RFP/RFQ eRate Category 1- Internet service: Awarded to First Light \$900 a month/500 Mbps, Michael Williams moved to approve the RFP/RFQ eRate Category 1 internet service to First Light at \$900 a month/500 mbps, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

**RFP/RFQ eRate Category 1 Wide Area Network Fiber: Awarded to First Light at \$8,190 month, Michael Williams moved to approve RFP/RFQ e-Rate category 1 wide area network fiber to be awarded to First Light at \$8,190 per month, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

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**SB193 Discussion:**

Tom Newkirk reported that the first step would be to have a non-meeting with the attorney to discuss what would be involved in being part of that suit. There would not be a cost involved to the District.

**Kenny Rotner moved to set up a nonmeeting with attorney about possibly joining a suit on SB193, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0.**

**VIII. ACTIONS:**

**A. Superintendent Action Items:** None

**B. Board Action Items:**

**Motion to approve Administrator Contracts as submitted by the Superintendent: Denise Day moved to approve the administrator contracts as submitted by the Superintendent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion approved 7-0.**

**Motion to approve the ORAA Salaries: Denise Day moved to approve the ORAA Salaries, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Motion to approve the Director salaries: Denise Day moved to approve the Director salaries, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Motion to nominate and approve continuing contract professional staff members as submitted by the Superintendent. Denise Day moved to nominate and approve continuing contract professional staff members as submitted by the Superintendent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-1-0 with Kenny Rotner abstaining.**

**Motion to approve the MS-22: Denise Day moved to approve the MS-22, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Williams. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Motion to accept ORHS Letter of Resignation: Denise Day moved to accept a ORHS Letter of Resignation, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.**

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**Motion to elect William Leslie as ORCSD School District Clerk, Lisa Harling as ORCSD School District Treasurer, and Dr. Katy Lilly as ORCSD School District Physician for the 2018-19 school year. Kenny Rotner moved to elect William Leslie as ORCSD School District Clerk, Lisa Harling as ORCSD School District Treasurer, and Dr. Katy Lilly as ORCSD School District Physician for the 2018-19 school year, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Motion to approve the Policy for a first read EFAA – Payment for school meals: Kenny Rotner moved to approve Policy EFAA for a first reading 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.**

**IX. School Board Committee Updates:**

Al Howland reported that the Wellness Committee met and discussed a sleep survey and wellness assessment survey. The Wellness Policy has not been updated since 2012 and he would like to have a Board discussion on a plan for the committee moving forward

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:**

**Future Meeting Dates: April 4<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting at ORHS Library 7:00 p.m.**

**XII NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (a):**

- Superintendent Contract – Postponed to April 4, 2018

**NON-MEETING SESSION RSA 91-A2 I {if needed}**

**XIII ADJOURNMENT**

**Michael Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

Respectfully yours,  
Laura Grasso Dobson  
Recording Secretary