

Oyster River Cooperative School Board
Regular Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2021

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT: Michael Williams, Al Howland, Brian Cisneros, Yusi Turell, Dan Klein, Tom Newkirk, Denise Day

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: None

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

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Rozycki and guest, Felicia Sperry, John Webb, Kim Felch

GUEST PRESENT:

ABSENT: Suzanne Filippone

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

Ia. Public Hearing: Purpose to discuss expenditure of the Facilities Development Capital Reserve Fund.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to open the public hearing, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed, 7-0.

Jim Morse gave a brief synopsis as to why there needed to be a public hearing and then invited Sue Caswell to the podium.

Sue Caswell stated the reason for the public hearing is to discuss the need to approve moving of funds regarding the air conditioning update in the tower classrooms at the high school.

Al Howland moved to close the public hearing, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed, 7-0.

Michael Williams informed the Board that they will continue this topic later in the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Michael Williams reminded the Board that there would be a short non-meeting at the end of the regular meeting for negotiations and then asked the Board if they had any changes. There were no changes.

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jill Piparo of Lee requested the Board consider making masks optional for students in the PEP program, also requested the Board consider allowing mask breaks for students, and for middle school and high school students to be able to use their lockers beginning on the first day of school. Jill also requested for the Board to develop a gate for when they will stop the mask mandate, and also questioned the Board as to why the pledge of allegiance isn't recited at the beginning of the meetings.

Krista Butts of Lee explained as a past Board member that she really enjoyed hearing what the students were involved in. She went on to state that on July 10th 18 students, 13 of which were OR students went on a mission trip in West Virginia where they painted two house, designed, obtained the lumber and built two decks, did landscaping, planting of a garden, and worked in a food pantry. She then went on to state that 7 students, 6 of which were from Durham and Lee and one Newmarket student backpacked in New Mexico for 12 days and received their 50 miles award. She thanked the Board for all that they are doing to keep our children safe.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Denise Day moved to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 4th, 2nd by Yusi Turell.

Corrections:

Denise Day stated that on page 3 of the minutes: under the motion regarding the after school Chinese Program, the motion should include, "and charge families \$100".

Tom Newkirk stated he thought the correct amount was \$100, and then \$150 for two or more siblings, and also requested the recommended amount show as up to \$17,000. He also corrected the spelling of Anita Mathur's name.

Michael Williams stated that we received corrections for the public comment section from two individuals and that Wendy viewed the video for accuracy of the statements and that these corrections will be made.

Vote on motion to approve the regular meeting minutes as amended from August 4th passed, 7-0.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District:

Rebecca Noe shared that the high school has received an accommodation from the NHIAA for outstanding sportsmanship. She shared an update on the three-high school bootcamps that are occurring. This week one is for seniors applying for college, and another for incoming freshmen. Next week there will be one for incoming new students or those returning from remote learning. Principal Noe also shared that school sports started Monday at the high school and that the teachers have returned as well and are working on curriculum.

B. Board: None

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

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

B. Superintendent's Report

Enrollment Update

Dr. Morse stated the enrollment number for the high school is up significantly, and the middle schools and elementary schools are either at or slightly below where they were expected to be. We will have the official enrollment numbers on October 1st.

Dr. Morse also discussed the new SASS program that Catherine Plourde and Kim Wolph are overseeing. This is an opt-in program that allows the district the capability to perform rapid tests for students and staff should the need arise and get quick test results.

Dr. Morse brought the Board up to date on the Chinese Teacher position that was open for the high school due to a sudden resignation. He is working with Rebecca Noe on a candidate they will be interviewing on Thursday. He also stated that he has a plan B that he is working with Brigitte Herz from One World Language.

Dr. Morse updated the Board on the current transportation status and that he has met with Sue Caswell and Lisa Huppe. There are currently 31 positions on paper and only 21 current staff. He went on to state that this is not just a local or regional problem, this is national. They have determined that at the start of the school year they are going to run the buses as they did last spring with dedicated runs for Mast Way and Moharimet and dedicated runs for the middle and high schools. This will create new school start times for the school year.

Architect's Report/Furnishing

Ryan Tirrell, interior designer discussed the furnishings of the new middle school, their flexibility in usage and arrangement, and how this can help meet future needs of the district as well.

Strategic Plan Board Review:

Catherine Plourde gave a brief breakdown on who will be speaking, what their roles are in the district, and what they will be speaking on. She introduced Kim Felch.

MTSS/SEL & Academic – District

Kim Felch discussed overall district updates, including the addition of a fourth counselor to the middle school, and supporting students post Covid-19.

John Webb discussed the programs that will be implemented at the high school, including trauma training, bystander training, and suicide prevention training for the faculty, and his goal of establishing a measuring system for the mental health of students.

Felicia Sperry discussed establishing the communication skills and common language with students early to help express their mental health later on.

MTSS / SEL & Academic Elementary / MS / HS (Principals, Felicia, Kim F, John W)

David Goldsmith & Misty Lowe stated they are on track with the strategic plan and have met their goals for the first two years, and now they will be trying to reestablish what was accomplished as school is starting again.

Michael Williams asked how new teachers are brought up to speed with the goals of the schools.

David stated that many new teachers have come from schools with similar systems in place and they explain to them how things are done in the district here, and they also include the story of the journey in the new teacher orientation.

Misty stated they also share with them the different measurement systems used in the district and how to read the data collected.

Dr. Morse also stated that they have integrated questions into the interviewing process of new hires that compliment the strategic plan to ensure they are going to participate in achieving the goals.

Yusi Turell asked if there is coordination between the counseling and academic teams when preparing to teach a potentially challenging or emotionally charged topic.

David stated they are constantly working together to support the students.

Felicia Sperry discussed the open circle program and how it teaches, provides, and uses skills when discussing challenging topics with students.

New Middle School

Jay and Jim discussed the progress of the new middle school, and the ongoing planning of logistics of making the actual move. They also discussed the high interest people have expressed in obtaining bricks from the old middle school, and how this could further their sustainability efforts.

Tom Newkirk asked if moving into the new middle school would provide them with the opportunity to reimagine the daily schedule.

Jay stated that they may have the ability to have two lunch periods instead of four, allowing for more time in the day for other activities, as well as providing more space for the advisory program.

Brian Cisneros asked about involving ORTV in the happenings at the new middle school as it moves closer to being completed.

Covid-19 Mitigation & Response Plan

Dr. Morse explained the work that Catherine has done by taking our narrative and turning it into a working color-coded system that the District can use to determine the Covid-19 threat levels locally.

The Board had a lengthy discussion surrounding this plan.

C. Business Administrator

FY21 Fund Balance Update

Sue Caswell explained that the bottom line is set at approximately 900K.

2022-2023 Budget Process Calendar

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the 2022 -2023 Budget Calendar as presented, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0

Michael Williams asked about inputs for goal setting and possible meeting date for this to happen.

Bus Lease

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the Bus Lease as presented, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.

Chair Michael Williams declared a short recess at 8:56pm and a return at 9:01pm.

D. Student Representative Report: None

E. Finance Committee Report: None

F. Other: None

VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

Michael Williams moved to approve the unanimous consent agenda for a Motion to approve Moharimet Activity Stipend for the 2021-22 school year. Motion to approve ORHS Maternity Leave of Absence from 08/26/21 through November 26, 2021, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed, 7-0.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

Policy BEDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings for Discussion

Michael Williams referred to the information that was provided in the back up and stated the purpose of the policy is to be sure the district's constituents are heard, while allowing us to have guidance and predictability for the meetings.

Al Howland questioned if the policy was needed, as he has not seen an issue during public comments during his time on the school Board and with the Durham town council.

This policy will be sent to the Policy Committee for revisions.

Regional K-8 Virtual School Plan

Dr. Morse stated the district will no longer be working with Florida-based online schooling, as they cannot support the educational needs of students with IEPs or the needs of special education students. VLACS and home schooling are the other options. Jim briefly provided the homeschool process and what the District will provide to homeschooled students.

Expenditure of Facilities Development Capital Reserve Fund {Public-Hearing}

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the use of \$200,000 from the Facilities Development Capital Reserve Fund for HS Air Conditioning, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0.

Consideration of a Board resolution on teaching about race

Tom Newkirk gave an overview of this topic.

Al Howland stated that the focus should be on what the teachers are teaching.

Dr. Morse stated the verbiage in HB2 could make teachers scared because they don't want to get in trouble for what they are teaching.

Denise Day made a motion to authorize Tom Newkirk to author a resolution addressing the language of HB2 to be brought back to the Board, 2nd by Yusi Turell. Motion passed, 7-0.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Yusi Turell discussed the Superintendent's Equity BBQ, as well as addressed HB2.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: September 1, 2021 Regular Meeting – ORHS Library
September 15, 2021 Regular Meeting – ORHS Library

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II {If needed}

NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2 I (a)

- Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Al Howland moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:47pm, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed, 7-0.

The School Board and Superintendent moved into a non-meeting session at 9:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alexa Fusilier
Recording Secretary