

Oyster River Cooperative School Board
Regular Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2022

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT: Michael Williams, Denise Day, Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Yusi Turell, Heather Smith, Matt Bacon

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Paige Burt

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Morse, Suzanne Filippone, Catherine Plourde, Sue Caswell, Misty Lowe, David Goldsmith, Jay Richard, Rebecca Noe

STAFF PRESENT: Sean Peschel, Heidi Sant, Michelle Pennelli

GUEST PRESENT: Sabrina Golden (student)

ABSENT:

CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Michael Williams at Mast Way Elementary School

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the agenda as written, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None provided

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Denise Day moved to approve the October 6th, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.

Denise Day submitted the following revisions:

On page 3 the heading should read “Monkey Pox” not “Money Pox.”

On page 4 under the Student Representative Report, the event on 10/21 at 7:00 pm should read “Homecoming” not “Open House.”

Heather Smith submitted the following revisions:

On page 2 under Jay Richard’s report, it should read “Parent/Teacher Conferences are on Nov. 8th” not “Open House.”

On page 6 under the School Board Committee Report, it should say “Sustainability Committee” not “Sustainability Club.”

Yusi Turell submitted the following revision:

On page 5, the budget motion should read, “Brian Cisneros made a motion to adopt 3.00%, 3.65%, and 4.32% as the three FY24 budget increases for discussion,” not “a range of 3.00%-4.32%.”

Motion passed with correction 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Denise Day moved to approve the October 6th, 2022, Non-Public Meeting Minutes as written, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District

Rebecca Noe of ORHS reminded the listening audience that Open House is on Oct. 20th at 6:30 pm and you will start in your student’s Advisory. On Oct. 27th the ASVAB test, which provides students with career exploration choices, will be available to students in grades 10-12. Sign-ups for this free test are in the counseling office until Oct. 24th, and scores will not be released to armed services. The Barrington Information Night will be held on

Nov. 9th from 6:30-7:00 pm. It will include administrators answering questions, building tours and student speakers. There is no school on Nov. 8th for a Teacher Workshop Day and Nov. 11th for Veteran's Day.

B. Board

Brian Cisneros announced that the first sporting event to be held on the brand-new middle school turf field will be Girl's Field Hockey this Friday at 4:30 pm.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction Report(s)

Suzanne Filippone introduced ELO Coordinator Sean Peschel and ORHS student Sabrina Golden.

Student Presentation: Girls State and Political Activism – Sabrina Golden

Sean Peschel announced that to go along with the theme, "Discover the Possibilities," Oyster River students will be spotlighted throughout the year. Tonight, he presented Sabrina Golden to share her summer experience at Girl's State and as a New Hampshire Senator at Girl's Nation. During her week at Girl's State, she participated in a mock government for both a city and a town and enjoyed campaigning and serving as the elected president. Sabrina was then selected for Girl's Nation in Washington D.C., and there she participated in senate sessions, bill writing, and debates. For the first time in Girl's Nation history her bill was passed unanimously. Maggie Hassan showed interest and is working to get the bill passed in Congress. Sabrina's experience even turned into a new job being hired as a social media coordinator for Girl's State! Sabrina said it was an unbelievable summer, and while she always knew she wanted to be a lawyer, she's now considering running for state senate or representative one day.

Denise Day thanked Sabrina for opening the meeting in such a positive way and for sharing her experience.

Strategic Plan

Competency Based Education by Level:

Misty Lowe and David Goldsmith spoke about competency-based learning at the elementary schools. Since MTSS was the priority during the pandemic they are eager to shift to a competency focus. This past summer the science department worked on the curriculum cycle, including vertical alignment review, and this summer social studies will work on scope and sequence and identifying any K-12 gaps.

Jay Richard stated that the middle school has been working on a competency-based approach for several years. Data meetings are occurring during bobcat time and specialists/administrators are discussing the movement of students based on achievement. A current focus is refining how they assess students, such as what "meets" means in science versus language arts and making it clearer for parents. For example, "beginning" could indicate a student is on track for a newly taught competency or it could be an indication of an achievement gap. Jay will continue meeting with Suzanne to improve communication on student learning.

Rebecca Noe shared that competencies are looked at annually and this year's focus is on a "Vision of a Graduate." Conversations are constant and faculty engage in common planning bi-weekly. Another focus is researching schools that have dual grading systems since the high school will continue to report student learning by numerical and letter grades, as well as by competencies.

B. Superintendent's Report –

Dr. Morse announced that the Middle School Building meetings are now once a month since they have reached the closing stages of the project with the completion of the turf field. He is very proud of the work and the amazing facility.

C. Business Administrator –

FY'22 Fund Balance

Sue Caswell proposed to the board the option to retain or not retain unassigned funds.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to withhold \$200,000 of the unassigned Fund Balance of the 2022 Fiscal Year, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

D. Student Representative Report

Paige Burt reported that on Friday, Oct. 21st the Club Fair will be held during Advisory and that evening the Homecoming Dance will take place from 7:00-10:30 pm. Next week class meetings will be held on Oct. 25th for grades 11 & 12 and Oct. 27th for grades 9 & 10. College reps continue to visit the school offering information to interested students.

E. Finance Committee Report

Brian Cisneros stated the Finance Committee will meet Friday to work on budgeting. An update will be provided at the next board meeting.

F. Other – None provided

VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA – None Provided

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

Discussion pertaining to High School Graduation Date

Rebecca Noe let the board know that her son's high school graduation has been set for June 9th at 6 pm, which is typically when ORHS would hold graduation. She offered for another faculty member to lead the ceremony, or to hold the ORHS graduation on a different date, such as Sat. June 10th at 6 pm. A rain date would still need to be determined. She let the board know that parents ask for tentative dates early in the year. Student rep. Paige Burt said she will talk to the senior class. She felt they would appreciate Mrs. Noe wanting to give them their graduation and they would understand that she's a mom who wants to see her son graduate.

No decision was made tonight; setting the high school graduation date will be a future agenda item.

Discussion of Elementary World Language

Foreign language teachers Michelle Pennelli of ORMS and Heidi Sant of ORHS gave a K-4 World Language presentation on behalf of the World Language Committee. Other committee members include the superintendent and assistant superintendent, elementary school principals, faculty, a parent, and a school board member. It is part of the district's strategic plan to consider and discuss implementation of a K-4 World Language program. Michelle and Heidi provided reasoning to support language in the lower grades, including brain & language acquisition during early childhood, building a growth mindset and confidence, increasing cultural tolerance, and making an informed language choice upon entering grade 5. They explained the following three models of instruction and their main differences, which largely have to do with frequency and proficiency:

- The FLEX model focuses on exposure with once-a-week participation and no proficiency goal.
- The FLES model meets 2-3 times a week to build language proficiency.
- The Immersion model expects students to use the language at least 50% or more of the time with a very strong proficiency goal.

In our middle and high school programs the goal is for students to reach novice-high by the end of 8th grade and reach intermediate upon completion of the high school program.

The committee felt that Immersion was not possible and the FLES model would require adding time to the master schedule. However, they felt implementing the FLEX model during the Encore rotation would be practical and beneficial. Language would take the place of Library Skills at Mast Way and MOH Time at Moharimet. These skills would become integrated into the classroom to make room for the 45-minute language period. The plan includes hiring one teacher the first year to develop curriculum and split instruction between the two schools and hiring an additional teacher the second year to have one teacher at each building. It will be a multiple year process with a goal of hiring a bilingual teacher that would ideally teach Spanish and French.

Michelle and Heidi answered board members' questions, such as salary and supplies costs, which are not known without a curriculum, but instruction will focus on active learning games rather than using textbooks. Providing Mandarin, a current language option at middle school and high school, was discussed. Mandarin will continue to be offered in the after-school program and there is conversation about high school Mandarin students visiting classrooms to provide activities. Dr. Morse felt the reality of finding a teacher qualified to teach elementary Mandarin was not very likely, especially since it was very difficult to find Mandarin candidates for middle and high school.

Logistics, scheduling, and timing are details that still need to be worked out, and Dr. Morse said it will largely depend on who applies and who is chosen. The consensus of the World Language committee was that a FLEX model would be ideal for the district. No matter which language is taught, exposure to younger students would help develop a mind set and confidence that can speed up the process of proficiency in later years. Figuring out how to be language learners and how to survive in a non-English speaking environment is a challenge Michelle sees students face at the middle school. She felt that having confidence and a starting point at a younger age could be a real benefit.

Board members discussed whether to have one, two or three languages. Special Education Director Catherine Plourde cautioned against too many languages. She felt shifting students through three language sessions in a year could be a struggle for a lot of students, especially those receiving services. She felt the program that gets implemented should consider the needs of all learners. Michelle and Heidi said the goal of the FLEX model, which uses music and art to engage students in cultural activities, is very inclusive.

Dr. Morse and David Goldsmith felt that hiring someone that understands K-4 development of students is most important and the actual language is secondary. The district goal is to look at how we create global citizens in our language department, and Dr. Morse feels excited about the proposal of the FLEX program to help achieve that goal. He thanked all the educators, past and present, for their commitment to expand the language program K-12.

List of Policies for First Read: JLDBB – Suicide Prevention and Response, EBBB – Indoor Air and Water Quality

Denise Day updated the board with policy EBBB which includes a new water requirement per state law.

Denise Day made a motion to approve policies JLDBB – Suicide Prevention and Response and EBBB – Indoor Air and Water Quality for first read 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Topics the Board would like to cover at Budget Workshop

The board was asked what specific items they would like to have covered at the Budget Workshop. Brian Cisneros asked for an update on the positions that were new this year and Michael Williams asked to know the specific line items that have increased by \$10K. Dr. Morse let the board know that budget packets would be available on Friday.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Manifest Committee reviewed the following Manifests.

Payroll Manifest #8- \$1,048,286.27

Vendor Manifest #9 - \$828,138.03

Denise Day announced that the Policy Committee is in the process of reviewing revisions to policies pertaining to chairperson and school board, and a draft will be ready in November.

Michael Williams announced the Superintendent Search Committee will meet next week to structure the search process.

Rebecca Noe shared high school Mandarin teacher Lisa Fan's Instagram page ORHS Mandarin.

Michael reminded everyone of Moharimet's Pumpkin Stroll this Thursday at 5:30 pm.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None provided

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: October 27, 2022 – Budget Workshop – Durham Town Council 8:00-1:00 PM
November 2, 2022 – Regular Meeting – ORMS Recital Hall
November 7, 2022 – Joint Meeting w/Barrington @ Barrington SAU
November 16, 2022 – Regular Meeting – ORMS Recital Hall
November 17, 2022 – Board Budget Workshop – ORMS Recital Hall

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

NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2I {If Needed}

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The School Board reserves the right to take action on any item on the agenda.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm, 2nd by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper