

Oyster River Cooperative School Board
Regular Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2024

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT: Denise Day, Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Heather Smith, Matt Bacon, Tom Newkirk, Giana Gelsey

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Maeve Hickok

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Morse, Suzanne Filippone, Amy Ransom, Josh Olstad, Rebecca Noe, Bill Sullivan, David Goldsmith, Misty Lowe

STAFF PRESENT:

GUEST PRESENT:

ABSENT:

I. CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Chair Denise Day.

Ia. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II (f)

- Consideration of matters relating to the preparation and carrying out of emergency functions.

Heather Smith made a motion to go into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (f), 2nd by Giana Gelsey. Motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

Regular Meeting resumed at 7:31pm.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Giana Gelsey made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.

Denise Day reversed the order for the Non-Public Sessions at the end of the regular meeting beginning with Administrator Discussion.

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None provided.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Giana Gelsey made a motion to approve the December 20, 2023, 2nd by Matt Bacon.

Tom Newkirk made the following revision:

On page 3 under “Update on Competency Survey” in the last sentence replace “5th-9th” with “6th-9th” and in the motion change “have access to up to 10th grade” to “have access for 6th-10th grade”.

Heather Smith made the following revisions:

On page 1 replace the motion for hiring of the new superintendent with, “Heather Smith made a motion to approve the hiring of Dr. Robert Shaps as superintendent for a term of 3 years at an annual salary of \$210,000 in accordance with the negotiated contract and to further authorize the chair, Denise Day, to sign the contract on the Board’s behalf, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.”

On page 2 under the motion to approve 11/30, 12/1, and 12/4 Non-Public and Public meeting minutes, remove Matt Bacon’s additions (move to 12/6 meeting) and remove the word “correction” so it reads, “Motion passed 7-0.”

On page 2 under the motion to approve 12/6 regular meeting minutes insert Matt Bacon’s additions.

On page 3 in the last sentence of the first paragraph, remove a comma and replace the word “head” with “member” so it reads, “...Julie Kelley, member of the Sustainability Committee,...”. Add the sentence, “Parents and community members who may be interested in joining the district’s Sustainability Committee can email Suzanne Filippone.”

Giana Gelsey made the following revisions:

On page 3 under the “Update on Competency Survey” in the first sentence insert Dan Klein so it reads “Dr. Morse thanked Dan Klein, Tom Newkirk, and Giana Gelsey for their contributions...”.

On page 4 replace Giana’s comment with “Giana Gelsey stated that she attended the NHSBA legislative preview workshop where 300+ proposals are being tracked. She also noted that a proposed rule change by the NH Board of Education for the Learning Everywhere program would replace the review period of a particular program from one year to three years and would also remove the mandatory criminal background check. She stated that she wrote a letter to the BOE in opposition to these changes.”

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

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District

David Goldsmith of Moharimet congratulated music teacher Beth Struthers and the 4th grade students for a wonderful job during their December music concert. The 3rd grade is preparing for a February performance and the 4th grade has begun working on the spring musical *Finding Nemo*. A special school-wide music performance took place before vacation featuring middle school students. New assemblies around the “Year of the Water” theme are planned to kick off in January. Moharimet was selected to participate in the Nation’s Report Card, an assessment by National Assessment of Public Schools (NAEP). A selection of 4th graders will take the test, and the data will help NAEP build a snapshot of public-school performance.

Misty Lowe of Mast Way announced the PTO is sponsoring a UNH hockey game on January 21st. Ticket sale proceeds will go to PTO sponsored student activities. She encouraged families to attend this fun night and wear their school swag.

Please note the following dates:

- Jan. 23 – No School (TW Day) (voting in Lee)
- Feb. 8 – Family Literacy Night (snow date of 2/15)
- Feb. 16 – Visiting author Matt Tavares (opportunity to purchase signed books)
- Feb. 23 – Music in Movement performance (2nd grade math & PE integrated unit)

Bill Sullivan of ORMS shared that the return to school was filled with great energy by students and staff. In an upcoming visit by New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS), six teachers will tour the building to learn about the middle school programming and activities. ORMS was also selected by NAEP, and a selection of 8th graders will take the test on February 16th.

Please note the following dates:

- Jan. 12th-14th – ORMS Drama Performances of *Oliver Twist* in the ORHS Auditorium
(Friday during school & at 7pm; Saturday at 1pm & 7pm; and Sunday at 1pm)
- Jan. 25th – 5th Grade Music Concert (chorus, band, & strings) at 6pm in the Recital Hall
- Jan. 26th – Dance (winter theme)

Principal Rebecca Noe of ORHS provided the following dates:

- Jan. 15 – No School (MLK Jr holiday)
- Jan. 23 – No School (TW Day)
- Jan. 24 – Start of New Semester & Quarter 3
- Feb. 2 – Report Cards
- Feb. 8 – 8th Grade Information Night at 6pm

B. Board

Dan Klein announced he will not be running for another term for the Madbury seat. He is available to answer questions to anyone interested in serving on the board.

Denise Day said she enjoyed attending the last musical performance prior to winter break. Finding start times was difficult, so she encouraged the schools to post dates and times for events so more community members have the opportunity to attend.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction Report(s) – None provided.

B. Superintendent's Report

Transition planning for the new superintendent is underway. Dr. Morse is generating topics to share with Dr. Shaps, and they will meet next week to exchange information. Dr. Shaps will also hold meetings with board members as part of the transition process.

CBL Survey Update

Dr. Morse will meet with the UNH Survey Center tomorrow to finalize the survey before its distribution.

Barrington Tuition Update

Dr. Morse informed the Board that Barrington is currently having conversations with Dover, and he anticipates minor changes when they close on the new tuition contract.

C. Business Administrator

2024 Warrant Article – Moved to “Discussion & Action Items”.

D. Student Representative Report {Maeve Hickok}

Student Rep. Maeve Hickok announced that the girls' basketball team won the winter tournament for the first time and Caitlyn Klein was awarded MVP.

E. Finance Committee Report – None provided.

F. Superintendent Search Committee – Item removed.

G. Other – None provided.

VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA – None provided.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS2024-25 School Calendar for Second Read/Adoption

Heather Smith raised the question of whether school would be held on Juneteenth if we are still in session due to snow days. Dr. Morse confirmed there would be no school in honor of the holiday. Dan Klein suggested placing an “X” on the 19th for the holiday and shifting over the snow day and last day of school symbols. The board was in agreement.

Giana Gelsey made a motion to approve the 2024-25 School Calendar for Second Read/Adoption with correction, 2nd by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

New Article 5

Brian Cisneros gave his support for Article 5, a new article that would allow a special meeting to occur to address cost items if the Tutor Agreement is defeated. His concern is that if it doesn't pass, tutors will not have benefits

for the year. He feels it's important to have back up and to show tutors they are valued. He argued that although our district hasn't used the article before, it is standard practice in other districts.

Denise Day stated that she is not personally in favor of Article 5 since it may send a confusing message to voters. She argued it would be a new article for voters to see and since it hasn't been used in the past, they might see it as an opportunity to vote against the Tutor Agreement.

Heather Smith articulated reasons for and against Article 5, but ultimately felt it might make voters vote in opposition. She also felt it may skew negotiations too much.

Dan Klein appreciated the practical nature of Article 5 and sees the benefit but was not in support of it at this time.

Denise Day made a motion to approve the Warrant Articles as originally presented, 2nd by Tom Newkirk. Motion passed 6-1-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative and Brian Cisneros opposing.

Assign Presentation of Warrant Articles for Deliberative Session

Chair Denise Day reviewed the following warrant article presenters for the Deliberative Session:

Article 3/Budget FY25 – Heather Smith (it was noted that Brian Cisneros is unable to attend)

Article 4/Tutor Agreement – Dan Klein

Article 5/Facilities Development – Matt Bacon

Article 6/Artificial Turf – Tom Newkirk

Article 7/Athletic Field – Denise Day

Award – Giana Gelsey

Public Hearing Discussion

Dr. Morse invited the listening audience to attend the Public Budget Hearing at 7pm on Wednesday, January 10th in the ORMS Recital Hall. The public is encouraged to voice comments and questions about the proposed FY25 budget.

Facilities Fees [Procedure KF-R1]

The Board had requested facilities use information from surrounding school districts and Amy Ransom reviewed the data she collected per school and facility, as well as turf field use.

Brian Cisneros would like to know what UNH charges for tennis court use.

Denise Day proposed that the Finance Committee review the information and they revisit the topic at the next board meeting.

Dan Klein said that St. Thomas rents out space and thought it may be worth including their fees with the data. The board also requested the names of groups and their frequency of use.

Brian pointed out that the task will be time consuming, and it might not be realistic for Amy to have the information available by next week's Finance meeting. Amy said she will work on the task and provide the information she has available.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Manifest Committee met and completed the following manifests.

Payroll Manifest # 13 Total is \$781,188.74

Vendor Manifest #15 Total is \$688,992.16

Heather Smith reminded the audience of a free Internet and Digital Safety program occurring on Thursday, February 1st from 6:00-7:30pm in the ORMS Recital Hall. This presentation is for adults only.

Brian Cisneros let Giana Gelsey know of a proposal in Concord (SB219) that would provide voters with budgetary data of school district employees.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None provided.

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: January 10, 2024 – Public Budget Hearing @ 7:00 PM – ORMS Recital Hall
January 17, 2024 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM – ORMS Recital Hall
January 23, 2024 – Joint Board Meeting w/Barrington @ 6:00 PM – Barrington SAU
February 6, 2024 – Annual Meeting Session I @ 7:00 PM @ ORMS Recital Hall
February 7, 2024 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM @ ORMS Recital Hall

Dr. Morse announced the passing of Bob Barth, husband of former board member Maria Barth.

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II (c)

- Superintendent Evaluation, and
- Administrator Discussion

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A2 I {If needed}

Denise Day made a motion to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c), 2nd by Tom Newkirk. Motion passed by roll call vote.

The regular meeting resumed at 8:37 PM.

Denise Day made a motion to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c), 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed by roll call vote.

The Board resumed public session at 9:19 PM and a motion was made to seal the non-public minutes.

Matt Bacon made a motion to seal the 01/03/24.2 Non-public minutes until 7/1/24, seconded by Heather Smith. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Brian Cisneros made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm, 2nd by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper