

**Oyster River Cooperative School District  
Regular Meeting**

**October 16, 2019**

**High School**

**DRAFT**

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

**Not Present: Student Representative:** Yasmeen Gunandar

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Sue Caswell, Todd Allen,

There were 2 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve 10/02/19 meeting minutes:  
Page 1 Section II Replace “Bauen” with “Kloetz”**

**Denise Day moved to approve the 10/02 minutes with the above revision, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS:**

**A. District:** None

**B. Board:**

Michael Williams talked about the process of our policies. There are several policies that only need three board members to approve and he believes it should be four. Kenny Rotner asked that this be put on a future board agenda meeting.

Tom Newkirk reported on a meeting with Dr. Morse and Barrett Christina, Executive Director of the NH School Board Association. He urged support of the Board’s gun resolution.

Kenny Rotner reported that the Durham Town Council will be looking at the issue of vaping. Currently the age is 18 to purchase vaping materials but the age could possibly be raised to 21 to purchase vaping materials. They will be meeting on Monday and would like a statement of support from the Board. He suggested that it be discussed at the next meeting.

**VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:**

**A. Assistant Superintendent Reports:** None

**B. Superintendent's Report:**

**Mast Way Principal Search:** Superintendent Morse reported that for the Mast Way Principal Search, he is using a more comprehensive search process, similar to what was used at Moharimet, to create a process that is more inclusive.

They will advertise on January 21, 2020 with a closing date of February 21, 2020. They will interview candidates with a goal of a finalist nominated to the School Board on May 6, 2020. The interview's committee's goal is to advise the Superintendent.

The interview committee will consist of:

- 2 Board members
- 1 Selectperson from Lee
- 3 Parents
- 3 Administrators
- 4 Teachers
- 2 Support Staff

Brian Cisneros and Kenny Rotner were nominated to serve as School Board members on the interview committee.

**Denise Day moved to approve Kenny Rotner and Brian Cisneros to serve as School Board members on the interview committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Kenny Rotner abstaining.**

**Survey Development – Competency based grading review.** Please send any questions to Superintendent Morse.

**Calendar Adjustment for NH Primary Date:** Superintendent Morse reported that this is currently scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>. This will be a very well

attended primary election. This would be a Professional Development Day as opposed to a student day. He will keep the Board updated.

**C. Business Administrator:** Sue Caswell updated the Board on the Barrington Tuition update:

The tuition agreement we have with Barrington requires that we notify them in October of the tuition rate for the next year. The current rate is \$16,792. The new rate is determined by the percentage change of the actual difference in appropriation operating cost of the Oyster River High School in the prior fiscal year. We have calculated the percentage change to be 5.5%. Therefore, the tuition rate for Barrington students for the 2020-21 school year will be \$17,641.

**Denise Day moved to approve Barrington Tuition rate, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

**D. Student Senate Report:** None

**E. Other:**

Jim Rozycki talked about the Middle School. There was a backup of grease inside the dishwasher in the kitchen. There was a separate sewage issue in the bathroom from students flushing feminine products.

**Building Use Process:**

Jim Rozycki explained that when someone has a question they are always directed to the website. It is entered school/community, municipality/towns, non-profit and outside groups for profit. They obtain all the appropriate information and that is how they get set up into the system. Once they are set up, they can make their requests. Michael Williams asked about the process once they have an account. Jim replied that it is dependent upon what they need. Dan Klein asked Jim about the fees. He replied that the systems will provide an estimate that the groups can see as they are putting in their requests. He would like to see any documentation we have that are exceptions to the fee schedule. Superintendent Morse added that those exceptions get signed off by him and they are on the form.

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEM:**

**Strategic Plan Progress Report:** Todd Allen reported that Mast Way and Moharimet are in the first year of implementation of our new SEL program called “Open Circle”. At this point all classroom teachers have been trained and all specialists and paraprofessionals are scheduled to be trained on the November 8<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Day. Open Circle is an evidence based social emotional learning program designed to help students develop skills for recognizing and managing emotions, empathy, positive relationships and problem solving.

Kenny Rotner asked if the open circle is integrated into the entire day or is it broken out? Todd Allen replied that there is circle time and a lesson component, but it is integrated and used throughout in consistent terminology. Last year, they started using Odessa and the intent is to provide consistency to the instruction and how they deal with issues. Denise Day asked how the counselors fit into this. He replied that they go through the same training the teachers do and they are in the classrooms a lot and they are fully engaged as well as the psychologist.

**MTSS**

Having a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) for all student’s academic needs is a key goal of the ORCSD. At Mast Way and Moharimet, the focus in development this system is to math and ELA instruction. Master schedules at all levels have been revised in order to better support students. Elementary schedules now include weekly grade level team meetings to encourage curricular continuity.

At the middle school the focus is on utilizing “bobcat time” to better provide multi-tiered support to students. The high school focus is on better utilizing data to make decisions about instruction at the classroom level and in “flex block”. At the district level, the focus is on better utilization of the technology tools we have available to analyze data and track the effectiveness of a variety of student interventions.

**Diversity**

Across the district, the staff has engaged in multiple dialogues around the issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. On the first Profession Development day of the year, all teaching staff were engaged in dialogues to focus their

efforts at the start of the school year. Efforts across the district are underway to review and develop curriculum to promote a greater understanding and awareness of diverse cultures. The district administrative team has been a review of disciplinary protocols with the intention of incorporating more restorative practices to the process in hopes of better meeting the needs of our students.

Recruiting and hiring practices are being reviewed with the intent over time of strengthening the diversity of our staff. A variety of job search platforms have been utilized to expand the circle of recruitment in the district.

Tom Newkirk suggested looking at individuals that are bilingual in both Spanish and English. This could be great in terms of flexibility. Michael Williams appreciates how this process is moving forward, but in the future, he would like to look at the specific action items.

## **VIII. ACTIONS**

**A. Superintendent Action Items:** None

**B. Board Action Items:**

**Policies:**

**Policies for a first reading:**

**Policy JLIE - Student Automobile Use**

**Denise Day moved to approve Policy JLIE for a first reading, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros.**

Kenny Rotner suggested holding off on this policy until JIHB Search of student automobiles are passed.

**Denise Day moved to withdraw her motion.**

**Policy JIHB: Searches of Student Automobiles on School Property**

**Denise Day moved to approve for a first reading, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros.**

Superintendent Morse noted that the issue is school administration or police. The School Administration level of search is reasonable suspicion and the police level of search is probable cause. It provides an administrator a way of interacting without law enforcement if it is not a legal issue. Superintendent Morse added that the students need to treat their car as they do their locker and backpack. In response to a question, Tom Newkirk added that the administrators are bound to turn over to law enforcement any illegal findings. Kenny Rotner is worried that this might immerse them into the legal system rather than involving them with

mental health and reaching out. He feels that it is contradictory to helping students in need. Denise would like clarification on this. Brian Cisneros has confidence in the Principal in handling this situation. Dan Klein mentioned that when we formulate a policy, it needs to stand on its own regardless of who the principal of the high school is. He would like the principal to relay the concern to the SRO or the police. Superintendent Morse added that this is a common policy at the high school level across the country. This is about the principal being able to do a search at a much lower threshold level than the police can. If everything has to be by probable cause, then the administration will have a much harder time. When police are brought into it, it has been more than a rumor and it is more traumatizing. Kenny Rotner wants a higher threshold to help kids so not to put them in the legal system. He wants to help the students. How does this policy work if the parking spaces are not on school property? Superintendent Morse replied that these parking spots still come under school property.

**Motion failed 2-5 with Denise Day and Brian Cisneros voting in the affirmative. This policy does not pass.** Denise Day would like the Board to have a redo on this vote.

**Denise Day moved to accept JIHB for a first reading striking “the principal/designee shall have the discretion to engage the police in the search”. There is no second and the motion fails.**

Tom Newkirk feels that the sense of the Board was whether the principal should have the authority to conduct a search. He feels that this should go back to the Policy Committee. Michael Williams feels that the principal should be able to conduct a search on reasonable suspicion. He is also unclear who authorized personnel is describing on this policy. Both Kenny Rotner and Michael Williams are worried about the legal ramifications of this policy.

**Kenny Rotner moved to suspend Policy JIHB until we have an adequate replacement, there was no second to the motion and the motion does not pass.**

**Policy KF** Denise Day moved to approve Policy KF, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros.

Michael Williams does not think that the policy reflects the discussion we had two weeks ago. Dan Klein thinks we need to know what the actual cost is of

the facilities. Superintendent Morse replied that our costs are constant whether someone is using the facilities or not. Dan Klein and Superintendent Morse had a lengthy discussion on cost of the facilities. Dan Klein feels that we are guaranteeing inequity if we are applying flat fees. Kenny Rotner would like to see where the basis of the numbers are coming from. The groups that we are giving a flat fee are now incentivized to use the fields as much as possible with that flat fee. He also added that we can and need to be creative. Criteria and pricing need to be very transparent. Al Howland feels that there needs to be a mechanism that protects all the users. Tom Newkirk commented that this is mostly being used by people who are taxpayers and he is concerned about their rising costs. Superintendent Morse feels that this conversation will continue until they get to a place where the board feels comfortable.

**Denise Day withdrew her motion.**

#### **IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

##### **A. Manifests Reviewed and Approved by Manifest Committee:**

Payroll Manifest #7: \$991,921.81

Vendor Manifest #8: \$503,476.39

Al Howland reported that the Wellness Committee met, and they are meeting again in two weeks. They will be coming to the Board for a presentation.

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Bevie Ketel from Madbury, reported that she paid a \$625 fee for facilities and feels that the parents are being overcharged.

Dean Rubine from Lee asked about the facilities use and does not understand why an hourly discounted rate would not apply.

#### **XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:**

- A. Future Meeting Dates: 10/30 Manifest Meeting – SAU Conference Room  
11/06 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 9:25 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein.  
Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,  
Laura Grasso Dobson  
Recording Secretary