

Oyster River Cooperative School Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2022

DRAFT

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Absent

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

STAFF PRESENT: Jon Bromley, Lisa Huppe, Jim Rozycki, Doris Demers

GUEST PRESENT:

CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Michael Williams

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Denise Day moved to approve the agenda as written, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Denise Day moved to approve the April 6, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.

Brian Cisneros made the following revision:

On page 3 in the Fall Spirit Collaborative motion replace the word “go” with “enter”, insert “a” after “into” and replace the word “for” with “with” so the motion reads, “Brian Cisneros made a motion for the Athletic Director to enter into a Portsmouth Cooperative Agreement with Spirit”.

Yusi Turell made the following revisions:

On page 3 paragraph 7 in Suzanne Filippone’s Competency Based Learning presentation insert “high school” in front of the word “competencies”.

On page 5 under Discussion & Action Items strike “he’s been a past Mandarin proponent” and insert “he has children in the elementary school”.

Motion passed 7-0 with corrections.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District

Jay Richard of ORMS provided an update on Math Counts, coached by Dean Rubine, who was first in the seacoast stating students did an exceptional job. Jay is looking forward to taking one hundred forty-four 8th graders to D.C. on April 23-26th.

Rebecca Noe of ORHS cleared up a few recent rumors for parents and the listening audience: (1) A music video surfaced in which a student was holding up two airsoft guns and they were not real nor were they on school property, (2) A student was not escorted out of the building by police, rather after an office visit the student was released to class, and (3) Increased amount of police presence at the high school was in fact two state troopers talking to a forensics class for a planned presentation. Rebecca provided other high school updates including a Mouth of the River Coffee House to be held on 4/21, a Super Bobcat Day with an outdoor pep rally to be held on 4/22 and Junior/Senior Prom tickets available for purchase from Ms. Milliken until Friday.

B. Board

Denise Day shared how wonderful it is to have in-person events again. She credited Felicia Sperry and Kim Felch for providing important information in the Connect Suicide Prevention Training, she credited Sara O'Brien and Kyra Dulmage for their participation in the recent solar array dedication and remarked on the amazing tour the Glacier team led at the middle school. Denise also spoke positively about two recent concerts at the middle school.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS**A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction Report(s)**Summer School, ESY and REACH Update

Suzanne Filippone encouraged parents to sign up for the Durham Parks & Rec summer REACH program that will be held at Mast Way. There are still some openings and although many sessions are full, she advised parents to sign up on the waitlist since they anticipate some cancellations as families' summer plans change. All summer programming, including extended school year, will be held Tuesday through Thursday at the middle school. The MTSS teams will be determining summer programming and credit recovery course placement to notify parents in May.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Morse referred to a World Language memo stating the committee will be back up and running in May and some member names are still being determined and added. Suzanne made an additional announcement about Summer Professional Development. She said the work will be focused on Tier 1 and felt it was noteworthy that forty-one teachers have made requests to participate, which demonstrates their high level of commitment and dedication to the field.

Dr. Morse recognized the following individuals: Susan Leifer of Mast Way - NH State Finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST); ORHS math teacher Erica Cooke - 2022 Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year; Eva Guerrette - Recipient of the 2022 Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship; and OR alumni Robert Eggers - writer-director of the film *The Northman* about to hit theaters.

Capstone Update – Jon Bromley

Jon Bromley presented on his ½ year sabbatical work spent developing a model for a Capstone Program that he has since coined as a "Design Thinking Seminar" course. Jon explained the program is designed for grades 9-12 and is guided by student interest, passions, and skills. He further explained that the guiding light behind the framework is the district's "vision of a graduate" in which the course will explicitly target the learner's awareness of self, awareness of others, and transferable skills and knowledge. The result is for a student to have a culminating experience that challenges them to work with community partners and other stakeholders who might benefit from their final contribution. Jon discovered in his pilot program the importance of teaching a design thinking framework to help students identify and solve a problem, that the center of the work is cross curriculum and that the course is more effective meeting daily with teacher involvement. His course proposal is offering an elective study, Design Thinking I and Design Thinking II, for juniors and seniors to earn ½ credit for each semester long course.

Dr. Morse applauded Jon's work in being a change maker and creating a course of study that directly aligns with the vision of a graduate. Jon and board members held a discussion about logistics and next steps in summer planning.

Strategic Plan Update:

Sue Caswell provided a brief update on the strategic plan regarding nutrition, transportation, and facilities.

School Nutrition

Update included upgrades to equipment, inventory of items and a plan for replacement, staff training, and kitchen efficiency in layout and serving lines. Doris Demers, Director of School Nutrition, spoke about the constraints with bidding due to market volatility, the return of grow racks to a few schools, plans for bringing back community dinners and the end of free student meals at the end of June.

Transportation

Update included upgraded driver pay and benefits, new hires, plans for an electric bus, and establishing a school bus safety program.

Facilities

Update included removal of the old middle school and construction of the new middle school, repurposing middle school furniture, construction of new athletic fields and tennis courts, replacing air handlers and a retaining wall, as well as moving boilers from the middle school to the high school.

The board raised the point that the HS is losing a parking lot due to the new tennis courts and asked about the effect and how the HS parking lot lottery will work. Principal Noe will talk to the class officers and report back.

Dr. Morse said updates to the Strategic Plan will continue at the next meeting. He remarked on the solar array dedication ceremony, which included visitors Senator Maggie Hassan, State Representative Chris Pappas, and Deputy Commissioner Christine Brennan. He was pleased with the student led tours and sensed that the visitors were happy and impressed. Dr. Morse recognized teacher Kyra Dulmage for her organization efforts and using the school as a teaching opportunity for kids to explain the new construction and inner workings. Regarding the recent strings and band concerts, he said audiences were super impressed with the hall and the sound quality, and noted they have a space second to none for the state. The hall seats a total of 901 guests, providing a huge capacity for events.

C. Business Administrator

General Assurance FY 23

Sue Caswell requested that the board accept and authorize the use of federal funds by making a motion and signing the document.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to authorize the Board Chair and Superintendent to sign the FY23 General Assurances, 2nd by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 7-0.

ESSER Funds Update

Sue provided an update on the status of three funds stating no action was required tonight.

D. Student Representative Report

No report given.

E. Finance Committee Report

Next meeting will be April 21 to begin work on the 2023-24 timetable.

F. Other:

VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA - None provided.**VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**2022-23 Board Meeting Calendar – discussion

The proposed calendar designates the MS Recital Hall as the meeting site and Denise Day wondered about their past practice of rotating a meeting among the school buildings. Yusi Turell wondered if holding meetings at the Recital Hall would take away a rental opportunity. Dr. Morse stated that the idea behind hosting the meeting at the middle school is so more people come into the building. Dan Klein agreed it is good to showcase the space and if there is a request to use it then the meeting could be held at the high school.

Yusi asked if the calendar was cross referenced with the list of religious holidays and Dr. Morse acknowledged that he would do that. Denise would like to see any changes discussed tonight addressed on an updated draft prior to adopting it.

Operating Plan Discussion for 2022-23**School Hours/Start Times**

To honor pre-Covid work that was done by various groups around adolescent sleep time, specifically pushing for a later start time for adolescent age students, the middle and high school will operate from 8:15-3:00, while the elementary schools will operate from 9:00-3:25. Dr. Morse stated the high school start time is as late as they can push it out due to the implications of sports and not wanting students to miss too much of their school day leaving for games.

Transportation Plans

The previously blended K-12 bus runs were split K-4 and 5-12 during the pandemic the outcomes were positive for both students and bus drivers. For this reason, the bus routes will continue in this manner for the next school year.

MS Master Plan

The middle school and high school are working together to better align their schedules with the rationale that a number of middle schoolers go to the high school for language and math instruction. The high school will no longer have Bobcat Fridays, a day in which all classes met for an abbreviated time since most students and teachers surveyed felt it was not an effective use of time. Instead, the schedule at the middle and high school will rotate between white and blue days, which will also work better for the ninety-six high school students signed up for CTE classes. Both schools are looking to reduce the lunches down to two or three for the next school year.

Fall 2022 Covid Precautions

The only precautions that will continue into the next school year are enhanced custodial work and sanitizing between bus runs. The SASS program will end soon and next year, COVID testing will be done by local physicians or through home test kits. Dr. Morse state that testing, social distancing including the 6ft in the cafeteria, and masking will dissipate at the end of this school year.

Yusi Turell requested that local data still be available, and Catherine Plourde said it will continue to be provided on the school website and she can provide COVID updates as the board wishes. Regarding quarantine and isolation requirements, they will wait to see what DHHS recommends.

List of Policies for first read: JICH – Student Drug and Alcohol Use, IHBI – Alternative Learning Plans, IMBC – Alternative Credit Options

Denise Day introduced three policies for first read. Heather Smith wondered why the lines pertaining to a plan were struck out under the heading “Alternative Credit Options” and Denise explained it was deliberate to provide students with choice and flexibility in their learning opportunities.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the list of policies for first read: JICH – Student Drug and Alcohol Use, IHBI – Alternative Learning Plans, and IMBC – Alternative Credit Options, 2nd by Yusi Turell. Motion passed 7-0.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Manifest Committee met and completed the following manifests.

Vendor Manifest #22 \$276,559.04
Payroll Manifest #21 \$1,043,864.93

The Policy Committee re-elected Denise Day as Chair.

Amy Sterndale will be providing a workshop for administration on behalf of the Communications Committee.

Dr. Morse provided an update to the DEIJ Coordinator Hiring Committee including the following: the committee consists of fifteen members comprised of parents, students, teachers & administrators. They received forty-two applications and eighteen are complete with video and essay components to demonstrate effectiveness of public speaking and written communication. Six candidates have passed the initial screening and will be invited to an interview. The two finalists will then be introduced to both the district and parents, and Dr. Morse will conduct a final interview with each candidate before making a recommendation to the school board. It was noted that if the final two candidates are deemed unsuitable, the district will begin a new search and reopen the application process.

High school counselor Sean Peschel was awarded EOL Coordinator of the Year.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None provided

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: May 4, 2022 Regular Board Meeting – ORHS Library
May 18, 2022 Regular Board Meeting – ORHS Library
June 1, 2022 Regular Board Meeting – ORHS Library
June 15, 2022 Regular Board Meeting – ORHS Library

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II {If Needed}
NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2 I {If Needed}

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Brian Cisneros moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, 2nd by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper