

Oyster River Cooperative School Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2022

DRAFT

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Olivia Gass

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

STAFF PRESENT:

GUEST PRESENT:

I. CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Michael Williams

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Michael Williams requested adding two agenda items: Communications Update to be included with the Superintendent's Report and a Non-Public Meeting to be held at the end.

Yusi Turell moved to approve the agenda as amended, 2nd by Heather Smith. Motion passed 6-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Jeong and Kate Martin, cast members of ORHS's musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, announced the performances will be this Thursday and Friday at 7pm and Saturday at 2pm and 7pm. They encouraged everyone to attend and support the cast because they have been working very hard.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Denise Day moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for April 22, 2022, 2nd by Heather Smith.

Yusi Turell submitted the following revision:

On page 4 add the phrase "or reduce flexibility in school programming" to her comment so it reads, "Yusi Turell wondered if holding meetings at the Recital Hall would take away a rental opportunity or reduce flexibility in school programming."

Motion passed with correction 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District

David Goldsmith of Moharimet reported that post break there were 26 absences on Monday and 6 positive COVID cases for students and 1 for staff. Recently they held an outdoor all-school assembly, the first one in two years, and unveiled the new school motto "We are kind. We are responsible. We are learners." Teachers will spend time talking to students about how the motto looks in all facets of the school day. On Thursday they will celebrate the maple sugaring season with syrup testing during lunch and syrup will soon be available for purchase to the public. For the Year of the Artist theme, they are rounding out the year with a music focus inviting Barrington native, Randy Armstrong, into music classes to collaborate and share about instruments from around the world. On June 2nd Moharimet will host a "Day of the Artist" and they are looking for community members to present on any form of art during three sessions. Anyone interested should contact the office and sign-ups will be flexible to accommodate a specific session, grade level(s) or the amount of time you are available.

Misty Lowe of Mast Way reported that post-break there were 22 absences on Monday and 3 positive COVID cases for students and 2 for staff. She said Monday was a somber return with the community's loss of a student over

break. In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week Misty gave a public thank you to the PTO for providing a variety of events to honor teachers. The end of the year will include many activities, such as field days, field trips and music concerts and she encouraged board members to consider attending.

Jay Richard of ORMS reported that post-break there were 106 absences on Monday and 88 on Tuesday. There were 37 positive COVID cases reported for students and 8 for staff. Of the student cases, 19 were out of the 144 8th graders that attended the Washington D.C. trip. Jay stated the trip was a lot of fun and he received many positive responses from students. Regarding transition to and from the middle school, Jay will visit Mast Way and Moharimet on May 18th for a meet and greet and on June 10th the 4th graders will visit the music department and have lunch at ORMS.

Rebecca Noe of ORHS reported that post-break there were 79 absences on Monday and 13 positive COVID cases for students and 5 for adults. Several OR students participated in the annual National History Day statewide competition under the guidance of Social Studies teachers Gabrielle Anderson and Derek Cangello. Fourteen students received recognition for their projects submitted under the theme “debate and diplomacy,” including third and fourth place finishers Kiera Johnson, Moly Schmidt and Marlise Hyde. The following students who received first or second place are moving on to nationals: James Oshima, Camden Tucker, Michael Mazza, Cam Minor, Abby Owens, Hazel Stasko, Lucas Savage, Delany Nadeau, Mia Boyd, Siri Ventrapragada, and Maya Grainger. In another ORHS honor, Dillion Labonte was awarded first place for welding. Senior week and graduation details are being finalized and May 27th will be a Teacher Workshop Day. In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week Rebecca gave a big shout out to teachers for how hard they work year-round. She also gave a special shout out to Rebecca Throop & the PTO for their contributions, as well as Tim Conolly for providing delicious snacks and omelets in the cafeteria. Friday is school lunch Superhero Day honoring the entire cafeteria staff.

B. Board

Brian Cisneros spoke about the recent Facilities Conference that garnered a large attendance. He attended the session “How to Build a New School” in which attendees received a tour of the new middle school and were thoroughly impressed. He credited Sue Caswell for putting it all together.

Matt Bacon gave a thank you to the ORHS Boys Tennis for having him attend their match and congratulated them on their 8-1 win to Goffstown.

Michael Williams stated that the School Board Association will be meeting in July.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

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

Workshop on Communication

Amy Sterndale provided a brief update on the Communication Survey that went out to teachers, parents, and community members. Focusing on the survey comments, she identified trends and transitioned them into action items. Amy has presented the initial recommendations to the administrators and technology support staff where it was very well received. She will do the same presentation for the Board, so everyone is on the same page with the details and best practices.

Communication Around Competency Based Learning (CBL)

Suzanne Filippone presented Part 2 “Competency Based Learning” in her Communicating Student Learning series. In the elementary schools there are two scales used to report about student learning including a Habits of Learning Scale and a Standards Table. Reporting is done in PowerSchool twice a year in which students can range between “requires ongoing support” to “consistently” in demonstrating a skill and can range between “beginning to develop” to “meets” in demonstrating the concepts and skills of a standard. Communication with home is done in a fall conference and in on-going communication between teachers and families through newsletters, emails, and phone calls.

In the middle school, student learning is communicated in a Habits of Learning Scale and Standards Table, which is reported twice a year, as well as in a Fall conference. Students use Schoology as a Learning Management System in which they receive and complete assignments, submit them for feedback and scoring, as well as use them as a comprehensive progression of their learning. Teachers also enter the standard scores into PowerSchool to provide standard based reporting twice a year and quarterly for Unified Arts.

In the high school, student learning is communicated in a 100-point scale and letter grades. PowerSchool is used for reporting grades 4 times per year and Schoology is used for daily assignment completion and submission as well as a means for exchange scores, comments, and feedback.

Suzanne recognized the need to return to the pre-COVID focus groups that were critiquing work and presenting changes on standards-based grading and reporting. During COVID much of this work was put aside and she plans to reestablish conversations at all buildings around competencies and standards, consistency among teachers, and ensuring a consistent, clear feedback loop for students. Regarding technology, she plans to address how PowerSchool and Schoology can better speak to one another as well as ways to improve overall accessibility of information for students and parents. Suzanne plans to survey students, parents, and teachers to gain an understanding of what each “stakeholder” sees and understands in the current reporting systems. This data will help guide conversations and implementations to better ensure that everyone is on the same page. Dr. Morse stated that teachers are more than willing and excited to continue these conversations.

Board members raised concerns regarding the transition between 4th and 5th grade since the standards table changes between buildings, and the transition between 8th and 9th since a 100-point scale is exclusive to the high school. Other matters addressed were the language of the standard based reporting since some parents wonder whether “progressing” indicates where the student should be or if they are behind and the connection between student motivation and grading. Board members wondered if a competency-based grading is accepted by colleges, and they would like to find out where the NCAA stands with competencies. Suzanne said colleges receive all types of reporting, including competency based and grading scales of different point values, and that they are equipped to translate these scores. Suzanne assured the Board that these concerns would be further discussed and addressed as they reestablish this on-going and evolving work around grading and communication.

B. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Morse shared the following announcements: Senior Olivia Gass is the first Barrington student to graduate from ORHS. He credited her for being an ambassador and fantastic student. In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, he let all the teachers and staff know they do a fantastic job and deserve our appreciation. He recognized the PTO leaders and volunteers for creating opportunities throughout the week to let the staff know they are cared for and supported. Senator Jean Shaheen will visit ORMS on May 6th and on May 12th the middle school will host the New Hampshire State Board of Education Meeting in the Recital Hall. Protocols for entering and exiting the building will be in place, as well as safety measures for the public comment portion and the protest areas along Coe Drive. Attendees will be separated from students and staff with the exception of guided tours. The school community was recently saddened by the loss of a high school student and Dr. Morse gave his sympathy and support to the family. He commended the Crisis Team for their involvement, support, and work.

Kindergarten Registration Update

The current totals for completed kindergarten registrations are 62 at Mast Way and 53 at Moharimet with 2 pending.

Strategic Plan Update: Sustainability

The goal for next year is to identify those interested in being a Sustainability Coordinator at each building level and create a job description. Ideally, the four teacher leaders will lead and support the integration of sustainability into the classrooms. Dr. Morse stressed that students are very motivated, and an action plan was created with specific items for this year and that it is very important to move the work forward.

The two finalists for the DEIJ Coordinator position will each have the opportunity to spend one day in the district touring the schools, eating lunch with students, meeting staff and administrators, and meeting with the DEIJ

Committee. Community members can meet the finalists in the ORMS Learning Commons from 5:45-6:30 pm on Monday the 9th and Wednesday the 11th. The format will include a 15-minute introduction, a 15-minute question and answer session followed by 15 minutes of informal time.

C. Business Administrator

No Report Given

D. Student Representative Report

Olivia Gass shared the following end of the year events and dates with the Board:

May 5th-7th – School Musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

May 12th - World Language Honor Society Inductions

May 13th - Spring Fling (social event)

May 16th - Underclassmen Awards

May 19th - National Honor Society Inductions

May 26th – Prom

Olivia reminded students that student government applications to serve on Student Senate are currently being accepted, seniors can sign up for Senior Graduation Night and details for Senior Week occurring the week of June 10th will be available soon.

The Board took a 5 min recess at 9:00 pm and student rep Olivia Gass left for the evening. The Board reconvened at 9:05 PM.

E. Finance Committee Report

Brian Cisneros reported at their first meeting they held a discussion with Electric NH Co-op to find out how their program works. The committee plans to look into the program further down the road to see if it is a worthwhile process. Also reported was the FUND balance, which is suffice without tapping into emergency funds, and they laid groundwork for the next budget. The next meeting will be held on May 24th.

F. Other: None

VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

Michael Williams asked the Board if any items needed to be discussed separately and there were no concerns.

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

Michael Williams made a motion to approve the list of policies for second read/adoption: JICH – Student Drug and Alcohol Use, IHBI – Alternative Learning Plans, and IMBC – Alternative Credit Options, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

2022-23 Board Meeting Calendar

Michael Williams announced the following changes to the calendar that were suggested at the last board meeting: A Wednesday meeting was shifted to Thursday due to a holiday observance and meeting locations were shifted to include one at Mast Way and one at Moharimet. The Barrington meeting was struck from the calendar until a date is confirmed.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the 2022-23 Board Meeting Calendar as presented with the changes and minus the Barrington meeting, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-0.

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

David Goldsmith and Misty Lowe explained the start times and how the time is used between doors opening and the start of the academic day. They emphasized that elementary students require supervision the second they arrive and use both Social and Emotional Learning and Executive Functioning Skills to prepare for the day. For example, the younger students have routines for putting away their bag, lunch, and communication folders, as well as changing clothes and shoes according to the weather. This built-in time between arriving and starting the academic day is crucial for young students to learn organization and self-preparedness.

Dr. Morse and the board held a discussion about the start and stop times that occurred pre-covid, covid and post-covid.

The following academic days were proposed for the 2022-23 school year:

Elementary school 9:15 am – 3:25 pm

Middle and high school 8:15 am – 3:00 pm

Denise Day made a motion to approve the 2022-23 academic start and end times as presented, 2nd by Heather Smith.

The Board agreed a discussion point for a future agenda would be revisiting the conversation of switching the high school and elementary start times to achieve a later start time for adolescents.

Michael Williams expressed appreciation to Lisa Huppe for her hard work coordinating the bus routes for the district.

Motion passed 6-0.

Board Goals for 2022-23

Moved to the next agenda.

ORCSD Nurse Recognition

Dr. Morse and board members proposed honoring the district nurses with an award that reads, "Certificate of Commendation for an Amazing Job during the COVID 19 Crisis". While all staff members went above and beyond during COVID, they felt the nurses deserved special recognition for working tirelessly to ensure that the district stayed current on state and federal guidance and for applying best practices when working with each student, family, and staff member. They were essentially working on call 7 days a week 24 hours a day giving up personal and family time to keep the school district safe. Michael Williams read aloud the letter of commendation and asked for signatures from the superintendent and board members upon approval.

Heather Smith made a motion to approve the ORCSD Nurse Recognition, 2nd by Denise Day.

Matthew Bacon said "thank you" as a parent.

Motion passed 6-0.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Manifest Committee met and completed the following manifests.

Vendor Manifest #24 \$1,222,441.44

Payroll Manifest #21 \$1,738,489.54

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None provided

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

- A. Future Meeting Dates:** 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 (c)

- Social Media

NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2 I {If Needed}

Michael Williams made a motion to enter into Non-Public Session at 9:45 pm, 2nd by Denise Day. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 6-0.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Heather Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 pm, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper