

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

**May 3, 2023**

**DRAFT**

**SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT:** Denise Day, Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Heather Smith, Matt Bacon, Tom Newkirk, Giana Gelsey

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:** Paige Burt

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Gen Brown

**GUEST PRESENT:**

**ABSENT:**

**I. CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Chair Denise Day.**

Denise thanked Moharimet for hosting tonight's meeting.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Denise Day announced the following changes to the agenda:

Add the nomination of a HS PE Teacher and MOH School Psychologist to the Discussion & Action Items

Add a mowing/landscaping bid to the Discussion & Action Items

**Tom Newkirk made a motion to approve the amended agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Giana Gelsey. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None provided.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Tom Newkirk made a motion to approve the April 19th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Giana Gelsey.**

Giana Gelsey provided the following revisions:

On page 1 change "Gianna Gesley" to "Giana Gelsey."

On page 2 under Assistant Superintendent's Report insert a hyphen so it reads "20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>."

On page 3 change "Gesley" to "Gelsey" in two instances.

Denise Day provided the following revisions:

At the top of page 2, it should read that Brian made a motion for the agenda template to be changed to reflect that public comments is open for 30 minutes.

At the bottom of page 2, under the student rep report, the word "Youth" should be added so it reads "Youth Risk Behavior Survey."

**Motion passed with correction 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS**

**A. District**

David Goldsmith pointed out a newly painted mural featuring special connections to student learning & enrichment, including the sugar shack, pumpkin patch, MOH logo, and indigenous plants & trees native to the area. Currently there many preparations taking place for next year. The school is still accepting the parent

feedback form for placement that was collected prior to break, which is valuable information to the process. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking state assessments this month and there is a big focus around the 4<sup>th</sup> grade transition to ORMS. Principals are finalizing schedules, Principal Jay Richard will visit, and that students will visit the middle school, and a parent night will take place. Also, the annual “Day of” events are shaping up for this year’s “Day of the Forest” to include on-site and off-site activities through collaboration with community educators and organizations.

Misty Lowe of Mast Way stated that she and David work closely so information about state testing and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade transition are similar. She gave a public shout out to the PTO who has been working hard on a variety of fundraisers to provide transition activities for 4<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as organizing Teacher Appreciation Week. The annual Art Show will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00pm in the hallways of Mast Way. Misty told the Board that she is part of a committee that is currently looking at how student progress is communicated to parents at the elementary level.

Upcoming PTO Event Dates:

May 10 – Dinner at Clark’s in Durham

May 19 – May Fair

June 5 – Dinner at Chipotle in Dover

Jay Richard of ORMS stated that planning is underway for the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition to the high school. On May 17<sup>th</sup> they will hold an “Empty Bowls” art shop fundraiser and he thanked Kim Marshall for her work on this project. Proceeds from purchasing student made art bowls & ice cream will go to End 68 Hours of Hunger. State testing will take place next week for reading and writing. Eighth grade students had a great time on the Washington D.C. Trip. The turnout was huge with 130 students traveling to the nation’s capital. Jay let families know that assistance can be provided, and the cost should never prevent a student from attending. Currently, six Robotics Teams are competing in Texas and collaborating with students world-wide. The ORMS team “Lunatics” received a Design Award making them one of the top ten world designers for their age group.

Rebecca Noe of ORHS announced they are celebrating National Teacher Appreciation this week. The Underclassmen Awards Night will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Letters have been sent out to families of students receiving awards, and anyone in the community is welcome to attend. Rebecca gave a shout out to junior Avery Martinson who presented at a faculty meeting for the theme “Discover the Possibilities.” She recently attended a Girl Scout Convention and shared all about her learning and accomplishments within the organization. The Senior Art Night will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm in the high school MPR.

## **B. Board**

Heather Smith thanked Joe Boucher for inviting the school board and administration members into ORMS to make bowls for the Empty Bowls fundraiser. She encouraged the community to attend this fun event on May 17<sup>th</sup> where you can buy bowls from student artists and get ice cream sundaes for the family.

Denise Day informed the Board that any questions for administrators should go directly to Dr. Morse. This will prevent administrators from being asked the same question from multiple members, as well as all allow information to be distributed to the entire board.

## **VI. DISTRICT REPORTS**

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

Suzanne Filippone thanked Jon Bromley, Rachel Allen, and Sara O’Brien for their work around Earth Week, which was enjoyed by all the schools. Planning for ESY, Summer REACH, and credit recovery is underway, and all the programs will be held at the middle school. The four professional development (PD) days are being finalized and faculty will be notified of their building’s schedules when it gets closer. Faculty can continue to submit PD

requests for summer, and Leadership will review them next week. Since Brian Ryan will be leaving the district, Suzanne is looking for a new faculty coordinator. Anyone interested in the position should contact her. The SAS assessments are happening soon, and the state will be providing a portal to access test results. Families will receive a letter with directions on how to use the portal. Brian Cisneros raised the question about accessibility to all families, and Suzanne acknowledged that a printed copy will still be an option.

Suzanne thanked Sarah Farwell and Ellen Ervin for their work on Eureka Square and making sure that faculty feel supported.

In honor of Administrator's Day, she publicly thanked all the principals for their dedication to the students and community.

## **B. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Morse made a special announcement recognizing Kim Wolph as the 2023 Healthcare Hero of New Hampshire. Catherine Plourde and Rebecca Noe shared that they nominated Kim along with the help of Sean Peschel and Heather Machanoff. For many students, Kim is a source of connection during their day. It is especially exciting for the district to have Kim receive this honor since a "Healthcare Hero" is selected out of a general pool of healthcare nominees. Rebecca Noe stated that Kim is an integral part of the high school community. She works extremely hard, and she never speaks of the job's demands nor expects any recognition. She is there for every student and every faculty member.

Dr. Morse was pleased to announce that Josh Olstad was awarded the 2023 Tech Leader of the Year, which is a national recognition. He expressed his sincere gratitude to Josh for his hard work. Dr. Morse stated he is very proud of the district's faculty and staff, and he appreciates everyone's unwavering work and commitment to education.

Dr. Morse shared that Fredrick Bramante, a Durham resident and former Chair of the State Board of Education, will be hosting a listening tour to discuss major proposed changes to New Hampshire's public education rules (ED 306 Minimum Standards for Public School Approval). His first stop on the tour will be the Oyster River High School Auditorium on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. The event is an opportunity for community members and educators to ask questions and provide valuable feedback to the State Board of Education. Dr. Morse said that the state has been working on changes with some committee members that are not related to education. New language being proposed is vague for interpretation and he emphasized how important the feedback will be to the Board, who has tabled further discussions until after the tour.

### Future Discussion Items until June 2023

The following strategic plan items will be on the agenda at the remaining meetings:

May 17<sup>th</sup> - Sustainability Report and DEIJ Workshop (rescheduled from April 19<sup>th</sup>)

June 7<sup>th</sup> - Curriculum Cycle Discussion

June 21<sup>st</sup> - Strategic Plan & DEIJ Reports and a preview to the new web page by Gen Brown

### Kindergarten Registration Update

Currently there are 50 students registered for kindergarten at Mast Way and 44 students at Moharimet. Class sizes are anticipated to be a ratio of 15 to 1 and 12-13 to 1 at each respective school. Dr. Morse stated that in July he'd like to consider reassigning a kindergarten teacher to a grade level with higher numbers. He feels it is important for the district to reserve the right to be flexible to adjusting the needs of numbers as enrollment cycles increase and decrease. The elementary enrollment numbers haven't gone up in the last 4 years and the middle school incoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be smaller by thirty students. While historically the middle school has four two-person teams, Dr. Morse would like the Board to consider options for matching staffing needs to student population for the next four years. He advised the Board to also think about the future and adjusting staff as necessary when it comes to looking at the high school years down the road.

**C. Business Administrator**FY23 Budget Update

Sue Caswell stated that all in all the budget looks good and there are no concerns at this time.

**D. Student Representative Report**

Paige Burt shared that AP exams are occurring, and general plans have gone out for Senior Week. Seniors are aware of the graduation practices and activities taking place, and more specific details will be available soon. The Project Graduation deadline has been extended until May 10<sup>th</sup> and she encouraged more seniors to sign up. The Mattress Fundraiser raised \$1k for the Senior Class and \$1k for each of the other two organizations involved. She gave a big thank you to everyone that participated in the event.

**E. Finance Committee Report**

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm.

**F. Other** – None provided.

**VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA –Denise Day asked if any items needed to be discussed separately and the Board had no items to withhold.**

- 2023-24 ESEA Program Assurances and Equitable Services Affirmation.
- Nominate Mast Way Library Media Specialist.

**Denise Day made a motion to approve the Unanimous Consent Agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Matt Bacon. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

**VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**HS PE Teacher & MOH School Psychologist Nominations

**Tom Newkirk made a motion to approve the HS PE Teacher & MOH School Psychologist nominations, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Giana Gelsey. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

Mowing/Landscaping Bid

Facilities Director Jasmine Daniels submitted a summary of vendor bids for mowing and landscaping at Moharimet and Mast Way. The contract was awarded to Dream Yards LLC for their cost, the services included, and their landscape recommendations.

**Heather Smith made a motion to approve the Dream Yards LLC Mowing & Landscaping bid, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

2023-24 Board Meeting Calendar

Board members reviewed the 23-24 Board Meeting Calendar. It has been cross-referenced with major holidays and holy days and will continue to be revised.

Giana Gelsey let the Board know that the Annual Delegate Assembly is on October 14<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for submissions is July 28<sup>th</sup> so they can plan accordingly.

List of Policies for First Read: IKF – Graduation, JICI – Weapons on School Property and Safe Weapons Storage Education, HF – Superintendent’s Role in Negotiations

**Tom Newkirk made a motion to approve the List of Policies for First Read: IKF – Graduation, JICI – Weapons on School Property and Safe Weapons Storage Education, and HF – Superintendent’s Role in Negotiations.**

Heather Smith stated the quotation marks around the word member were awkward and Denise Day confirmed they are striking them.

**Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

## **IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES**

The Manifest Committee met and completed the following manifests.

Payroll Manifest # 21 Total is \$727,972.48

Payroll Manifest # 22 Total is \$728,171.70

Vendor Manifest # 21 Total is \$298,169.80

Vendor Manifest # 22 Total is \$776,593.27

Heather Smith announced that the Sustainability Committee is meeting Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Denise Day announced that the DEIJ Committee met last night and had a rich discussion about what the work looks like at the elementary level, including challenges and different approaches. She especially thanked Trish Hall for her comments. Giana Gelsey agreed it was a beneficial and helpful discussion. The new date for the last DEIJ meeting is Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> (not June 6<sup>th</sup>). It will be held at 6pm in the MS Learning Commons.

Denise Day gave a shout out to Alex Taylor and Caleb Evans for the incredible amount of work it takes to set up meetings, especially in tonight's different location.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None provided.

## **XI. CLOSING ACTIONS**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:**                      May 17, 2023 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM MS Recital Hall  
June 7, 2023 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM MS Recital Hall

**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.**

**Heather Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Newkirk. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

➤ NESDEC Superintendent Search – **following the Regular Meeting.**

NESDEC Representatives Art Bettencourt and David DeRuosi spoke with the Board and outlined the process, timeline and procedure that will be followed for the hiring of a new Superintendent. They explained that they will require a Board member to be chosen to communicate with the press and with the district's Communication Specialist. Other areas covered were the estimated time for hiring, committee set up, job description, and pay scale. A full Board workshop will be scheduled in July.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper