

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Regular Meeting

September 18, 2019

High School

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD: Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Michael Williams, Al Howland, Denise Day, Kenny Rotner, Tom Newkirk

Student Representative: Yasmeen Gunandar

ADMINISTRATORS: Sue Caswell, Todd Allen, Jay Richard, Suzanne Filippone

There were 3 members of the public present

I. CALL TO ORDER:

6:30-7:00 Manifest Review

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Denise Day moved to approve the agenda, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve 09/04/19 regular meeting minutes:

Revisions:

Page 3 2nd line replace the word “they” with “The administration”

Page 6 Paragraph five remove the last two sentences.

Page 2 last paragraph Kenny Rotner will provide this.

Page 6: Kenny Rotner will provide this.

Denise Day moved to approve the September 4th minutes, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.

Kenny Rotner mentioned rewording a portion of his comments for the minutes.

Denise Day moved to table the approval of the minutes, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS:

A. District: None

B. Board: Denise Day attended the Middle School open house for 7 and 8 grades, and it was very informative. Denise encouraged parents to always reach out to teachers if you have any questions.

Brian Cisneros mentioned that the school that Superintendent Morse started in Maine was just ranked #2 to the country.

Dan Klein would like to have schedule of fees for third party facilities use added to the next Board agenda for discussion.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Reports

Report on Summer Reach Program:

Todd introduced Suzanne Tomaszewski (MW LMS), Daniel Hammond (ORMS), Rachel Gasowski (Durham Parks and Rec.)

This is a collaboration between Oyster River Cooperation School District and Durham Parks and Recreation Department. Many of the instructors are ORCSD employees.

A free lunch was offered to all campers after camp each day.

This is an entirely self-funded program.

There were 430 kids and 60 camps over a five week period.

Suzanne Tomaszewski detailed some of the classes that were offered: Cake decorating, fly fishing, clay camp, robotry.

Dan Hammond was the ORMS Onsite coordinator for the REACH program this year. The Middle school was a very busy place this summer and it was a great place for the kids to go

Rachel Gasowski – Durham Parks and Rec. There were 95 registrations last summer and this summer they had 177. It's been a great success and she is looking forward to next summer.

Todd noted that they are already thinking about next year. If the middle school passes, they will need to find a different location for the program next year.

Kenny Rotner thinks that the program is great and noted that Rachel is employed by the Town of Durham and yet all the kids were invited from the different towns at no additional cost.

B. Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Morse, Todd Allen, Jay Richard and Brian Cisneros set up a booth at the Lee Fair Day. They spoke to approximately 60 people about the proposed middle school. There were a lot of community members that stopped and asked questions. Last night the 7 and 8 graders open house went well. He added that they will also be doing presentations for the middle school students in the near future as well.

C. Business Administrator:

Sue Caswell presented preliminary information on the FY2021 budget. She reported that there are some increases we do know of and we can give you some figures based on assumptions. The Paraeducator contract increase was estimated at \$75,239, the Bus Driver agreement impact was estimated at \$41,223 and the Custodian/Support Personnel was estimated at \$45,532. Since these estimates were made with staffing in place as much as two years ago, the actual increases could be lower. The impact of the Guild contract is proposed at \$698,474.

Sue also reported that they should have the guaranteed maximum rate for health insurance before we meet on October 31. The capital budget is \$1,974,178. The current Capital Plan includes an additional \$525,000 to complete projects and pay an estimated amount for the first year of interest on a bond at the 4.25% rate. Using these estimating assumptions, Sue outlined what the increases might look like for FY2021. This increase would raise the general fund budget by 4.25%. Last year, her estimated increases came in at 4.13% and they were able to bring it down to 3.61%.

Guild Contract	\$698,474
ORPass Contract	\$ 75,239
ORBDA Contract	\$ 41,223
ORESPA Contract	\$ 45,532
Heath at 10%	\$570,000
Capital Account	<u>\$525,000</u>
Total:	\$1,955,468

Sue also noted that this estimate does not include increases for other bargaining and non-bargaining unit employees which includes program directors, central offices, maintenance and technology staff. Typically, we follow negotiated contracts to guide decisions for non-bargaining employees.

D. Student Senate Report:

Student Representative Yasmeen Gunandar reported that she took part in a freshman project to talk to different people with different opinions. She also reported that Spirit week is next week culminating with an assembly at the end of the week.

E. Other: None

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Hiring of School Nurse: Catherine Plourde talked about the urgent need for an additional nurse in the District. It is not an exaggeration to say that there is a nursing shortage; it is documented in the news regularly. Due to the severe medical needs in the District, our building-based nurses are not enough to meet the needs of medically fragile children when any nurse is absent due to illness.

We currently have two medical fragile children attending PEP. There is a need for more support from the high school nurse than time allows without a loss of services to high school students.

We have medically fragile children at all four schools. We have been unable to hire a substitute nurse as we have in the past due to historically low unemployment.

Catherine gave an example that on Friday, the middle school nurse took ill, the high school nurse covered the medically fragile children in PEP, medically fragile children at the middle school, and attempted to cover her high school assignments. All meetings with high school parents were cancelled.

Catherine is recommending that they use a combination of funds to cover the cost of this position. She has unfilled positions that she could redirect funds from and is working with Susan Caswell to identify other accounts from which to draw funds.

She recognizes that this request is unusual given the time of year, but her primary goal as the nurse supervisor is to assure that the medically fragile children in the district receive the services required when they need them.

Denise Day asked if there were nurses that could be contracted? She also asked if it would be possible to hire a half time position. Catherine researched that and really needs a full time position because there are kids who have needs throughout the day.

The Board had an in depth discussion on this floater nurse position. Kenny Rotner would like to see in the job description that this position would be helping in all the school. Superintendent Morse noted that they have a lot of students who have medical needs across all the schools and this floater position would be utilized where needed. Suzanne Filippone reported that in the past five days, there have been two medical emergencies at the high school. Kenny Rotner voiced his support for hiring an additional nurse given the current situation, but felt that moving forward, we should assess our current nursing model and act proactively to best staff this need.

Michael Williams moved to direct the Superintendent to create a distinct job description for the floater nurse and then fill the position, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-1 with Dan Klein opposing.

Proposed Middle School Bonding Options:

Sue Caswell presented the bonding option information for the proposed middle school to the Board.

Option 2 Level Debt

4.25%	25 years	\$32,449,316 Interest	\$3.286 M	2024-25 payment
3.50%	25 years	\$26,752,561 Interest	\$3.109 M	2024-25 payment
2.70%	25 years	\$20,192,460 Interest	\$2.865 M	2024-25 payment

Option 3 Level Principal

4.25%	25 years	\$28,734,536 Interest	\$4.1 M	2024-25 Payment
3.50%	25 years	\$24,155,911 Interest	\$3.77 M	2024-25 Payment
2.70%	25 years	\$18,634,560 Interest	\$3.4 M	2024-25 Payment

Michael Williams presented detailed total bond repayments for both option 2 and option 3. It is important to consider that future dollars will not be worth as much down the road as they are today due to inflation. With the federal

government lowering the interest by another .5 percent, Michael is leaning toward option 2 because it gives more budget flexibility.

Denise Day recognizes that option 2 is more of a gamble because we will be paying the same for 20 years and we don't know what additional costs we will have in years to come.

Superintendent Morse noted that once the Board decides on an option, then he can start conveying it to the public in his presentations and answer their questions directly.

Michael Williams moved to adopt level payments, option 2 bonding option for the middle school, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

FY21 Budget Goal:

Proposed 2020-21 Budget Goal:
Draft proposed for FY21: 3.5%

Budgeting is directly related to our academic vision. The proposed 2020-21 budget reflects and 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.

The budget goal does not include any petitioned warrants.

Denise Day would like to start at 3.5% and look from there at cuts that may need to be happen. Michael Williams asked if the yellow sheets are in that 3.5%. Michael Williams would like to see a 3% option. Superintendent Morse said no because the yellow sheets for new positions. The Board should see what new positions are being requested and need to be filled. That is part of the budget discussion.

Al Howland moved that the last line increase in fund 10 for 20/21 over the fiscal 19/20 fund 10 will be 3.5% or less, and strike the Barrington tuition sentence clause, 2nd by Denise Day.

Al Howland moved to table the motion until the next meeting, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Superintendent Morse will recraft this proposal with the feedback that the Board has given.

School Board Resolutions:

Tom Newkirk presented a draft of the new resolution. He would like to get this moving in order to bring other districts and towns in.

The NHSBA supports legislation to restrict position of firearms on school property, limit possession to certified police officers only.

NH is one of only three states that does not prohibit gun owners from bringing firearms onto school property. Under NH state law, anyone who legally owns a gun can carry that weapon onto school grounds and into schools. Local boards or town councils cannot act to restrict them. The proliferation of firearms within schools presents a danger to students and school personnel. Current initiative which “harden” entrances to schools, to which the state has contributed millions of dollars, are futile if there are no legal restrictions for bringing firearms onto school property in the first place.

The Board had an in-depth conversation surrounding bringing weapons onto school property. Kenny Rotner recommended adding some element of emotion to the proposed warrant going to NHSBA. He felt that this would make our stance more compelling and would increase the possibility of acceptance.

Tom Newkirk moved to approve the above School Board Resolution, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Kenny Rotner abstaining.

VIII. ACTIONS:

A. Superintendent Actions: None

B. Board Action Items:

Motion to approve ORMS Stipend Activity Advisor:

Jonathan Derick Yearbook Advisor \$2,037

Jason Duff Grades 7 Boys Soccer \$2,037

John Silverio Grade 7 Girls Soccer \$2,037

Denise Day moved to approve the above ORMS Stipend Activity Advisor and coach, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Motion to approve List of Policies for a first reading:

ADB – Drug Free Workplace/Drug Free Schools

BDD – Board Superintendent Relationship

Denise Day moved to approve Policy ADB – Drug Free Workplace/Drug Free Schools for a first reading, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Denise Day moved to approve Policy BDD for a first reading, 2nd Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

A. Manifest Review and Approved by Manifest Subcommittee:

Payroll Manifest #5: \$875,641.31

Vendor Manifest #6: \$235,489.08

Denise Day reported that the Long Range Planning Committee met last Monday and reviewed the opening day enrollments compared to the prediction. They were off by 5 total students in the District. They are looking to tweak the formulas that were used. There are openings on the committee for a Durham and Lee representative. This will be Lisa Allison's last year for chairing this committee. If anyone is interested, please let the Superintendent know. Their next meeting is October 23rd.

Orchard Drive: The Durham Town Council has accepted the funds and they need to go through a public hearing process which is scheduled. After that, it will come to the School Board.

The Sustainability Committee is going to be using staff at the building level for help. They are also trying to determine their goals for the year including a review of policies and procedures and the role of the coordinator. They will be

trying to do community outreach. Al would like to see the district goals align with the town goals. Their next meeting is November 6.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dean Rubine of Lee talked about the Board's budget with them.

Bevie Ketel thanked the Board for everything that they do. Her son needs to have a nurse on school grounds for him to attend school. She was surprised that the Board does not know what is going on at the ground level.

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:

A. Future Meeting Dates: 10/02/19 Regular Meeting – High School Library
10/16/19 Regular Meeting – Moharimet Cafeteria

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II (if needed)
NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A:2 I (if needed)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Michael Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m., 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,
Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary