

# Oyster River Cooperative School Board

## Regular Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2022

DRAFT

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

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:** Olivia Gass

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

**GUEST PRESENT:** 10<sup>th</sup> graders Maeve Hickok and Delaney Nadeau and 9<sup>th</sup> grader Greg Caron

**ABSENT:**

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

Chair Michael Williams led a moment of silence in honor of Memorial Day observances and the recent Texas losses.

### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Denise Day moved to approve the agenda as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Smith.**

**Yusi Turell proposed adding a non-public session under RSA-A:3 II (b) – Hiring of any person as a public employee, after the Superintendent’s Report of the DEIJ Coordinator, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 5-1-1. Brian Cisneros opposed, and Denise Day abstained.**

**Brian Cisneros proposed adding Naming of a Facility under Discussion & Action items, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 3-3-1. Denise Day, Heather Smith & Brian Cisneros voting in favor. Yusi Turell was opposed, and Dan Klein, Michael Williams and Matt Bacon abstained.**

**Motion to approve the agenda as amended passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None provided.

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Denise Day moved to approve the May 18th, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros.**

Yusi Turell made the following revision:

On page 5 under School Board Committee Updates strike “The hiring committee” and replace with “Dr. Morse” and move the apostrophe in “stakeholder’s” so it reads, “Dr. Morse will review stakeholders’ responses and may make a nomination to the Board at the next meeting.”

Matt Bacon made the following revision:

On page 2 under Board Announcements replace “6<sup>th</sup> grade” with “5<sup>th</sup> grade” so it reads, “She received a tour from 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who did a fantastic job....”

**Motion passed with correction 6-0-1 with Dan Klein abstaining and the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Denise Day moved to approve the May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Non-Public Meeting Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Dan Klein abstaining and the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

## V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

### A. District

David Goldsmith of Moharimet shared exciting plans for the end of the school year. On Thursday they will hold "Day of Artist," a culminating event to celebrate art through sessions presented by people from all walks of life with a huge host of art activities. A cereal box dominoes event will be featured with the boxes being donated to End 68 Hours of Hunger. Jay Richard recently visited the 4<sup>th</sup> graders in preparation for their upcoming visit to ORMS. MOH Day, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Day, and a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition Ceremony will be held during the last week of school.

Misty Lowe of Mast Way shared they held a special celebration of the retirees with past and present faculty in attendance. The Lee, Madbury & Durham local librarians read to students and promoted the summer reading program. She said Jay Richard spoke with 4<sup>th</sup> graders about the middle school transition and students showed a lot of interest in the MS clubs. Misty looks forward to their in-person 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition Ceremony at the end of the year.

Jay Richard of ORMS thanked Michael for the moment of silence and provided the following updates. In the recent Teacher Workshop, teachers collaborated for next year's placement; approximately seventy-five 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents attended a tour and were thrilled with the building; and all 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be bussed to ORMS on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> for their Step-Up Day. Students will eat lunch in the Learning Commons and meet with World Language and Music Staff to learn about their choices for next year. Jay thanked Matt Bacon for being their "Prop Person" and doing anything and everything that needs to be done for their upcoming play. Performances of *Midsummer Night's Dream* will take place on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the Concert Hall.

Rebecca Noe of ORHS was pleased to announce that Cathi Stetson is 1 of 10 semi-finalists in the state for NH Teacher of the Year. During the recent Underclassmen Awards Ceremony awards were given from many departments, and she learned that Jackson Stoudt will be racing in the US Rowing Youth National Championship in Florida next week. Rebecca went over the upcoming "Reading Days" scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>. During the morning students will attend 60-minute classes followed by afternoon work sessions to help students accomplish work and receive individualized instruction. June 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> students will take finals and busses will be available at 12:45 and at the end of the day. She let parents know that the schedule is on the webpage, and they can email her with any questions.

### B. Board

Denise Day shared how wonderful it has been going to in-person events. She recently attended the Senior Art Show and last Tuesday went to the Kindergarten Concert led by Pam Felber. Denise commented that the HS Band & Orchestra performance was fantastic, and the sound was amazing. She felt the general community could really benefit from more communication and information on these types of events so they can be encouraged to attend.

Heather Smith shared that she had a blast at the movie-themed Band Palooza performance held on the turf field. She especially enjoyed seeing the 8<sup>th</sup> graders play with the high schoolers.

Yusi Turell echoed Michael's sentiments for the moment of silence and cited recent shootings of Black Elders in Buffalo, an Asian Church in California, a Synagogue, as well as Pulse Nightclub a few years ago. With these tragedies and it being the start of Pride Month she stressed the importance of mental health, social and emotional learning, and teaching empathy & tolerance for people different than you to help strengthen our society.

## VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

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

High School Dress Code Student Presentation

Suzanne Filippone introduced Assistant Principal Mark Milliken of ORHS and student members of the Dress Code Committee including 10<sup>th</sup> graders Maeve Hickok and Delaney Nadeau and 9<sup>th</sup> grader Greg Caron. The students explained they developed a dress code proposal to address an initial concern that was raised with the Student Senate in June 2021. They created a dress code foundation to promote a safe learning environment for all and to protect against discrimination. Mark applauded the students for the time they spent devising a dress code that involved a lot of compromise to fit the feedback provided by adults and students. They had to create a balance between being specific enough and general enough to promote individuality. Making sure the dress code was revisable and changeable for trends was an important aspect they wanted to capture in their foundation. He admitted that this year the dress code was not enforced since it was under review. Their goals in addressing enforcement of the dress code are to provide a subtle alert that does not signal out a student or cause them to miss academic time. They drafted a pass system so that in between classes teachers can provide a student with a pass that quietly lets the front office and administrators know a student does not meet dress code. The students' goal was for administrators to have a more instructive versus punitive outcome. They wanted teachers to feel comfortable enforcing the code while at the same time not wanting students to be made to feel uncomfortable.

Dr. Morse felt the dress code was very well written and wondered if the word "consequences" tied into restorative practices. Mark Milliken appreciated the feedback and agreed that the word did not best fit their plan and will change it.

#### Student Representative Recognition and Appreciation

Chair Michael Williams recognized student representative Olivia Gass for her outstanding service on behalf of students. He praised her articulate and independent voice that she brought to the school board and as a token of appreciation he presented her with flowers and a memento.

Yusi Turell praised Oliva on being a scholar, athlete, and artist. Denise Day gave Olivia a huge thank you for showing dedication in juggling all her commitments and being a voice for students.

#### COVID Metric Update

Catherine Plourde stated the COVID data is trending back down, and parents have been working very well with the schools. An exception has been a few HS upticks from recent activities, which was anticipated. Catherine clarified recent changes to CDC's guidelines that are being implemented in the district. If a vaccinated person continues to test positive 5 days after the initial diagnosis, they can test daily and return to school once they test negative and have no symptoms. They can no longer have to wait until day 10 to test, however, upon returning after a negative test a mask must be worn until day 10.

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

Dr. Morse reminded the listening audience that Catherine Plourde will be recognized as Special Educator of the Year and Sean Peschel will be recognized as EOL Coordinator of the State at a ceremony in Manchester on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### DEIJ Coordinator

Dr. Morse reviewed the hiring process for the DEIJ Coordinator position and stated he was incredibly impressed with Rachael Blansett, a young black woman from Detroit who has lived diversity. She came with glowing recommendations that whole-heartedly endorsed her, emphasized her flexibility and adaptiveness, and praised her passion for her work. Dr. Morse stated his first expectation is for Rachael to spend time learning about Oyster River, our community, and our students, and understand the high expectations all groups have for the school district.

Yusi Turell raised concern for her relative lack of experience in a K-12 system and the affect this could have working with faculty on weaving DEIJ into academics. She asked how the teachers felt.

Dr. Morse stated that all teachers except one chose her as the top candidate. He felt that if their search focused too much on a candidate with K-12 curriculum experience that they would lose the lived experience and authenticity they were seeking. He stressed that she is not the teacher, but she is there to support teachers with research and resources to help them address issues that they have not lived or are uncomfortable teaching. Dr. Morse said she will define the role in the upcoming year, and he believes she will grow to be an incredible leader.

Heather Smith commented that Rachael was the only candidate to talk about educational accessibility for all students, not just in what is being taught but how it is being taught. She was impressed with her depth of experience in restorative practices and liked that Rachael recognizes her own limitations. She has a wealth of professional networks and resources that she plans on tapping into when necessary.

**Yusi Turell made a motion to move into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 (b), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 4-1-2 by roll call vote: Heather – Yes, Dan – Yes, Matthew Bacon – Yes, Brian Cisneros – No, Denise Day – Abstained, Michael Williams – Abstained.**

The Board went into non-public session at 8:00 PM. Chair Michael Williams called the Board back into public session at 8:31 PM.

**Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the hiring of Rachael Blansett as the DEIJ Coordinator as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt Bacon.**

Heather Smith said she is excited for her and thinks she will do an amazing job. Yusi Turell said she was initially concerned about the trade-offs that might come with hiring at the lower end of the salary range, but now she has a better understanding of the growth trajectory. Michael Williams felt the candidate search included a very thorough process and a broad interview committee.

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

Dr. Morse will introduce Rachael to the Board at the next meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **C. Business Administrator**

#### FY22 Budget Update/Fund Balance

Sue Caswell provided a budget update. She expressed some concern for expenses that are on-going since prices are volatile.

Denise Day commented on the unanticipated increase in fuel costs, and how it exemplifies the importance of building into the budget for unknowns.

#### FY24 Budget Calendar

Sue presented the FY24 Budget Calendar to the Board and said the state energy, gas and diesel contracts have not changed, but they could when she receives an update from the state.

**Denise Day made a motion to approve the FY23-24 Budget Calendar as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

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

Olivia Gass provided end of the year dates for the following events:

Senior Art Show tonight at 5pm and Mouth of the River Coffee House at 7pm

Spring Fling - June 3<sup>rd</sup>

National Honor Society and World Language Inductions - June 8<sup>th</sup>

Graduation Practice & BBQ and Science Showcase - June 13<sup>th</sup>

Graduation Practice and Senior Ceremony & Awards - June 14<sup>th</sup>

Senior Class Trip to Fort Foster - June 15<sup>th</sup>

Graduation Practice & Senior Banquet at the Regatta Room in Eliot, ME (semi-formal attire) - June 16<sup>th</sup>

Graduation & Project Graduation - June 17<sup>th</sup> (Graduation rain date June 18<sup>th</sup>)

For sports, Olivia shared the following achievements for the Girls' State Track Competition: Haley Kavanagh was runner up for the 1600-meter and state champ for the 800-meter. Erin Carty was state champ for the 300-meter hurdles and Charlotte Cousins was runner up for the 100-meter hurdles.

Olivia thanked the Board for having her as a student representative and expressed how proud she was to be a voice for students.

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

Brian Cisneros shared the following updates from the May 24<sup>th</sup> finance meeting: An electric bus proposal from Highland is being looked into, there is no concern for the state budget at the moment, however, this is the last year for the current retirement rate so we will need to watch for that. The turf field could be delayed until November and a policy procedure for capital spending was discussed.

Denise Day requested to have all the company information available if it gets to the point of moving forward with Highland for electric busses.

**F. Other:** None

#### **VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

Michael Williams asked the Board if any items needed to be discussed separately.

**Yusi Turell requested to pull out Jan Keravich's nomination from the Unanimous Consent agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> from Matt Bacon.**

Guild Nominations for the 2022-23 School Year

ORMS Maternity Leave of Absence from September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – End of January 2023

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

**Michael Williams made a motion for approval for five guild nominations for 2022-23, a maternity leave, and the list of policies for second read/adoption, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

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

**Yusi Turell made a motion to approve the nomination of Jan Keravich as a special education teacher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt Bacon.**

Yusi Turell thanked Jan Keravich for staying with the district and spoke about her growth from a long-term sub and accolades from ORMS teachers.

**Motion passed 7-0.**

#### ORHS Director of Counseling Nomination

Suzanne Filippone discussed the role of the counseling director and the hiring process that was conducted to find a candidate that had both counseling and administrative experience.

Rebecca Noe, high school principal, outlined the process that was followed, and the numerous staff involved in this hiring.

Dr. Morse nominated Shannon Caron for Director of Counseling. Yusi Turell highlighted her experience with grading, competencies, and communication, specifically around webpages.

**Heather Smith made a motion to approve the ORHS Director of Counseling Nomination as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Vote 7-0.**

Board Goals for 2022-23

The Board held a discussion about the 2022-23 goals. They talked about the themes, goals that may be convoluted, and identified areas that were missing. Members shared their thoughts on how the goals should be prioritized. The Board agreed there were too many goals and will continue to work on consolidating and narrowing down their focus before adoption.

Chair Michael Williams called a 3-minute recess at 9:42 pm and the meeting resumed at 9:45 pm.

**Denise Day made a motion to table Naming of a Facility due to the late time, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Smith. Motion passed 4-3 with Denise Day, Michael Williams, Dan Klein, and Heather Smith in favor and Yusi Turell, Matt Bacon, and Brian Cisneros opposed.**

**IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES**

The Manifest Committee met and completed the following manifests.

Vendor Manifest #26 \$809,978.27  
Payroll Manifest #24 \$1,526,108.27

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None provided

**XI. CLOSING ACTIONS**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:** June 8, 2022 - Communication Board Workshop – ORHS Library  
June 15, 2022 - Regular Board Meeting – ORHS Library  
July 6, 2022 - Manifest Meeting – 3:30 PM SAU Conference Room  
July 20, 2022 - Regular Board Meeting – MS Recital Hall  
August 3, 2022 - Regular Board Meeting – MS Recital Hall

**XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** RSA 91-A:3 II (c) – Documented via separate minutes for first non-public at 6:30 PM  
Second meeting within the regular meeting after Superintendent Report with second set of non-public minutes.

**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.**

**Heather Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper