

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Hybrid Remote Meeting* Minutes

***In accordance with Governors Executive Order #12**

September 2, 2020

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT VIA ROLL CALL VOTE: Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Tom Newkirk, Denise Day, Michael Williams, Al Howland

Student Representative:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT VIA REMOTE ACCESS: James Morse, Todd Allen, Sue Caswell, Suzanne Filippone, Jay Richard, Misty Lowe, David Goldsmith

STAFF PRESENT: None

GUEST PRESENT: Ron Lamarre, Lavalley Bresinger Architects, Andre Kloetz, Bauen Corp. Jesse Phan, Bauen Corp.

GUEST'S PRESENT VIA REMOTE ACCESS: None

Tom Newkirk read the following statement:

As Chair of the Oyster River Cooperative School Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing Microsoft Teams for this electronic meeting. All members of the School Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 1-603-766-5646 and ID Code 461362#, or by clicking on the following website address: <http://www.orcsd.org/stream>

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Microsoft Team or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the ORCSD Board Agenda for 09/02/20.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-280-4202 or email at: orcsd-video@orcsd.org.

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance without the need to state if you are alone as we are meeting together. A roll call vote was then done with 6 Board Member present

I. CALL TO ORDER at 7:02 PM by Tom Newkirk

Tom Newkirk stated that he had no additions to the agenda, He asked the Board Members if there were any additional changes.

Al Howland questioned the approval of the MOU on the agenda and felt that it should be after the non-meeting portion of the meeting, we need to have explanations before approval.

Tom stated that he was not sure if we needed a non-meeting.

There were no additional changes suggested.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Denise Day moved to approve the agenda as presented, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed via roll call vote 6-0.

Tom began by stating that before we get into the rest of the meeting, he wanted to take a moment to acknowledging the passing of Kenny Rotner and asked Al Howland to say a few words on behalf of the School Board. Tom Newkirk, Dan Klein, and Dr. Morse each shared their thoughts about Kenny and the incredible work that he did for the district.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the July 8, 2020 meeting minutes:

Revisions: None

Denise Day moved to approve the July 8 meeting minutes, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with roll call vote 6-0.

Motion to approve the August 19, 2020 meeting minutes:

Revisions:

Michael Williams asked on Page 7 in the 7th paragraph, remove the wording beginning with “adding to the end of the sentence” and replace with “tonight in non-meeting.” On page 9 correct the vote on policies from “6-0” to “5-1 with Michael Williams voting no.” Also, on Page 9 remove the Non-Meeting” section completely.

Denise Day moved to approve the August 19 meeting minutes as revised, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with roll call vote 6-0.

Motion to approve the August 19, 2020 non-public meeting minutes:

Revisions: None

Denise Day moved to approve the August 19 non-meeting meeting minutes, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with roll call vote 6-0.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS:

~~A. District:~~

B. Board:

Al Howland stated that the Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee for Durham are doing a composting challenge with 20 families to find out the ratio of compostable to non-compostable material. They are working with Durham Parks & Recs and for \$10 you get a container, compostable bags, and a data sheet. The challenge will run for 6 weeks.

Tom Newkirk reported out on the 3rd walk-thru at the MS site last Friday. It is amazing the amount of changes that have been made and the progress has been astonishing.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:

A. Assistant Superintendent Reports: None

B. Superintendent's Report:

New MS Update

Tom Newkirk welcomed Ron Lamarre from Lavalle Bresinger to come up and update the Board on the progress of the new middle school. Ron presented a power point presentation that explained the developing lobby space with a mural concept that will tell the District's story. He reviewed the concept behind the 4 themes and colors using the criteria of the Biophilic Learning chosen for the interior areas. He ran thru the first-floor layout, and the various views from the concert hall including the balcony seating which could also be used as a future meeting space. He introduced Andre to present his updated.

Andre Kloetz from Bauen Corporation stated that he is pleased with the progress made so far and attributes that to the good weather, and not having the students on site early on. He stated that he is working on completing prices in about two weeks, and hopefully the next time we meet we should have the results of the bidding. At the end of August, we have completed 4 months of work and they have billed \$6.6M resulting in 15% of the guaranteed maximum price. We have completed 63% of the site work, 100% of the geothermal wells and pipes, 90% of the concrete form work and 35% of the structural steel work. He spoke about having a Topping Off ceremony where students and people associated with the site come and sign a beam or two. He spoke of having another tour in 6-8 weeks which will go up to the fourth floor, and that by the end of December the building will be weather tight with a roof.

Andre introduced Jesse Fand from Bauen who is on site most of the time and who has done a great job with the coordinating the various aspects of the build and asked the Board if they had any questions.

Denise Day asked if they encountered anything unexpected during the building process so far.

Michael Williams asked about the inspection process of the steel that is coming on site.

Andre answered both questions, and also spoke of the process that was needed to deliver the steel to the site with 4 state troopers assisting the delivery. He invited everyone to the site on Thursday for additional steel construction that will be happening.

Brian Cisneros asked where we are falling on the schedule of the build, are we on-schedule, behind schedule.

Andre stated that we are on schedule.

Michael Williams asked if there have been complaints from the neighbors about noise or dust.

Andre has not heard anything but did state that the crew do clean up the area at the end of each day.

Tom thanked Ron, Andre, and Jesse for their presentation. They left the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Enrollment Update

Jim stated that at this time these numbers are unofficial until October 1 when the State recording is done. Right now, Mast Way is at 333, Moharimet is at 293, middle school is at 663, and high school is at 844. Jim went on to say that the home school count right now is a little over 60 children. The class sizes at the elementary schools are pretty good. If this were a traditional opening the Moharimet 3rd grade number would be past the class size policy recommendation. The remote/hybrid system right now is as balanced as possible, and the staffing is perfect, but concerned when parents have the option to choose again, and there is a big shift, we will need to figure that out. Jim explained the drop off protocol and locations that are being used at the elementary level and that opening day went well with only a few minor technicalities that needed to be addressed.

The Board asked questions pertaining to the number of Barrington tuition students this year in comparison to last year and the year before.

Dan Klein asked about a decision to have student athletes choose between traveling teams and ORCSD teams.

Jim responded that the coaches asked if the AD would support having students make a choice between traveling teams and ORCSD teams. AD Lathrop call me and asked if the superintendent was supportive. Jim asked Andy why the coaches were asking and what was past practice. Past practice was that students could do both. Andy shared with the superintendent that they were concerned that traveling teams travel throughout the state and in some cases cross state lines and they were concerned that traveling outside the region was contrary to the Board's decision to limit ORCSD travel to the SE region Due to COVID. The coaches were very concerned, and Jim thought the request was consistent with the Board's direction at the last meeting.

The superintendent informed the Board that Exeter is requiring schools to transport their students if they wish to play against them so I made an exception as long as we maintain social distancing and masks as we do during the school day.

He also told the Board that the middle school was having difficulty finding schools to compete and we may need to bring in ORYA to provide competition.

Denise Day asked if a schedule for sports is created that it be shared with the Board.

There was additional discussion that ensued surrounding the sports topic with answers provided to the questions posed.

Jim gave a quick update on the antiracism committee meeting. He also stated that 6 people were interested in the vacant Board position, with 4 having completed the application process, He also updated the Board on the 15 staff members who were interested in the retirement incentive, and that he would bring this before the Board at the September 16th meeting.

Jim invited Jay and Suzanne to the podium to present their presentation.

Update for Opening of School – MS/HS

MS Update

Jay Richard began his presentation by explaining the ORMS Orientation Schedule that they will follow and that a remote orientations option will be available. He went on to explain the schedule for targeted learners and the breakdown by grade level including the number of students in the building at each session.

Jay listed all of the correspondences that have been sent out to families beginning August 1st up until August 28th. He informed the Board of the opportunities provided during the teacher workshop days to the staff. He also thanked IT, Nick Bellows and a handful of para-educators who handed out 600 laptops.

HS Update

Suzanne Filippone began her presentation to the Board with a student orientation update with Small groups that went on supervised student led tours, pictures were taken for high school ID's/School Pictures, They had their computer pick – up, Discussions surrounding SEL, and a debrief of Spring and Summer with their high school counselor. She also provided the orientation update for Grades 10-12 and what was offered.

She thanked Lisa Richardson and the paraeducators that assisted in the laptop distribution to students.

Suzanne explained the schedule for targeted learners, and noted the dates set aside for testing and other grade specific activities. Suzanne also provided the dates for her correspondences sent home beginning August 6 through August 26 but noted that both Mike McCann and Mark Milliken have also been sending home information as well. She provided the breakdown of the work completed during the teacher workshop days. Suzanne acknowledged the faculty at the high school they are doing an amazing job.

C. Business Administrator:

MS25/DOE 25

Sue explained that she has the end of year reports. The MS25 shows a \$900K max in the emergency fund, with \$614,024.96 to off set taxes. Jim asked Sue to explain the new legislation that has passed.

Sue explained the new legislation that passed had a cap increase that has doubled to 5% and that we will need a new Warrant Article for this increase as the previous one is at 2.5%.

Brian Cisneros moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign both the MS25 and DOE25 as a pair, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed with roll call vote 6-0.

D. Finance Committee Update: None

~~**E. Student Senate Report:**~~

~~**F. Other:**~~

VII. DISCUSSION ITEM:

Return to Normal Meeting Routine

Tom stated that observing health precautions and social distancing, we will resume our regular meeting by allowing the public to once again attend meetings beginning September 16th.

Jim stated that he has spoken with Alexander and they have come up with a plan for this meeting. We will continue to use this room; people would enter through the Gym doors and exit through the side door. We would rope off every other row and keep a three-seat distance between each other. This method would allow us to house 25 people in the lower section, and we would provide microphones in the audience for public comment. We will also expect everyone to wear masks.

Tom stated that we will resume the manifest committee at the next meeting with a 6:30 start time. Dan Klein and Denise Day will be on the committee.

Process for Selecting New Board Member

Tom explained that he spoke with our legal council about the process that we need to follow, and it is basically a public process, the resume deadline will be September 9th, the 9th through the 16th the Board will review the resumes and be prepared to discuss nominations at the next meeting. On the 16th the Board Chair will summarize the resumes and that we will use the repeated voting process, but we will not vote against people, until a majority vote is presented.

Dan asked if this could be documented as a chronological list.

Michael Williams asked if the resumes could be sent to the Board instead of coming into the SAU building.

The Board asked additional clarifying questions. The resumes will be emailed to all Board Members on Thursday, September 10th.

MOU Between District and Guild

Tom moved the meeting to the MOU and explained the process that was followed the previous week with the Board negotiating team meeting first with Dr. Morse to review and revise certain aspects of the MOU. They then met with the Guild to discuss the proposed changes made that resulted in the MOU that was included in the back up. Tom went on to state that the Guild voted on this agreement with an almost unanimous vote. Jim believes that it was 148 to 2 vote.

Tom asked if there were any questions.

Brian questioned the 6' distance suggested because if you are masked you could be 3'. This literally cuts our space in half.

Jim replied that we are using the CDC Guidelines of 6' and that administratively we agreed that by following the 6' distance, wearing masks and hand washing reduces the potential by 90%. Jim gave an example of what he observed today at the schools that were following the distancing, and it worked perfectly.

Brian also questioned the timeframe of the document ending June 30, 2021. What happens if the Governor lifts all guidelines as of January, are we still obligated to finish out the contract.

Jim explained that like any contract we would need to go back to the Guild and renegotiate depending on the circumstances presented.

Denise Day and Brian Cisneros pointed out some minor typos in the document.

Tom asked if there were any additional questions and if we are ready to vote.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to authorize the Board Chair to sign the MOU between the District and the Guild, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed with roll call vote 6-0.

VIII. ACTIONS

A. Superintendent Actions

B. Board Action Items:

Appointment of District SRO and Truant Officers

Denise Day made a motion to appoint the District SRO and Truant Officers, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with roll call vote 6-0.

Approval of MS/HS Coaches

Tom asked for a motion to approve the list of coaches.

**Denise Day made a motion to approve the list of coaches, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.
Discussion:**

Michael Williams felt that like the process that we use for procedure management it is not very robust, and this is another area where the degree of oversight the Board applies directly, is very limited and I would rather not be voting on things that we are not really involved in. He will be abstaining.

Dan Klein agreed that the Board should be apprised of the nominations but felt it would work better if this were handled through the administration. He will abstain as well.

Al Howland stated that our real job is policy and procedure for the coaches.

Tom asked if there is a current policy to approve coaches.

Jim clarified with the Board that they are now asking that the approval of coach nominations be removed from the Board and be handled through administration.

Al suggested that we take this back to the Policy Committee for review and then come back to the Board with their findings.

Dan Klein felt that the Policy Committee should also work with Andy Lathrop on this review.

Motion passed with roll call vote 4-0-2 with Michael Williams and Dan Klein abstaining.

List of Policies

Tom Newkirk asked for a motion to approve the list of policies for second read/adoption.

Denise Day made a motion to approve the List of Policies for a second read/adoption, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.

Discussion: None

Motion passed with a roll call vote of 4-2 with Al Howland and Michael Williams voting against.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Denise Day asked in terms of meetings for the Policy Committee, whether we should continue to meet remotely or in person.

Jim encouraged the committee to meet in person as long as everyone id comfortable with that.

~~A. Manifests Reviewed and Approved by Manifest Committee:~~

~~Denise Day and Dan Klein reviewed the manifests.~~

~~Payroll Manifest #~~

~~Vendor Manifest #~~

~~X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:~~

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:

- A. Future Meeting Dates: 9/2/20 – Regular Hybrid/Remote Meeting – 7:00 PM
 9/16/20 – Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM

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

NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A:2 {If needed}

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

**Al Howland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m., 2nd by Michael Williams
Motion passed with a roll call vote of 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy L. DiFruscio
Executive Assistant to
Superintendent of Schools