

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

**May 17, 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, Rachael Blansett, Rebecca Noe

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jon Bromley, Sara O'Brien, Rachel Allen

**GUEST PRESENT:**

**ABSENT:**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Heather Smith made a motion to approve the 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 May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS**

**A. District**

Rebecca Noe of ORHS announced there was a ceremony today to celebrate nurse Kim Wolph, who was awarded NH Healthcare Hero of 2023. She recognized Kim's hard work leading the district through COVID and her advocacy for all students and adults in the building. The *Mouth of the River* recently earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Press Association Awards. Judges recognized many commendable attributes for the students and the magazine. Rebecca acknowledged Art teacher Ali Plourde for having her sculpture chosen to be on display at the Mosaic Art Collective Gallery in Manchester from 5/8-5/31. Progress reports were posted last Friday and information about graduation & end of year activities can be found in the most recent newsletters.

Upcoming Dates & Events:

5/18 NHS Induction at 6pm

5/23 World Language Induction at 6pm

5/24 HS Music Concert at ORMS at 6pm

5/25 Connection Training & Prom

5/26 Division II State Track Meet at 5pm

5/29 No School (Memorial Day)

5/31 Senior Art Show at 5pm

6/1 Coffee House at 6pm

6/2 Last Day for CTE Seniors

6/5 Science Showcase at 6pm

DEIJ Coordinator Rachael Blansett provided the following updates: The Black Indigenous and People of Color student group held their first meeting at ORMS & will meet again during the first week of June; the DEIJ Teacher PD Workshops are finished for the school year; NH Listens held a faculty training; and the DEIJ Committee will have an end of the year meeting and barbeque on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The district has partnered with Outreach UNH's True

Leaders in Equity initiative and will send two students to their summer institute at no cost. The students will also participate in an extended learning project on an equity issue of their choice.

## **B. Board**

Denise Day shared that tonight's Empty Bowls event in the ORMS Learning Commons was amazing. She congratulated all the artists and musicians that performed and the faculty that were involved.

## **VI. DISTRICT REPORTS**

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

#### Sustainability Teacher Report

Suzanne Filippone introduced the three building level integrators Rachel Allen from Moharimet, Sara O'Brien from ORMS and Jon Bromley from ORHS. Together, they presented the slideshow "Sustainability Efforts in the Oyster River School District." ORCSD has been focused on sustainability practices and policies since 2010. A few of the goals and intentions behind the work is to highlight initiatives already happening throughout the school district, making sure there is a shared definition of sustainability, and setting goals for future work at ORCSD.

The Sustainability Committee was formed in 2011 and they approved the following vision statement: *The Oyster River Cooperative School is committed to integrating sustainable practices. This will be demonstrated by our leadership and resolve to educate the ORCSD community to advocate for sustainable living.* This vision and the ongoing work that is occurring are reviewed annually to get all staff, especially new ones, on the same page. In 2021 a 63-page Sustainability Management Plan was adopted by the district. This plan, written by Meg Maloney, was organized around the following 7 "Focus Areas": Construction, Energy, Health and Wellness, Transportation, Waste, DEI, and Curriculum. These focus areas guide decision-making in the district, with a most recent focus on Curriculum, Waste, and DEI.

On going school efforts include district-wide compost bins, community dinners, solar education, water fountains/bottle fillers, locally sourced food in the cafeteria, and End 68 Hours of Hunger. Not to mention the new middle school is a prime example of district sustainability. Student clubs at ORMS and ORHS inspire student engagement across the district and outside of the classroom. In faculty trainings staff looked at the global UNCED definition of sustainability: "[Meeting] the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs," and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum more effectively. Buildings have also rated how they are doing incorporating sustainability into the workday to gain awareness and help them move forward.

Goal setting for future years includes how to best integrate sustainability into existing curriculum and establishing common experiences for students K-12. Such as flex/advisory integration, year-long themes, outside experts, and broader understanding of SDGs in all content. Another district-wide goal is continued efforts with composting. The overall objective is to have integration without feeling like it's a lot or adding something new and making sustainability part of the day with common experiences for everyone.

Dr. Morse shared his appreciation for making sustainability efforts doable and focusing on the strengths of the district.

Tom Newkirk wondered if there can be more consistency with plastics and the food services since plastic bottles are contrary to our values. Sara O'Brien stated that Doris Demers is looking into compostable options for serving material that can not only go into our composting but also affordable. She said Earth Week sparked a lot of conversation of being mindful of the products we use, especially the "Plastic Free Lunch" day. Students realized that many foods don't need plastic, such as yogurt, which can go directly on the serving tray. She said students are becoming more aware of their choices and by drawing attention to sustainability it encourages them to be a part of the solution. Sara said the efforts are there, and the logistics just need to be figured out.

Denise Day asked about the trout in the middle school science rooms, and Sara explained that since trout are a threatened species, they are being grown for release to help increase the population.

Giana Gelsey asked what part of the curriculum the raised beds are used for, and Rachel said they are used to teach the life cycle of the plant at Moharimet. Sara said at the middle school they are used for understanding

photosynthesis, as well as a being supplemental to the Sustainability Club. She shared that some food is brought back into the school, and some goes into the food pantry. Suzanne stated that Doris uses the vegetables grown and the summer school students help with the watering and harvesting. Giana thanked the integrators and shared her appreciation for their hard work.

Heather Smith thanked them for being advisors to different clubs and for doing amazing work.

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

Dr. Morse referred to a memo with recommendations regarding the superintendent search. It includes point persons; a screening committee with suggested members from the district, school and community; and various forums for stakeholders.

Dr. Morse reviewed Jay Richard's memo for next year's grade 5 model that is changing due to lower enrollment numbers of the incoming class. A grade 5 teacher has volunteered to transfer to Moharimet and Jay is having conversations with the remaining teachers about the possibility of a 3-person and 2-person team. Jay will submit his final recommendation to the Board at the next meeting. Dr. Morse stated that time and resources will be provided to the grade 5 teachers during the four teacher workshop days and during summer so they can prepare for fall.

**C. Business Administrator** – None provided.

### **D. Student Representative Report**

Paige Burt announced that the Project Graduation deadline has been extended until May 19<sup>th</sup>. It takes place graduation night at a secret location organized by parents so the class can come together one more time for fun. It is an alcohol-free event that includes food, games, and activities. The deadline to sign up for Canobie Lake and the Thomas Leighton just passed, but any senior still interested in attending can email Katie Johnson. If you haven't signed up for a Yearbook, do so quickly because there are limited quantities remaining. On June 8<sup>th</sup> the Senior Scholarship Awards will take place at 5:30pm followed by the Senior Awards at 7:30pm.

**E. Finance Committee Report** – None provided.

**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 from the agenda.**

Heather Smith clarified that the superintendent would have authority for hiring during the summer months. Dr. Morse stated that it allows him to hire more quickly to secure new hires before the start of the school year. All hires will still go to the board.

- List of Policies for Second Read/Adoption: IKF – Graduation, JICI – Weapons on School Property and Safe Weapons Storage Education, HF – Superintendent's Role in Negotiations.
- Nominate List of proposed Administrator and Guild Member Nominations.
- Superintendent Authority for Hiring.

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

### **VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

#### 2023-24 Board Meeting Calendar

Heather Smith asked why the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting is on a Thursday. The Board held off on voting until the date is clarified.

Summer Technology Device Purchase Lease

In Josh Olstad's absence, Sue Caswell presented the 2023-24 IT budget plan which includes replacing student devices in grades 1, 5, and 9. Different financing companies were contacted to get the best rate, and Municipal Leasing Consultants had the lowest one.

**Matt Bacon made a motion to approve the proposal from Municipal Leasing Consultants for the total amount financed of \$411,191 with four annual payments of \$110,485.95 and to give the Business Administrator authority to sign documents and the Superintendent the authority to certify, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

List of Policies for First Read: IHAE – Physical Education, IHAMA – Teaching About Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco and Deletion of current Policy IHAMA – Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Abused Substances

Denise Day made a correction to the agenda stating that Policy IHAE Physical Education should be IHAH World Language Programs. The third paragraph was eliminated for more flexibility. A new IHAMA policy replaced the current one due to a new requirement from the state and wording was corrected in the second paragraph.

**Heather Smith made a motion to approve the List of Policies for First Read: IHAH – World Language Programs, IHAMA – Teaching About Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco and Deletion of current Policy IHAMA – Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Abused Substances, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Newkirk. 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 # 23 Total is \$643,438.05

Vendor Manifest # 23 Total is \$475,350.06

Heather Smith provided the following updates from the May 4<sup>th</sup> Sustainability meeting: Compost bins are now at Mast Way and there is a new coordinator from the building, Doris Demers is in the process of talking to vendors about compostable containers, and a discussion about spreading Earth Week learning across the year took place.

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

**XI. CLOSING ACTIONS**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:** June 7, 2023 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM MS Recital Hall  
June 21, 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 7:53pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Giana Gelsey. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

➤ Workshop: DEIJ – Rachael Blansett following the Regular Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karyn Laird, Records Keeper