

**Oyster River Cooperative School District**

**Regular Meeting**

**December 18, 2019**

**ORHS - Library**

**DRAFT**

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

**Student Representative:** Yasmeen Gunandar - Absent

**ADMINISTRATORS:** James Morse, Todd Allen, Sue Caswell, Jim Rozycki, Andy Lathrop

There were 2 members of the public present.

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

6:30-7:00 Manifest Review

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Tom Newkirk explained that there was a request to add two items to the agenda. Andy Lathrop to report out on the use request for gym space. Secondly, for Ron Lamarre to present 4 short videos showing an overview of the proposed layout from different street views and a brief inside view of the proposed middle school.

**Denise Day moved to approve the agenda as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve 12/4/19 meeting minutes:**

**Revisions:**

Tom Newkirk had a minor adjustment on page 3 last paragraph before Section VII. Discussion. Added after the word still “below 700 for students for projected cap for the middle school.”

**Denise Day moved to approve the 12/4/19 meeting minutes as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Michael Williams abstaining.**

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

**A. District:**

Andy Lathrop discussed an issue pertaining to a conflict between ORYA and MV regarding the allocation of space. Andy explained that the deadline for additional demographic information was requested and not met by one of the groups for over three weeks, therefore space allotment was assigned to the second group. Andy has met with the one organization, heard their concerns and is trying to work through them.

Jim Morse explained that we are currentingly using our best judgement and working with the draft policy to guide us. As a result, we are not charging a fee for space use.

The Board had some clarifying questions for Andy. What was the data that was requested? Will the new middle school eliminate this issue? Is this issue still ongoing? Andy explained that the requested information was a list of the students participating and their residency. The new middle school will help with this situation, but the winter season is always a challenge for both the middle and high school teams vying for space, and the programs are continuing to grow. The Board thanked Andy for his report.

Ron Lamarre from Lavallee Architects thanked the Board for allowing him to present a quick fly through overview of the proposed middle school. He provided videos that showed the roof area, the building from Coe Drive and the bus loop access. He showed the parent drop off area stating that the administrative wing has a clear line of site to the bus loop and parent drop off areas. He also showed the front entrance through the learning commons explaining the areas to the left and right of this room and the Library at the end. One additional fly through showed an upstairs team area with the low lockers under the worktop for student use.

The Board had some clarifying questions for Ron. Is the roof flat? Will there be a transition between the grass, turf field and walkways? Ron explained that the roof has a pitch design of ¼" per foot with roof drains toward the center. In terms of the transition between the grass, turf field and walkways, he will need to touch base with the civil engineer. He does not want to use gravel as this would be a hazard for lawn mowing. He's considering possibly widening the white line.

The Board asked if Ron planned to make more of these overviews, such as the gym and recital hall, as they are awesome. He did not, but they can. A suggestion was made of possibly having a student narrate the overview as the video progressed.

The Board thanked Ron and he left the meeting at 7:19 PM.

## **B. Board:**

Tom Newkirk shared that the District has many residents that have written books. Writing Redefined by Shawna Coppola, Michael Anderson is another resident author.

Kenny noted that Tom Newkirk should also be included in that list of authors. He stated that he is concerned about primary day being a school day.

Jim Morse explained that he is recommending that February 11 be a staff day only and that this issue will be coming up later in the meeting under the Assistant Superintendent report.

Michael Williams stated that he has learned a lot in the last two years of his term and has had the opportunity to work with many of the administrators. He brings an analytical approach to his position and will be running again in March.

Denise Day stated that she is also planning on running again in March.

## **VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:**

### **A. Assistant Superintendent Reports:**

Todd Allen spoke to the Board pertaining to this year's calendar making the February 11, 2020 Primary voting day a staff day only for all district schools. He suggested that the May 22, 2020 Teacher Workshop Day be switched with the February 11, 2020 school day as a Teacher Workshop Day for the primary.

**Denise Day made a motion to switch the May 22, 2020 Teacher Workshop Day with the February 11, 2020 Primary Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.**

Al Howland stated that the elections are run by volunteers and we would welcome new volunteers.

Kenny Rotner supports requesting eligible high school seniors to register to vote.

Todd spoke briefly about the World Language information that was provided at the last meeting. He will send an electronic version of this information to the Board tomorrow.

### **B. Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Morse updated the Board on the Competency Based Grading Survey that he has been in touch with the UNH Survey Center to create using the suggested questions for middle school parents and staff along with Board generated questions. He stated that the survey generated will be 12 to 15 questions. The survey cost to the District will run between \$5,000-\$10,000 as long as the District uses our mode of communication. I.e. School Messenger. We are looking at a February disbursement date for this survey.

Tom Newkirk asked if a copy of the completed survey could be added to a future agenda for review by the Board.

Jim explained that he had a very positive meeting last week with the Durham Town Council. They were very engaged and excited about the proposed MS project.

Jim spoke of the latest successful home meeting that he had in Lee. This was a group of seniors and one middle aged adult who do not have any children in the schools. They were excited to hear about the proposal and had many questions. Jim plans to meet at Riverbend in January with Jay Richard.

Jim spoke about the "Go Vote" group that has been established. He explained that they can advocate for a vote. He also stated that some additional potential meetings could be with UNH Alumni students. There are still additional community dinners in the works.

Tom Newkirk thanked Jim and asked him to keep up the good work.

**C. Business Administrator:  
FY20 Budget Update:**

Sue Caswell updated the Board on the current budget status. She stated that we are pretty good and close to where we were at the same time last year.

**2020-21 Budget:**

Dr. Morse reviewed the Bond and Budget memo that he included in the back up that captures the discussion and direction that was agreed to at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. He explained that this memo could be used as a tool. The breakdown of this information is as follows: First is the capital improvement fund affecting the next three budget cycles. Second is the trust accounts which have been established over the last seven years and used to offset projected tax increases. Third would be the end of the year balance which in the past has been used to offset taxes, replenish trust accounts and get ahead on capital projects. Fourth would be interest bearing accounts. Fifth could be offering a retirement incentive. Sixth is a possible savings from health insurance if cost come in under the guaranteed maximum rate. An additional thought could be adequacy funding.

He also handed out an additional memo that provides some additional clarifying information pertaining to the proposed bond.

Tom was agreeable to Option 1.

Brian, we need to keep arrows in quiver until we need them – agree with option 1.

Denise, I completely agree with option 1.

Michael stated that we were \$250K over our agreed upon goal. Michael shared his handout and directed all to look at the back page where he summarized his findings.

The Board discussed various scenarios.

Tom stated that this is a lot to process in one evening and suggested that before a decision is made that Jim will meet with his administrative team to get their perspective on the suggested changes. This will come back to the Board at the next meeting where we will need to make a determination of the option that we will vote on for the warrant article.

Sue reviewed the proposed warrant article and explained that after review by the bond counsel, there was a need to create a separate warrant article #4 that addresses the issue of monies from investment earnings for the purpose of additional project costs. This article would be contingent upon the passing of Article 3.

There was a lengthy discussion on the warrant article with discussion surrounding article 4 and whether this would be confusing to residents. If it remains a warrant article it will need an explanation added to the warrant article.

Jim Rozycki presented a prioritized update of his CIP plan to the Board as part of their back up.

**D. Student Senate Report:** None

**E. Other:** - None

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEM:**

The draft 2020-21 school calendar was brought back to the Board for a 2<sup>nd</sup> review for a change to Friday, September 4, 2020 which was adjusted from a school day to a non-school day and added one additional day to the end of the school year making June 23 the last school day including 5 built in snow days. Todd explained that we try to align with the Dover School District as we have students that attend the vocational program. He also explained that due to the Guild Contract we had a start date of August 25

**Denise Day made a motion to approve the 2020-21 School Calendar, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Michael Williams abstaining.**

**VIII. ACTIONS**

**A. Superintendent Action Items:** None

**B. Board Action Items:**

**Motion to approve ORHS Winter Coaches and Volunteers.**

**Denise Day made a motion to approve the ORHS Coaches and Volunteers, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Vote: 7-0**

**Motion to approve List of Policies for First Read.**

**Al Howland made a motion to approve the list of policies for first read, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. No Discussion. Vote: 7-0.**

**Motion to approve List of Policies for Second Read/Adoption.**

**Denise Day made a motion to approve the list of policies for second read/adoption, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. No Discussion. Vote: 7-0.**

**X. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

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

Payroll Manifest #12 \$924,149.92  
Vendor Manifest #13: \$335,691.98

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Dean Rubine of Durham looking forward to the vote on March 10.

**XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:**

A. Future Meeting Dates: 1/2/20 - Manifest Review (2:45M SAU Conference Rm)  
1/8/20 - Regular Meeting – ORHS Library  
1/13/20 – Durham Town Council Budget Update – 7:00PM

1/15/19 – Bond/Budget Hearing –HS/Auditorium 7:00PM  
1/20/19 – Madbury Select Board Budget Update – 7:00 PM

**Kenny Rotner moved to enter into nonpublic session at 9:02 PM under RSA 91 A:3 II(a), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.**

**XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (a) – Superintendent Evaluation  
NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A:2 I {If Needed}**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Al Howland moved to return to public session and adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy L. DiFruscio  
Executive Assistant to  
Superintendent of Schools