

Oyster River Cooperative School Board
Regular Meeting Minutes

December 7, 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:

GUEST PRESENT: Landon Wolph (student)

ABSENT:

I. CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Michael Williams

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 November 16th, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.

Denise Day submitted the following revisions:

On page 2 under Board Comments, it should say that community members can reach out to Shawn Kelly to subscribe to the Mouth of the River, not to suggest articles.

On page 3 under the Budget Discussion before the last sentence in the paragraph insert the following comment:

“Denise Day stated she was worried that if the Board cut the CIP too much, it would result in a bigger increase in 2024-2025 when the largest bond payment increase occurs.”

Michael Williams submitted the following revision:

On page 3 under the Budget Discussion strike the second sentence starting “This considerable loss in revenue...”

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

Denise Day moved to approve the Non-Public Meeting Minutes from November 16th, 2022, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District

David Goldsmith of Moharimet shared that in a recent “Year of the Forest” school-wide assembly the 3rd and 4th graders performed a play about all they’ve learned so far. He credited the teachers and Math & Science Specialist Ellen Ervin for all the work that went into the performance. Today’s Coding & Cocoa event, which was full of enrichment and interactive activities, was very well received by students. David commented on the amazing connection going on across the district with the addition of middle school and high school “tech support” through Teams calls. Elementary students talked to older students through Teams calls to troubleshoot their coding problems. Students can look forward to a 4th grade Chorus Concert at the ORMS Recital Hall on Dec. 15th, a Jazz

Festival Band and Chorus performance by middle and high school students on Dec. 20th, and an International Music & Dance Festival in February.

Misty Lowe of Mast Way shared they had a school-wide assembly around “Communication,” which nicely complemented their current work around Restorative Practices. Teacher training, classroom application and a parent information night have recently been centered around Open Circle. Misty gave a shout out to the parent volunteers, tech integrators and high school and middle school students that were involved in today’s Coding & Cocoa event. She gave a special thanks to Liberty Mutual and the Shipyard for giving each student a robot. Recently she enjoyed eating with families at the Clark’s fundraiser and thanked all the participants for their support. Students can look forward to the 3rd & 4th grade Chorus Concert on Dec. 14th. It will include a canned food collection for End 68 Hours of Hunger. Kindergarten & 1st graders are preparing to sing carols at long care facilities, and the middle school Jazz Festival Band and high school Band & Chorus will perform for the school on Dec. 17th.

Jay Richard of ORMS said the students had a blast with coding and were super engaged during today’s event. The grade 6 Strings Concert will take place tomorrow night and this Saturday ORMS will host a Robotics Tournament featuring 44 teams from 12 different programs. Jay gave a shout out to the high school Robotics team for their help refereeing and running a pizza fund raiser at the competition. Jay asked families to check the Lost & Found since it has acquired many items, and anything left unclaimed will be donated over break.

Rebecca Noe of ORHS congratulated the following students that were accepted into the NHMEA Classical All State Festival this year: Mary Jeong, Cole Norris, Elena Pavlik, Isaac Williams, Shashu Srivatsan, Siddhu Srivatsan, Peter Weirda, Courtney Giroux, Ella Higginson, and Micah Bessette. She gave a shout out to Celeste Best for working extremely hard getting the Coding & Cocoa event ready. The winter sports season has started, and a few teams participated in overnight team building. On Dec. 13th at 6pm a parent session on Vaping, Alcohol, Drugs and Teens will be presented by Resource Officer Nicolosi and LADC Britta Bartlett in the ORHS auditorium. Since teachers work extremely hard, Rebecca announced the last week before break as ORHS Teacher Appreciation Week.

B. Board

Denise Day attended the Open Circle parent presentation last night and she appreciated the simulated activities that allowed her to see what students are doing in the classroom. She gave a shout out to Felicia Sperry and all the other ELS members and teachers that were involved.

Heather Smith also enjoyed the Open Circle informative session and felt the lessons would have great application for parents in the home setting, and especially for students to see a transition from school to home.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

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

Suzanne Filippone announced changes to the state graduation requirements effective 2024. 1) All students will need to pass both a local civics assessment and the naturalization test given by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. 2) A personal finance literacy requirement will need to be met in order to graduate. Suzanne said social studies departments and Principal Noe are working together on what these additions will look like in the classroom and how students will be prepared. These changes will begin with the 2024 graduating class and information will be sent home to families. Any questions should be directed to Principal Noe.

Student Report – HOBY Youth Leadership Program – Landon Wolph

High school student Landon Wolph was invited to share his HOBY Youth Leadership experience with the Board as part of a presentation series entitled “Imagine the Possibilities.”

Landon explained that HOBY is a non-profit youth leadership organization founded in 1958 in honor of Hugh O’Brian. The purpose of the three-day seminar is to promote the development of leadership skills in young adults. One sophomore is nominated by students and faculty to attend the program each year. Landon shared

that during his three days he participated in seminars on individual leadership, group leadership and community application. Critical thinking concepts, unique team building opportunities as well as a challenge to participate in 100 hours of community service were part of his experience. Landon met students from around the state while helping to revitalize a NH Food Bank garden that had been neglected during COVID. Landon said that HOBY aims to pull students together to promote communication and collaboration across communities in the state, and he is still in contact with many students that he met. The seminar showed him the impact youth leadership can have on the local community and Landon said he looks forward to taking action to find new resources and ways to approach local issues.

B. Superintendent's Report

December 23rd Early Release Day

Dr. Morse congratulated ORMS Nurse Michael Hope as runner up for Health Care Hero.

Dr. Morse requested the Board make December 23rd an early release day for all District staff since it was overlooked for an early release day.

Denise Day made a motion to approve December 23rd Early Release Day, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

C. Business Administrator - Sue Caswell presented during the budget discussion.

D. Student Representative Report

Paige Burt shared that it was cool having activities for the Coding & Cocoa event span across the buildings. The fall play *CLUE* was funny and a success, and she gave a shout out to all the actors and cast members that worked on and off the stage. She looks forward to the spring musical that already has preparations underway. The high school Music Concert will be held on Dec. 20th and the food drive for End 68 Hours of Hunger continues to take place among advisories.

E. Finance Committee Report – None provided

F. Other – None provided

VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA – Michael Williams asked if any items needed to be discussed separately and Denise Day asked to pull out the ORHS Maternity Leave of Absence from December 22 to March 31, 2023 for discussion.

- ORHS Maternity Leave of Absence from December 22, 2022 to March 31, 2023. -PULLED OUT
- Extension of ORMS previously approved Maternity Leave of Absence to end of the school year.

Michael Williams made a motion to approve the Extension of ORMS Previously Approved Maternity Leave of Absence to End of the School Year, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

ORHS Maternity Leave of Absence from December 22, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Denise Day asked how the LADAC services will be provided during the absence. Dr. Morse and Rebecca have a call into last year's contracted LADAC to see if she would be interested in providing teletherapy.

Michael Williams made a motion to approve the ORHS Maternity Leave of Absence from December 22, 2022 to March 31, 2023, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

2023-24 School Calendar for First Review

Dr. Morse met with several area school communities to develop the 2023-24 School Calendar. Since OR students attend three CTE centers, he said it is impossible to align with all of them. Also, since all NH systems have

different start and end dates and contract language, they worked predominately off the state calendar. He noted that February break would be the last week of the month and pointed out the amount of CTE student days that conflict with ORCSD, including 4 at Dover & Rochester and 6 at Somersworth. Board members shared their appreciation for the efforts made to align with the state and felt the number of CTE that conflict was relatively low. Dr. Morse commended Wendy for providing the comparative information for the CTE locations. Brian Cisneros clarified with Dr. Morse that the Feb. 13th voting day is a “place holder” and may move when the actual voting day is confirmed.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the 2023-24 School Calendar for First Review, 2nd by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

ORHS Graduation Date

Rebecca Noe requested June 9th be the ORHS graduation date with a rain date of June 10th. The commencement will begin at 6pm. A start time for the rain date has not yet been determined since the Track & Field New England’s competition is on the 10th.

Denise Day made a motion to approve the ORHS Graduation Date as presented, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.

Heather Smith confirmed June 2nd as the last day of school for seniors.

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

Finalize 2023-24 School Year Budget

Dr. Morse reviewed his 2023-24 school year budget memo to the Board. The following points were made: The board had requested a comparison of a 1.4% and 1.5% increase and the result would be a \$50,916 cut from the budget. An amount of \$35,000 for technology was overlooked at the budget workshop. The Superintendent Search, which had been budgeted at \$40,000, has been lowered to \$25,000. The cost has no impact to the 1.5% increase and will come from the Superintendent’s Contracted Service Account. Dr. Morse recommended the following allocation of \$132,347 if 1.5% is approved:

- Field Trips K-12 \$18,000
- Reinstate 2nd bus \$40,000
- Safety Funds \$39,347
- Tech Oversight \$35,000

Sue Caswell also provided cost scenarios ranging from a 1.05-3% increase.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve a 1.5% increase of the 2023-24 School Year Budget, 2nd by Yusi Turell.

Sue explained it is Option 6 – A Fund 10 operating budget total of \$51,679,884 including a 1.5% in the amount of \$132,347, the items noted in Dr. Morse’s memo, and the use of \$550,000 from the retain fund balance account.

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

Retirement Incentive

Dr. Morse recommended the Board approve offering the retirement incentive to up to 12 members of the guild in the current fiscal school year. Board members wondered about offering it to non-guild individuals. Dr. Morse said he uses discretion since the situation would need to be mutually beneficial to the individual and the district. Board members discussed if there should be a cap on non-guild individuals. Dr. Morse estimated the number of qualifying professionals to be low, possibly 3-4.

Dan Klein made a motion to approve offering a retirement incentive to up to 12 guild members as presented and up to 4 non-guild members if it is mutually beneficial to the individual and district at the discretion of Dr. Morse, 2nd by Matt Bacon.

Yusi Turell made an amendment to increase the non-guild members to 6, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-1-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative

Motion to approve offering a retirement incentive to up to 12 guild members and up to 6 non-guild members as amended passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

FY24' Default Budget

Sue Caswell presented the FY24' Default Budget to the Board.

Draft 2023 Warrant Articles

Sue Caswell presented a draft of the 2023 Warrant Articles to the Board.

List of Policies for First Read: B.1 – Acknowledge School Board Candidates for Office, ICA – School Calendar, BBAA – School Board Member Authority, BBAB – Roles and Duties of the School Board Chairperson

Denise Day let the Board know that BDB would consolidate into BBAA. For this reason, the language cross referencing BDB in policy BBAA would need to be removed.

Michael Williams proposed changing the title of policy BBAB from “Roles and Duties of the School Board Chairperson {Selection of Officers}” to “Selection & Duties of Officers.”

Denise Day made a motion to approve the Policy B.1 – Acknowledge School Board Candidates for Office, ICA – School Calendar, BBAA – School Board Member Authority, and BBAB with the new title “Selection & Duties of Officers” for first read, and for deletion Policy BDB – Board Officers, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

State Delegation for Roundtable – Discussion.

Michael Williams let the Board know they will invite district delegates for a round table workshop discussion at 6pm on Dec. 21st. A regular board meeting will follow at 7pm. He went over a rough draft of topics to be discussed and asked board members to email topics of discussion to Wendy DiFruscio.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Manifest Committee met and completed the following manifests.

Payroll Manifest #11 Total is \$1,530,634.54

Vendor Manifest #12 Total is \$733,145.64

Vendor Manifest #13 Total is \$198,543.05

Denise Day announced a Policy Committee meeting will take place tomorrow afternoon.

Heather Smith announced the Sustainability Committee was moved to Dec. 13th at 4:30 at ORMS.

Michael Williams shared that the Superintendent Search Committee will be seeking an approval in January.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None provided

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

- A. Future Meeting Dates:** December 21, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting – ORMS Recital Hall @ 7:00 PM
- January 4, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting – ORMS Recital Hall @ 7:00 PM
- January 11, 2023 – Public Budget Hearing – ORMS Recital Hall @ 7:00 PM

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II {If Needed}
NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2 I {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 8:32 pm, 2nd by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper