

**Oyster River Cooperative School District
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

June 2, 2021

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT: Michael Williams, Al Howland, Brian Cisneros, Yusi Turell, Dan Klein, Tom Newkirk, Denise Day. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:** Absent

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Jim Morse, Suzanne Filippone, David Goldsmith, Misty Lowe, Todd Allen

STAFF PRESENT: Catherine Plourde arrived at 7:48pm

GUEST PRESENT:

CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00pm by Michael Williams.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Denise Day moved to approve the agenda as written, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Daniel Day of Durham addressed the Board regarding the removal of a memorial for Don Lafferty at the high school and expressed his concern that the District is not continuing memorials in perpetuity. Daniel also questioned the priorities of the district citing the installation of a professionally made graphic at the high school and the incentivizing of teacher retirement.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Newkirk had a correction to page 5 of the May 12, 2021 Workshop Minutes. The correction should read as follows, "Tom Newkirk: Tom agreed that schools should look into the matter." Tom stated he was not trying to make a judgement regarding the complaint or whether the actions taken were satisfactory.

Denise Day moved to approve the May 12, 2021 Workshop Minutes, 2nd by Dan Klein.

Yusi Turell had corrections to name misspellings. Page one: Scott Schaier. Page two: Jill Piparo. Page four: Brooke Keeler. Correction on page two: instead of reading "Board members and community members" the line should read "Board members, teachers, students, and administrators"

Vote on motion to approve May 12, 2021 Workshop Minutes with corrections passed 7-0.

Denise Day moved to approve May 19, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Tom Newkirk. Motion passed 7-0.

Michael Williams disclosed that the Non-Public Meeting Minutes from May 19, 2021 have been sealed by vote of the Board.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District

Suzanne Filippone announced the unified volleyball team has won the state championships and congratulated them on their victory. Suzanne also encouraged others to look at the website for upcoming end of year events, including senior day. Suzanne thanked David Goldsmith, Misty Lowe, and Jay Richard for their assistance with the senior walk at the elementary and middle schools. Suzanne also publicly recognized Heather Machanoff for being NH Counselor of the Year.

B. Board

Denise Day commended the writers that contributed to Mouth of The River, especially the articles regarding Todd Allen and Dr. Morse, and the art teachers

Michael Williams expressed his appreciation for the work that went into the Diversity, Visibility, and Standing Together in Oyster River Forum on May 25th. The event was well-attended, interesting, and eye-opening, and should now be online to watch for those unable to attend. Michael also commended Rachel Gasowski of Durham Parks and Recreation, Scout Troop 154, Durham Police and Fire, amongst others, for coordinating Monday's Memorial Day observance in Durham.

III. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction Reports(s): None

B. Superintendent's ReportEddie Award Winners

Dr. Morse recognized six staff members in the district that were awarded Eddie's: Felicia Sperry, Psychologist of the Year; Heather Machanoff, NH Counselor of the Year; Valerie Wolfson, Social Studies Teacher of the Year; Joshua Olstad, Technology Director of the Year; Tim Kenaley, NH Food Manager of the Year, and Joan Landry, NH Employee of the Year by the School Nutrition Association. Dr. Morse stated it is an incredible list of accomplishment for the staff and great representation of the school district.

Email from Dr. Rob Leveillee

Dr. Morse read an email from Dr. Rob Leveillee, expressing their appreciation for Todd Allen and his work and support in the COVID-19 inoculation efforts in Strafford County.

High School Principal Search

Dr. Morse stated that four candidates have been interviewed for the open position of high school principal. He went on to state that the interview committee consisted of 21 individuals including two school Board members, a parent representative from each community, students from the high school, and teachers and administrators. Dr. Morse stated there are two finalists that will be meeting and touring the schools, and the search is on track for a final candidate to be nominated at the next Board meeting.

Middle School Plaque

Dr. Morse presented a draft of a plaque that will be installed in the new middle school dedicated to the community members who worked to get the school passed and built.

High School Robotics Presentation

Michael Hawley, a district parent, and the volunteer robotics coach approached the podium to discuss the robotics team and their accomplishments. Michael discussed the STEM enrichment provided by robotics, as well as FIRST high school level robotics that the team was able to participate in. Michael also brought forth the desire to turn Robotics into a club, which could potentially expand membership and open up a wider variety of funding. Michael then introduced a handful of students that participated in the Robotics club and their involvement.

C. Business Administrator: None

D. Student Representative Report: None

Suzanne Filippone stated elections for a new Student Representative will be held at the high school on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

E. Finance Committee Report: None

F. Other: None

IV. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

Michael Williams moved to approve the entire Unanimous Consent Agenda, for motion to approve teacher nominations for the 2021-2022 School year. Motion to approve ORHS one-year Leave of Absence for the 2021-22 school year. Motion to approve list of policies for second read/adoption: DN- Booster Clubs, DIA – Fund Balance, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Morse stated that the two nominees are extraordinary nominees that are both residents of the district. John was Counselor of the Year in 2018, and Lisa has library experience in Portsmouth as well Durham.

V. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

School Board 2021-2022 Master Schedule Meeting Dates – Draft

Michael Williams brought to the attention of the Board the summer meeting dates and wanted to be sure members knew it was a draft and further questions could be directed to Dr. Morse.

Confirm proposed July/August Meeting Dates: July 21 and August 4, August 18.

Discussion on the May 25, 2021 Diversity, Visibility, and Standing Together in Oyster River Forum.

Dr. Morse stated the event was wonderful and inspiring, and the keynote speaker Professor Chiu and the panelists were inspiring. Dr. Morse thanked the 130 attendees for their thoughtful and inspiring questions.

Yusi Turell expressed her joy in the number of people that joined to learn about Asian-American history.

Denise Day stated it was fantastic and expressed her appreciation for everyone sharing their experiences and stories.

Tom Newkirk commended Yusi for setting the tone of the forum from the beginning and creating an event that really accomplished the goal it set out to accomplish.

Al Howland cited a slide in the PowerPoint and recognized how it tied into the wider argument of divisive topics in schools and the importance of teaching the diversity of our country.

Yusi Turell stated she hopes the forum will help to ensure there is not a division within our community.

Michael Williams expressed appreciation to the panelists for sharing their personal, raw, and courageous stories.

Framework for Fall 2021 School Opening

Dr. Morse stated he is trying to implement some of the changes proposed by the Communications Committee and project out to the community what the plan is. Dr. Morse continued by stating that the plan is not designed to be static and changes are happening weekly, and the plan will be adjusted continuously until August according to the guidance of the CDC and DHHS.

Tom Newkirk moved to endorse the Fall 2021 School Opening framework as presented, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion approved with a vote of 7-0.

VI. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Manifest Reviewed and Approved by Manifest Committee:

Denise Day and Tom Newkirk reviewed the manifest.

Payroll Manifest #25 - \$1,389,190.02

Vendor Manifest #26 - \$954,768.05

Brian Cisneros stated the middle school is ready for a tour to be scheduled, the last day of school is June 18 at 2pm and the school Board is invited, as are some community members.

Dr. Morse stated the 3rd and 4th floor are all drywalled and 4th floor is painted, hopefully the skylights will be in by the tour.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Michael Williams informed the Board that the suggested Board Workshop on June 16th would not happen until the fall.

VIII. CLOSING ACTIONS

- A.** Future Meeting Dates: June 16, 2021 Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM – ORHS Auditorium
July 21, 2021 Regular Meeting – ORHS Auditorium

- IX. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II {If Needed}**
NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2 I {If Needed}

X. ADJOURNMENT

Brian Cisneros moved to adjourn at 8:31 PM, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alexa Fusilier
Recording Secretary