

# Oyster River Cooperative School District

## School Board Meeting

**September 13, 2017**  
**Draft**

**6:30 p.m.**

**High School Library**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Denise Day, Michael Williams, Brian Cisneros, Tom Newkirk, Kenny Rotner, Dan Klein, and Al Howland Student Representative: H.J. Wilson

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Sue Caswell, Todd Allen, Superintendent Morse, Carrie Vaich, Suzanne Filippone, Jay Richard, and Lisa Huppe

There were 5 members of the public present.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Tom Newkirk noted the passing of former Superintendent John Powers. He gave a lot to the District and this is a loss to the community.

### **APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:**

Payroll Manifest #4 \$272,673.43  
Payroll Manifest #5: \$836,948.40  
Vendor Manifest #5 \$230,052.16

### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

#### **Policy Committee Item**

**Denise Day moved to approve the agenda with the above revision, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Dean Rubine of Lee feels that intolerance cannot be tolerated. He knows that the administration will take care of this issue.

Brenda Warden of the District spoke that her family represents the one percent. Her son has experienced this type of behavior in this District and she has reported it. This is finally coming to light. Protocols for follow up must be created as well. Brenda would like to know what is being done about all of this.

Ruth Sample of Lee NH is here concerned about how these racist assaults have been handled. It is all disturbing that she had to read it in the paper and feels that parents have a right to know before they heard about it on the news.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve the August 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes:**

**Brian Cisneros moved to approve the August 16 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0.**

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATION and COMMENTS:**

**A. District:** None

**B. Board:** Denise Day thanked Suzanne at the High School for all her work on the Newsletter. It was great to get something with all the dates and general information.

Brian Cisneros attended the Mast Way open house. The teachers did a great job and showed a safety video on the new playground. Brian thanked the ORYA Football Team for coming to spread mulch on the playground.

Kenny Rotner thanked the members of the public for speaking this evening. These episodes have shaken him to the core and he believes that the District will be responding appropriately. This is an incredibly serious issue.

Kenny feels inspired that we are lucky to have such an esteemed person running their Board. Tom Newkirk just published his second book.

Tom Newkirk mentioned that this District is not immune to racism. We must examine ourselves and he hopes that something good can come out of this.

#### **VI. DISTRICT REPORTS**

**A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report:** Todd Allen started by saying that John Powers hired and encouraged professionals he hired to be positive and to make a difference. He also introduced the concept of individualized instruction and heterogenous grouping to the District.

Todd Allen discussed the professional development of the summer: There were 400 days of professional development completed by the staff this summer on:

STEM, emotional learning, and Math. He is proud of the work that the staff has done this summer.

**B. Superintendent's Reports:**

Superintendence Morse noted that our bus drivers have been amazing and have stepped up to the task. The District is 4 drivers short of a full staff. As more drivers are hired the wait times on the bus will be shortened. He recognized Richard Joy and Melody LaMore for their Leadership Roles in ORBDA. The School Department appreciates all their hard work.

Superintendent Morse reported that there is no room for racism sexism or bigotry in this District. Carrie Vaich has done a great job investigating these issues. Superintendent Morse has been in direct contact with the families involved. Oyster River was the first district in the state to have a transgender policy. They want all their students to be safe. He immediately reached out to NAACP, the University of NH Office of Community, Equity and Diversity and the state of New Hampshire's Office of Disproportionate Minority Contact for guidance on how to move forward. A multicultural forum is being planned. This will be a central office issue and they will be putting procedures in place to be sure there is a process in place for reporting. We were heavily involved in due process and we cannot deny that both families have due process rights. We will continue to address this issue. The age of the students does have an impact. This will be faced head on. This is not just a school issue, we need to deal with this as a community.

Al Howland is worried that this is not just an Oyster River problem but we need to have a solution that encompasses all our community. The School is a reflection of our community.

**Kenny Rotner moved to have the Policy committee examined Policy AC and related policies and bring back recommendations to the School Board for enhancements or additions, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Unofficial Opening Day Enrollment:**

Mast Way 354  
Moharimet 345  
Middle School 661

High School 794  
PEP Program: approximately 40 students  
Total: 2,194

Superintendent Morse reported that this is the fifth year of growth in the District. There are 140 Barrington students in the high school which has stabilized the enrollment at the school. This is the first year that Mast Way has exceeded enrollment over Moharimet.

Kenny Rotner wants the discrepancy of the Long Range Planning Committee and the actual numbers to be examined. Denise Day reported that the LRPC met. Birth rates in the state are going down but what makes it so difficult to project the numbers is the people moving in. Kindergarten numbers were difficult to estimate this year because of the addition of full day. They are trying to find another independent variable that will be a predictor for projections. Moving forward, the first grade projections should be a lot more accurate.

**Superintendent's Facility Committee:** Superintendent Morse mentioned that the Committee met for the first time. This group will meet monthly and it is open to anyone to come and watch the process. The litany of options will be looked at and discussed through June and at the end give their recommendation to the Board. Tom Newkirk reported that the commentary he wrote about the Middle School was published in the paper and he hopes that this will bring community awareness.

### **C. Business Administrator**

**FY17 Budget Update:** Sue Caswell reported that there is \$264K estimated general fund balance. She had originally thought this number would be higher but a boiler needed to be replaced and there were more special education fund items needed.

### **D. Student Senate Report**

Hannah Jane Wilson, the Student Representative, reported that the school year has just started and the Student Senate has been working hard planning Spirit Week for the last week of September. She also reported that the students have been adjusting to the new start times.

**E. Other: Jesse Morrell Wellness Survey**

Jesse Morrell presented the Wellness Survey to the Board. Members of the District Wellness Committee have developed a survey to address general wellness. The purpose of the Bobcat Wellness Survey is to gather feedback about student experiences and lifestyle habits by surveying all students in grades 7-12 during the spring of 2017. There were 41 questions on the survey. She reviewed some results with the Board and noted that it will be very interesting to compare the results of the two surveys after the second one is administered in the spring.

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**MS25/DOE25: Denise Day moved to sign the MS25 and the DOE25, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Williams. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**FY19 Budget Goal:**

Tom Newkirk presented the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Goal Draft:

Budgeting is directly related to our academic vision. The proposed 2018-19 budget reflects the priorities of the adopted District Strategic Plan which guides the decisions at a realistic and affordable pace.

The proposed budget will include all completed negotiation agreements, health insurance costs, and other proposed expenditures consistent with the District Strategic Plan.

New revenue from the Barrington tuition agreement may be used to offset increases in staffing, healthcare, and retirement costs.

The budget will ensure that the expendable trust funds, used in the 2017-18 budget, will be replenished by at least \$100,000.

This goal does not take into account additional state revenue for full-time kindergarten, which will go directly to the towns, and which should lessen the tax impact of the budget.

This budget does not include any petitioned warrants.

The budget goal is to limit the overall impact to an increase of 3.25% or less.

For the next meeting, they requested of Sue Caswell a synopsis of a budget with a 3.25% increase. Michael Williams referred to CPI which last year was 2.5%. Superintendent Morse replied that the health increase is an unknown but last year was 4 times the cost increase of CPI. In order to stay within the same increase as CPI, programming and staff would need to be cut.

Al Howland suggested examining the rate increases of other Districts in NH and see where they are.

**Substitute Pay Increase:** In accordance with Policy GCG, the School Board is asked to approve the substitute teacher rate of pay. For the 2017-18 school year, the District is proposing an increase of \$5.00 to the substitute rate of pay from \$75 to \$80 per day.

**Denise Day moved to approve the substitute pay increase of \$5.00 to \$80.00 dollars per day, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**VIII. ACTIONS:**

**A. Superintendent Action Items:** None

**B. Board Action Items:**

**Motion to appoint ORCSD SRO and Truant Officers for Durham, Lee and Madbury.**

<b>School Resource Officer ORHS/ORMS</b>	<b>Officer Holly Malasky – Durham</b>
<b>Truant Officer Mast Way School</b>	<b>Officer John Brooks – Lee</b>
<b>Truant Officer Moharimet School</b>	<b>Chief Joseph McGann – Madbury</b>

**Al Howland moved to approve the above SRO and Truant Officers for the District, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Motion to approve ORMS Maternity Leave tentatively from December 2, 2017 – March 9, 2018: Denise Day moved to approve the ORMS Maternity Leave tentatively from December 2, 2017 – March 9, 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Overnight field trip: Brian Cisneros moved to approve the ORMS Field Trip Request for Grade 5 to Merrowvista from November 13 - 17, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.**

**ORHS Volunteers:**

**Jim Coxen Golf**  
**Ryan Coxen Golf**

**Denise Day moved to approve the above list of volunteers, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

**IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Tom Newkirk reported that the Policy Committee met today and will be bringing forward some policies to the Board in the next meeting.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Deborah Alberts a resident of the District had a child who was a victim of assault in kindergarten. She believes that we need to set a higher standard in this District. She believes in the “trickle up consequences” standard that the District needs to establish.

**XI. CLOSING ACTIONS**

**A. Future meeting dates:** 9/27 Manifest Review ORHS C-120 5:30 p.m.  
10/4 Regular Meeting **ORMS** Library 7:00 p.m.

**XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA-91-A:2 I(b)**

- **Strategies with Respect to collective bargaining and**

**RSA-91-A:3 II (c)**

- **Student Matter.**

**NON-MEETING SESSION RSA-91-A2 (If Needed)**

**Kenny Rotner moved to enter into non-public session at 8:50 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.**

Respectfully yours,  
Laura Grasso Dobson  
Recording Secretary