

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Regular Meeting

May 2, 2018

Mast Way School

7:00 p.m.

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

Student Representative: Patty Andersen

ADMINISTRATORS: Superintendent Morse, Todd Allen, Suzanne Filippone, Sue Caswell, Carrie Vaich Roy, David Goldsmith, and Jay Richard

There were 11 members of the public present.

I. CALL TO ORDER: by Tom Newkirk at 7:00 p.m. Tom apologized for speaking out to Dean Rubine at the last meeting. Everyone's comments are welcome.

1a. PUBLIC HEARING: Denise Day moved to open a public hearing per RSA 198:20-b for the acceptance of unanticipated funds from the public-school infrastructure fund, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. With no comments being said, Al Howland moved to close the public hearing, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Denise Day moved to approve the resolution authorizing the District to enter into a performance contracting agreement and Master Lease Purchase Agreement, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Al Howland moved to accept the grant funds from the state, 2nd by Michael Williams. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Payroll Manifest #21: \$1,279,514.01

Vendor Manifest #23: \$81,296.31

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Revision: The report on the progress of ELO will be moved to a future agenda

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the agenda with the above revision, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janet Perkins Howland of Durham spoke to encourage the Leadership Team and School Board to put mental health and wellness at the top of the priority list. Suicide prevention and depression and how they are linked to technology, and gun safety need to be examined.

Dean Rubine of Lee spoke and mentioned that the 7th graders who went to the baseball game in Boston had a bus breakdown on the way home but that another one was on its way.

Sara Farwell of Lee thanked the Board for looking at the cell phone policy and technology. She looked at the new draft and is pleased. It takes out the inequity. She would like the Board to question if a one to one is needed.

Liz Phillips of Durham thanked the Board for drafting the new cell phone use policy. We want to teach students to use technology in a guided safe way so that everyone has access.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve April 18 regular meeting minutes:

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the April 18th regular meeting minutes, 2nd by Al Howland with the following revisions:

Page 3 last paragraph replace “meeting” with media”

Page 4 Paragraph 5 replace “module” with “model”

Page 7 Paragraph 3 replace “procedure” with “policy”

Page 7 last paragraph remove “Michael, Kenny, and Brian are in favor of removing this exception.”

The motion with the above revisions passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS, AND COMMENTS

A. District: Jay Richard of the Middle School reported that a bus with a group of 7th graders leaving Fenway Park broke down on the way home. Another one was on its way to pick them up. He noted that it was not a District bus that was being used in the trip. Jay also reported that the 8th grade trip to DC went great.

David Goldsmith of Moharimet reported that they have been doing a lot with their year of forestry. They are getting ready for the day of forest celebration at UNH. He wanted to thank everyone at UNH for being very supportive. They have begun the state assessments this week. They should be done by the middle of May.

Carrie Vaich Roy of Mast Way commended Lori Buckley who was named Kitchen Manager of the Year and Felicia Sperry who was named NH Psychologist of the Year. Carrie updated the progress being made to Mast Way.

B. Board: Denise Day commended Sean Kelly, Faculty Advisor of the Mouth of the River. The articles are amazing and professional level.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction Report

Progress on ELO's – Moved to May 16, 2018 meeting.

B. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Morse reported that the kindergarten enrollment numbers for the fall are still low. There was a Board discussion a couple of meetings ago about adding a world language instructor. He would like to reassign funding from a Kindergarten position to a World Language at the Middle School.

Denise Day moved to hire an additional World Language Teacher at the Middle School and to reassign the funding from the Kindergarten position, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Jay Richard said that he has interviewed some really quality people for the current world language position open at the Middle School.

Superintendent Morse noted that 16 articles will be on the web page tomorrow. There has been more visibility in the media.

They have received a rough data back from NESDEC and he is going to ask them to turn it into a summative document that can be shareable with the Board and the community.

C. Business Administrator: Sue Caswell, Business Administrator, reported that as of now there is a 1.5 million balance. It is not where the final balance will be but should be able to put some of it into the emergency fund.

D. Student Senate Report: Student Representative Patty Andersen reported that rehearsals for Grease are in full swing and the performance will be on Memorial weekend. Bystander training will be next week.

E. Other: Social Emotional:

Social Emotional Presentation: The Committee gave their social emotional presentation to the Board:

Updated Board Goal:

Elementary Level Strategic Action Plan:

Long Term Goal

Goal #3: Innovated Personalized Instruction

Innovated, student centered instructional practices will support personalized learning for all ORCSD students.

Short Term Goal: The elementary staff will recommend a research based socio-emotional approach for implementation with students grades K-4.

What is SEL? Social and emotional learning is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Research has shown that social and emotional development can be fostered, and social and emotional skills, attitudes, and behaviors can be taught using a variety of approaches:

Free-standing lessons designed to enhance students' social and emotional competence explicitly.

Teaching practices such as cooperative learning and project-based learning which promote SEL.

Integration of SEL and academic curriculum such as language arts, math, social studies or health.

Organizational strategies that promote SEL as a schoolwide initiative that creates a climate and culture conducive to learning.

Effective SEL approaches often incorporate four elements represented by the acronym SAFE:

Sequenced: connected and coordinated activities to foster skills development
Active: Active forms of learning to help students master new skills and attitudes.

Focused: A component that emphasizes developing personal and social skills.

Explicit: Targeting specific social and emotional skills.

Committee Outcomes:

Proposed addition to the ORCSD Vision Statement:

During their time at ORCSD students become strong, independent, critical thinkers with a commitment to living ethically and a belief that each of them can and should make a difference in our world. In order to be successful, all students should demonstrate cognitive, effective and behavioral SEL competencies of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relation skills and responsible decision making.

Staff Meeting Work:

Overview of SEL

Reviewed the SOAR skills per grade level

Identified current programs, methods, practices happening at both Moharimet and Mast Way that address SEL in classrooms and school wide on tier 1, 2, and 3.

Open Circle: Open Circle is a universal, evidence based social and emotion learning program for K-Grade 5 with two goals:

1. to proactively develop children's skills for recognizing and managing emotions, empathy, positive relationships and problem solving;
2. to help schools develop a community where students feel safe cared for and engaged in learning.

Research demonstrates that Open Circle improves student's social skills and reduces problem behaviors. Open Circle enhances learning across all academic disciplines, is foundational to bullying prevention and intervention and is integral to learning standards for success in a globally competitive workforce.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Social Emotional Presentation:

Kenny Rotner asked how this would align with the Wellness Committee. They are focused on the elementary but would love to see this go further. DESSA is K-8. The idea of open circle would shift nicely into the advisory model at the middle school and the high school. Kenny talked about the models working in tandem. Heather detailed that they are looking to bridge the gaps. The conversation around SEL has extended around the District. Denise Day also thanked the committee for all their work. Michael Williams asked how many classrooms would be involved with the pilot next year. They replied that it is dependent upon financial and the Leadership Team. The pilot will be spread over every grade level. Heather concurred that outreach to parents is important.

Laptop Initiative

ORMS 1:1 Technology Initiative Proposal: This is a model that utilizes wireless computing devices as instructional tools to improve student learning.

Outcome of 1:1:

Increased use of technology

Ability to use technology throughout writing process and across multiple genres and form

Increase in student centered individualized and project-based learning

Increase in student teacher communications and parental involvement in school work.

Higher student engagement, motivation and persistence.

Improvement in technology and problem-solving skills.

Over 98% of ORMS teachers surveyed agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: “technology has changed the way that I teach”.

Members of the Technology Committee detailed how the lack of technology impacts their teaching in the classroom. Students would have access to technologies that they need when they need it. Often students whose parents do not have the financial advantages of others are the ones who are at a disadvantage.

Josh Olstead reviewed the estimated costs with the Board:

11” two in one laptop/tablet

700 devices, 675 for students and 25 spares
\$75,000/year four-year lease
\$2,500 a year cloud based content filter
\$7,000 one time cost for laptop sleeves

Year 1: \$84,000
Year 2: \$77,500
Year 3: \$77,500
Year 4: \$77,500

Al Howland asked if the device needed to go home with the student. Superintendent Morse replied that if a student has one at home and they don't want to take the school one home they don't have to. A major advantage of using a school device is that they are filtered. Current devices at the middle school could be moved to the high school to increase the number of carts available for teachers.

Brian Cisneros asked if there was an option for parents if they wanted to opt out of their students having a device. Superintendent Morse replied that would be available.

Brian Cisneros moved for the District to enter into an agreement for a lease for one to one devices at the middle school as presented by the Committee, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Cell Phone Policy: The cell phone policy will be moved to the next meeting and reviewed as a first reading. Superintendent Morse noted that there is a difference between the draft K-8 cell phones/personal devices policy and the high school cell phone personal technology devices policy which was adopted in 2016.

School Board Master Schedule – Draft. There are a couple of meeting dates in September that conflict with holidays. Denise Day suggested August 29th as a regular meeting and September 12 and 26 for meeting dates. November 21st is the night before Thanksgiving and it was suggested to have two meetings in November in a row on November 7 and 14th.

VIII. ACTIONS

A. Superintendent Action Items: None

B. Board Action Items:

Denise Day moved to accept the resignation of two high school teachers, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Motion to nominate Mast Way Stipend: Denise Day moved to accept the nomination of Susan Leifer for the Science Friday's Coordinator for a stipend of \$400, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Middle School Facilities Committee will be meeting a week from Thursday and they are coming close to their recommendations. The Board will need to think about how to move forward on their next steps.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Keith O'Brien thanked the Board for moving forward with the 1:1 technology at the middle school. He thinks that moving forward it will solve the equity issue and will allow a device that will allow for more significant work. He asked how they are going to be used in the hallways, recess and at lunch.

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: 5/16 Regular Meeting - Moharimet School - 7:00
 5/23 Homework Workshop ORHS Library - 7:00.

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

Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

Kenny Rotner moved to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II (d) at 9:25 p.m., 2nd by Michael Williams. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,
Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary