

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Workshop Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2020

DRAFT

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

Student Representative:

ADMINISTRATORS VIA REMOTE ACCESS:

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Morse, Todd Allen, Susan Caswell, Suzanne Filippone, Jay Richard, Bill Sullivan, Andrea Biniszkiewicz, Misty Lowe, David Goldsmith, Lisa Huppe, Catherine Plourde

I. CALL TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Tom Newkirk

Jim Morse opened the meeting by informing the listening audience with a summary of what an actual workshop entails, and that there would be no motions taken or decisions made at this meeting. There would be presentations by the administrators from the elementary, middle, and high school to provide the Board with information, to answer any clarifying questions pertaining to the next phase for re-opening schools and help to provide direction.

Tom Newkirk reiterated that this meeting is informational to allow the principals to provide ideas for the next phase of re-opening schools which will be an agenda item at the October 21st meeting. Tom went on to state that he will begin the presentations with the middle school, followed by the high school and then the elementary schools.

Jim Morse introduced Jay Richard, Middle School Principal, who then introduced Bill Sullivan, Asst. Principal and Andrea Biniszkiewicz, Asst. Special Education Director to begin their presentation surrounding the middle schools.

Jay began by thanking his administrative staff as this has been a true team effort where they meet every day to problem solve. He then went through his power point which contained the following information.

ORMS Current Model

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

- Remote instruction
- Small target groups in the building (10-20 students per day)

Wednesday

- 5th grade in the building AM/PM model (60-70 students per session ~ 120-140 per day)
- Grades 6-8 targeted learners (tier 2 and 3) in the building (20-40 per session ~ 60 per day)
- Asynchronous learning, office hours, individual work for grades 6-8

Up to this Point at ORMS

- In-School Orientations 9/2-9/18
 - 130 students per grade (5-8)
- Targeted learners (IEP and Section 504) started 9/14
 - 65 students per week
- Targeted learners (tier 2 & 3) started 9/30 – students identified by ORMS staff needing in-person support for reading, writing, SEL/counseling support, math, remote learning challenges
 - 60 students per week
- Small groups have started taking guided tours of the new ORMS building and construction site

Possible Next Steps

Priorities:

Increase 5th grade coming into the building more days per week (currently on Wednesdays)

- Continue to bring in selected (IEP and Section 504) in-person targeted learners
- Increase grade level opportunities to get more consistent in-person contact
- Increase targeted groups coming into the building

Challenges/Limitations

- -Staff numbers able to teach in the building
- -Insufficient sized classrooms
- -Not enough room in café or classrooms to offer lunch to a whole grade of students
- -Not enough time or personnel to clean between lunches and class time
- -Not enough outdoor space to take kids out for fresh air or mask breaks
- We are looking for opportunities to increase the number of students within the limitations of building and district safety plan.

Consideration for 3rd Quarter

- Bring each grade, by team, into the building twice a week for ½ a day (25% building capacity)
- -AM/PM model (alphabetical by last name)
- -two grades come into school at the same time 5th & 6th / 7th & 8th

Possible schedule:

- Monday and Thursday
- Grades 5 and 6 Last names A-K 9:00-11:15 AM L-Z 12:15-2:30 PM
- Tuesday and Friday
- Grade 7 and 8 Last names A-K 9:00-11:15 AM L-Z 12:15-2:30 PM
- Wednesdays – Office hours, independent work, asynchronous learning, PD

Jay presented an additional slide with updated COVID information.

The Board asked clarifying questions of the middle school team and thanked Jay, Bill and Andrea for their input. Middle School concluded their presentation at 7:52.

Tom Newkirk asked Suzanne Filippone, High School Principal to begin her presentation which contained the following information.

Students in the Building:

8/26 – 9/1 – 9th Grade Orientation (approx. 40 students per day for 2 hrs.)

8/28 – 9/3 – School Pictures (students came between 9am – 1pm)

9/9, 9/10, 9/28, 9/29 & 9/30 – Drive up supply pick up (3-6 students helping)

9/14 – Current - Targeted Learners (approx. 50 students per day everyday)

9/23 – 12th Grade SAT's (165 students & 25 adults)

9/30 – 9th Grade (approx. 100 students in the morning and 100 in the afternoon) *The goal of the day is for students to engage in experiences which promote team building, self-awareness, and awareness of others.*

10/5 – Building Open to Faculty 7am-4pm

10/7 – 9th Grade Rain Date for 9/30

10/14 – 11th Grade PSAT's (approximately 174 students & 30 adults), Computer Swap and Picture Retakes

- Targeted Learners
- Every day of the week we have approximately 50 students and 30 staff in the building
Slowly increasing

Current Hybrid Model/Phase 2 – Remote learning with targeted populations in person

- Bringing in targeted groups: academic needs, testing (SAT's), 9th grade, athletic teams, clubs, etc.
- Bringing in more students as we bring in more staff
- SEL/Mental Health Supports in Person for Targeted Learners
- Cohorts, cleaning, and social distancing
- Focus on creation of robust and engaging remote curriculum and instruction (single mode)
- Faculty transitioning curriculum, instruction and assessment to Remote
- Staff work hours are a concern

At this point Suzanne provided the Board with an example of a student's schedule.

What happens on Wednesday:

8:15 – 12:15

Relearning, Reassessment, Advisory, Clubs
Meetings for IEP & 504 when necessary, Related Services

1:30 – 3:15

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment
Technology Support
Student Meetings
Meetings for IEP & 504
Professional Development
Department Meetings
Committee Meetings
Faculty Collaboration

Suzanne presented an additional slide with updated COVID information.

All Models Presented Adhere to:

Teachers MOA

- Classrooms are set up for 6 feet of social distancing.
- Hallway traffic is single file, 6 feet apart, and travels on the right side.
- Bathrooms are closed during passing time.
- Students do not visit the nurse's office and counseling during passing time unless it is an emergency.
- Stairwells are marked as single direction.
- All students and staff must wear a mask prior to entering ORHS and while inside the school building. Students who refuse to wear a mask or take the mask off without permission are sent home for the day. If a student repeats that behavior, they will not be allowed to participate in the in-person classes.
- ORCSD has developed procedures and protocols if anyone has COVID-19 symptoms while at school. Please go to the ORCSD Website for more information.
- All students and adults will complete the pre-screening questionnaire prior to arriving ORHS.

Suzanne presented the following models:

All faculty and staff work from the building. 25% AM/PM Model for ORHS.

This model is extremely challenging for curriculum design and instruction for teachers. Times may vary due to transportation. Targeted Learners every day. She also provided a sample student schedule showing this 25% AM/PM model for the high school.

All faculty and staff work from the building on Monday and Tuesday. 25% Monday and Tuesday.

The Goal would be 25% back in – this would need to be alphabetical due to classroom size and 6ft. distancing. Goal – Bring more students into the building. Times may vary due to transportation. Targeted Learners every day.

All faculty and staff work from the building. 50% AM / PM Model for ORHS Students Twice a Week.

Goal – Bring more students into the building. Gradual Increase. Times may vary due to transportation. Targeted Learners every day. She again provided a sample student schedule for this model.

Challenges:

- Loss of instructional time with bringing kids in person
- Curriculum impacts
- Impact on remote students
- Classes for those faculty not able to come to the building
- Transitioning back to school & Logistics of moving through building

- Planning classes, classrooms, transportation, parking, etc.
- Contact tracing
- Cohorts will be larger
- Substitutes and coverage
- Monitoring adherence to social distancing, mask wearing, etc.
- Shorter periods for synchronous remote learning

Benefits:

- Mask wearing and socially distancing for half a day
- Ability to switch to a fully remote model quickly and effectively
- Less screen time for kids
- Connect with students SEL and Academic
- Transitioning back to the school building
- Enough classrooms and building space to adhere to 6ft distancing
- Transportation & Student Parking
- Data from PowerSchool shows some risk to high risk students based on attendance and grades is spread-out throughout the grades
- Alphabet Split - Benefits to have younger and older students together – role modeling and helping 9th graders adjust to high school
- In Person Technology Help
- Community Feel and School Culture

The Board asked clarifying questions to Suzanne and thanked Suzanne for her input. High School concluded their presentation at 8:39.

Tom Newkirk called for a 5-minute break at 8:40 PM and the meeting resumed at 8:45 PM with the elementary school presentation.

Tom Newkirk invited David Goldsmith, Moharimet Principal and Mist Lowe, Mast Way Principal up to the podium to present their power point. David and Misty began with their current model

Update on Current Model:

MOH population: 288

MW population: 326

- Hybrid 2/3rds

184 students at MOH

214 students at MW

- Remote 1/3rd

103 students at MOH

112 students at MW

- 254 students ride bus / 144 students driven
- Average 16 breakfasts & 34 lunches (70% take home)
- 6ft Distancing / Masks

So Far so Good:

- We are still open for business.
- Students seem happy to be in the building / working on Teams
- Mask wearing at school not an issue
- Arrival / Dismissal procedures are smooth
- Breakfast / Lunch in person and take home going well
- Orientation period worked well
- Established relationships
- Practiced routines
- Began assessments

Misty and David presented a slide with updated COVID information for each of their schools.

Staff Update:

Positives:

- Constant collaboration across grades and schools
- Curriculum remapping
- New teaching models
- Constant learning and implementation of new tech opportunities
- Responsive to student and family need

Concerns:

- Job changes increase stress and impact staff mental health
- Workload increases impacting staff
- "5 Schools"
- Hybrid In-person
- Hybrid At-home
- Fully Remote
- Wednesday Work
- Service Providers for Remote and Hybrid

What Happens on Wednesdays:

Curriculum: Remote/hybrid collaboration, Pacing, Reflection and adjustments

Meetings: Team meetings: Review student data to determine MTSS needs. SPED meetings, Grade level meetings district wide – sharing, collaborating, problem solving.

Professional Development: Team, small group, 1:1 with Tech integrators to learn about platforms, Research & learning about remote teaching strategies, Equity and inclusion, SEL.

Paraeducators: Teams meetings with students: Executive function, SEL check ins, Hybrid Teams practices.

David and Misty presented a Remote Instruction Example Schedule to the Board. They also reviewed the Hybrid Teaching and space requirements. How hybrid teaching is different. What the class size impacts are. The current class sizes and available space per grade level. They provided some questions that will need to be answered for the changing of placement.

Recommendations for Next Steps:

- Survey families for interest in Hybrid/Remote switch
- Determine availability at each grade level
- Hybrid
- Remote
- Does availability match interest?
- Criteria for choosing

Wednesday AM/PM Sessions:

Structure: Regular AM/PM Hybrid Sessions, Wednesday work continues for all students, Teachers continue with meetings/PD/Planning.

Student Experience: Regular school day, General education paraeducators staff classrooms, SPED paraeducators support their students, Nutrition services continue as usual, No “live” Encore/UA, Students complete “Wednesday Work”, Outside time/SEL activities by class.

Impacts: Principal/Nurse needed for students – not available for most Wed. meetings. Duty schedule for arrival/dismissal needs additional staffing while paraeducators are in classrooms. Teaching staff must be remote to clear space for students, Current paraeducator remote student supports would end, Workroom and Library work would end.

Needs: Hiring additional paraeducators/substitutes: 6 at Moharimet/8 at Mast Way. Contract out coverage for entire day: Community organizations?

Extending Time on Hybrid Days: We do not know how to make this happen with Covid health restrictions:

- 6 ft distancing requires 12 or fewer students in a classroom
- Extending the AM later or the PM earlier would create overlap
- Becomes “All-In” which violates 6ft distancing
- Overlap impacts service schedule: remote and in-person
- Extending the Day
- Transportation limitations
- Change to A/B Day adds 2 hours to weekly hour total but requires lunch & recess, changes home routines, and creates 2 or 3 days of asynchronous, remote school

The Board asked clarifying questions to Misty and David and thanked them for her input. Elementary School concluded their presentation at 9:33.

Tom Newkirk stated that there is still one item that the Board needs to review before we conclude for the evening. A sample survey was given to each Board member for their review and possible revision. There was discussion surrounding the length of the survey and concern that it served two purposes. Clarification was given that we need feedback on how the models are working, that only sending one survey for information instead of numerous surveys will keep it simpler. There was also discussion that language should be added that clarifies that the survey in no way is a guarantee of placement.

There was no additional discussion.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Tom Newkirk thanked everyone and appreciated all the presentations. The meeting ended at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy L. DiFruscio
Executive Assistant to
Superintendent of Schools