

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

**May 18, 2022**

**DRAFT**

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

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:** Olivia Gass

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Suzanne Filippone, Jay Richard, Rebecca Noe, Sue Caswell

**STAFF PRESENT:**

**GUEST PRESENT:**

**ABSENT:** James Morse, Dan Klein

**CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Michael Williams**

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Brian Cisneros moved to approve the agenda as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-0.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None provided

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Denise Day moved to approve the Regular Meeting May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros.**

Denise Day submitted the following revisions:

On page 3 under Kindergarten update add "Denise asked if Mast Way would be able to accommodate the increase in students without hiring another teacher. Misty Lowe stated that they might need to move faculty around. Dr. Morse stated that if another teacher was needed, one would be hired."

On page 4 under the Finance Committee update, in the first sentence switch wording so it reads "NH Electric Co-op" and insert "electric bus" so that it reads "discussion with NH Electric Coop to find out how their electric bus program works."

Denise Day and Michael Williams submitted the following revision:

On page 5, under School Hours/Start Times strike "The Board agreed a discussion point for a future agenda item would be revisiting the conversation of switching the high school and elementary start times to achieve a later start time for adolescents" and replace with "Matt Bacon inquired about switching start times to have the elementary schools start before the middle and high schools. Michael Williams suggested that there was enough interest among the board to include this as a discussion topic at a future meeting."

Denise Day and Heather Smith submitted the following revision:

On page 3 under Superintendent's Report, strike "Senior Olivia Gass is the first Barrington student to graduate from ORHS" and replace with "Senior Olivia Gass is the first Barrington student to serve as the Student Representative on the School Board."

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

**Denise Day moved to approve the Non-Public Meeting Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Smith. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS**

**A. District**

Rebecca Noe of ORHS reported that on May 13th she received notice of continuing accreditation from NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges). A few highlights from the commission's report include:

- Involvement of all stakeholders in the review and revision of core values and beliefs about learning and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.
- The use of targeted personalized learning strategies based on individual learning needs.
- The use of feedback to look at counseling programming and improving services.

She was excited to report that Will Johnson and Dillon Labonte took part in the UNH Community Changemaker Challenge. Dillon was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place for his "120 Minute Movement" project, which emerged from his work in the Design Thinking Seminar pilot course ran by John Bromley. The course engages students in their unique interests, passions, and skills as they seek to contribute to a problem that they identify.

**B. Board**

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, the district welcomed Senator Shaheen. She received a tour from 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who did a fantastic job filling in for students who were absent and normally conduct tours. Brian Cisneros was glad she could come and thanked her for attending.

Yusi Turell attended the May 12<sup>th</sup> "Wear Red for Ed" event aimed to promote public education and thanked the community for their support and involvement.

Denise Day stated the recent ORHS musical was very well done and congratulated the students.

**VI. DISTRICT REPORTS****A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction Report(s)**Middle/High School Students Robotics Presentation

Lead advisor Michael Hawley of ORHS and advisors John Silverio and Jason Duff of ORMS introduced the 2022 student robotics teams. They explained the history of the program and shared the season's successes with the school board. The middle school VEX IQ robotics program, comprised of fifty-six students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, advanced three of their fifteen teams to the World Championship in Dallas, TX. Several robotics members shared aspects of their experience with the school board. One student said their team originally had no desire to compete. He said they knew of one another from the soccer field, but they had to learn how to work together as a robotics team and in the end, they made it to Worlds. Another student shared that it took months of hard work using trial-and-error and rebuilding over and over in the engineer building process. Another student spoke about a part of the competition that involved collaborating with another team. They partnered with teams from other parts of the United States, Canada, and Turkey. Speaking the same language posed a new challenge while collaborating on a global level. Jason Duff said the ORMS program was dominate across all of New England earning six out of eleven awards during weekend events. He credited the students for doing all the work and thanked Jay Richard for the building space and materials, and the parents for their time and support. Since 2017 ORMS has participated in three World Championships.

Michael Hawley and HS team members of the ORHS First Robotics team shared their experiences building and competing. In a student created power-point, members spoke about the competitive and cooperative nature they face; business aspects, such as corporate fundraising and partnerships; and 21<sup>st</sup> century work-life skills including leadership, communication, and computer programming. At playoffs 20 students represented ORHS, which was not only impressive in terms of qualifying but also due to the team's small size facing off against teams with 100 members. Michael Williams asked what would make the program better, and the response was although the students appreciate the space they have, it would be helpful to have a bigger space for building larger machines. It was recognized that Robotics is entirely volunteer, and parent driven, and while it is not a sport, it is also more than a club. Advisors and students stated that creating a distinction for the club would allow for better connections, field trips, resources, funding, space, and recognition. Administrators are looking into how to move

the teams forward, so they are supported in a bigger capacity. Michael Williams thanked all the staff, parents and students involved and congratulated the teams on their accomplishments and successes.

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

Catherine Plourde told the listening audience that there continues to be an uptick in COVID cases and reported the following data:

Mast Way – 34 positive cases (8 faculty, 26 students, 53 in quarantine)

Moharimet – 33 positive cases (7 faculty, 24 students, 34 in quarantine)

ORMS – 41 positive cases (7 faculty, 34 students, 43 in quarantine)

ORHS – 74 positive cases (11 faculty, 63 students, 74 in quarantine)

Districtwide (SAU, Facilities, Transportation) – 8 positive cases (9 in quarantine)

Catherine explained that the amount of quarantine cases in the elementary schools is related to the fewer numbers of vaccinations among younger ages. COVID cases affecting the district wide employees resulted in transportation cancelling some of the bus runs. She thanked Lisa Huppe and the bus drivers for their troubleshooting and the families for their understanding. Within the school buildings she said faculty are covering each other daily and everyone, including administrators, are pitching in to keep the schools open. Although it is a lot of work, she believes they can make it to the end of the school year. Catherine wanted everyone to be mindful that we are still in a health crisis with impacts on local hospitals.

While mask wearing is optional, Yusi Turell wondered if a stronger message about choosing to wear masks would be beneficial to the district at this time. Catherine said with everything open publicly, people gathering, and holding playdates outside of school, she is not convinced mask wearing will bring down the current spike unless masks are worn consistently in public too. She does not want to send a message that could potentially cause a complaint or a violation to the district.

### Acknowledgement of 2022 Retirees

Suzanne Filippone recognized the following 2021-22 Teacher Retirees and their years of service to the district: Pamela Felber, 31 years; Kathleen Ameduri, 26 years; Whitney Burke, 16 years; Susan Jackson, 12 years; Mary Beaton, 22 years; Esther Ott, 22 years

Brian Cisneros applauded all the teachers for their years of service and gave a special thanks to Pam Felber for delivering a phenomenal music program and Kathleen Ameduri for her incredible job working with special education students.

### Strategic Plan Update: Technology

Technology Director Josh Olstad provided an update highlighting the new middle school and its technology rich building, the replacement of firewalls that had been previously delayed, and the success of the first round of student laptops purchased for the 1:1 program. Josh stated they plan to continue using Dell computers and any issues that surfaced have since been fixed in the newer model they will be using. He believed that overall damage had been fairly low with most issues surfacing during the pandemic. Since servicing was delayed, what could have been quick fixes turned into bigger issues. He stated the chip shortage continues to impact getting parts in a timely manner.

Heather Smith shared a concern with the role of tech integrators and wanted to be sure their time was not spent too much on troubleshooting computers, and that they had time to fulfill their roles in the classroom integrating technology.

## **C. Business Administrator**

No report given.

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

Olivia Gass thanked the Robotics Teams for their presentations and congratulated them on their accomplishments. She provided the following updates to the end of the year events, which some have been moved to due to COVID mitigation:

May 26<sup>th</sup> - Prom

June 24<sup>th</sup> - World Language Honor Society Inductions

June 31<sup>st</sup> - Underclassmen Awards

June 1<sup>st</sup> - Art Show

June 2<sup>nd</sup> - National Honor Society Inductions

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Spring Fling (social event)

Olivia spoke about Senior Week, which includes a semi-formal dinner for students only, student elections, graduation on June 10<sup>th</sup> (rain date June 11<sup>th</sup>) and Project Graduation on June 10<sup>th</sup>, which will take place that night no matter if the rain date is used.

#### **E. Finance Committee Report**

No report given; committee will meet next week.

**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.

Guild Nominations for the 2022-23 School Year.

**Michael Williams made a motion to approve the submitted Guild Nominations for the 2022-23 School Year, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0 with student representative voting in the affirmative.**

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

##### Laptop Lease Approval

Josh Olstad stated the devices at the middle and elementary schools need replacements and all paraeducators need to be issued a laptop. Regarding the current lease that will end soon, he is considering the buyout option which would allow the school to purchase laptops that are still in good shape for \$1 to be used as spares or as an opportunity to sell.

**Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the Dell laptop lease as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day.**

The cost, just under \$180,000, was confirmed as the amount budgeted.

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

##### School Bus Lease

Sue Caswell stated they received two bids. She noted that interest rates are 9% higher than last year and production times are three months longer. The proposed bid includes two buses with a 5-year lease.

**Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the W.C. Cressey & Sons, Inc. school bus lease as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-0.**

##### Board Goals for 2022-23

The Board held a discussion about the items they would like to see in the 2022-2023 goals. Some themes that surfaced in the discussion include the following:

*DEIJ/Sustainability/Capstone* - look at the impact of the new DEIJ coordinator position and sustainability teacher leaders (after being chosen) to see how they are working, expand the scoring and measuring of programs' efficacy to include students' feelings, continued support of the Capstone Program and real-world experimental learning

*Tech Integration* – look at the balance between curriculum and personnel and ensure direct classroom time is available to integrators

*World Language* – examine the decline of the French program as students transition from the middle school to the high school, revisit world language at the elementary schools

*Curriculum & Grading* – identify what vertical and horizontal alignment looks like K-12, allow for teachers to have time and resources to advance instruction and collaborate with one another

*SEL* – Look at risky behavior to support children better

*Superintendent Search* – Create a timeline and process for Dr. Morse's transition including a strategy for a superintendent search

*Prioritization* – Prioritize the goals for 2022-23

Michael and Suzanne will work on developing the wording for the goals and further discussion will occur at the next meeting.

#### Request to recognize ORCSD nurses with honorarium

In a recent memo Dr. Morse recognized that all staff worked hard during the COVID-19 Pandemic, however, more was expected of the nurses in a different capacity. They worked beyond the contract days, in the evenings and on the weekends to support students, staff and families. Many school systems paid their nurses additional monies out of Federal ESSER Funds; however, our district did not receive as much Federal aid. Dr. Morse recommended the nurses be paid \$5,000 each as an honorarium for their tireless efforts.

#### **Denise Day made a motion to support request for honorarium, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros.**

Yusi Turell inquired about the cost, which will be \$5,000 per nurse at a total of \$35,000, and Brian Cisneros acknowledged there was enough money in the general funds.

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

List of Policies for first read: JBAB – Transgender and Gender Expression, IMBA – Distance Education, JFCB – Care of School Property.

Denise Day acknowledged that the JBAB policy was a compilation of work done by the DEIJ committee, students and faculty, and Dr Morse.

#### **Denise Day made a motion to approve the list of policies for first read: JBAB – Transgender and Gender Expression, IMBA – Distance Education, JFCB – Care of School Property, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

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

**The Manifest Committee met and approved the following.**

**Vendor Manifest#25 \$446,986.69**

**Payroll Manifest #23 \$909,223.78**

Board members thanked everyone who turned out to meet the candidates for the DEIJ coordinator position on Monday and Wednesday. The finalists met with administration, faculty, students, parents & the public. Dr. Morse will review stakeholders' responses and may make a nomination to the Board at the next meeting.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None provided

**XI. CLOSING ACTIONS**

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

Naming of Facility

**Michael Williams made a motion to go into Non-Public Session at 9:04 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 6-0.**

**NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2I {If Needed}**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The School Board returned to public session at 9:30PM.

**Heather Smith moved to adjourn the meeting 9:31 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper