

**Oyster River Cooperative School District  
Regular Meeting**

**January 17, 2018**

**ORHS Library**

**7:00 p.m.**

**SCHOOL BOARD: Denise Day, Brian Cisneros, Tom Newkirk, Kenny Rotner, Dan Klein, Al Howland, Michael Williams (arrived at 7:05 p.m.) and Student Representative: H.J. Wilson**

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Sue Caswell, Todd Allen, Superintendent Morse, Suzanne Filippone, and Andy Lathrop

There were 25 members of the public present.

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

**APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:** N/A

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Revision: Move the football discussion item up to after approval of the minutes.**

**Denise Day moved to approve the agenda as revised, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein.**

**Kenny Rotner would like to leave football where it is in the agenda and hear from our District educators as scheduled. Motion passed 5-1 with Kenny Rotner voting against the motion and the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Robert Barth of Lee wanted to clarify the statement he made at the forum last week. He does not think football is a good idea. There are angry parents threatening both members of the Board and himself. It should not be up to him to decide whether kids play football as long as it is not affecting his tax dollars. As a physician and a citizen, he will continue to talk about the dangers of football.

Jeff Butts of Lee is recommending the Portsmouth football program to pursue as he is most familiar with their coaches.

James Bigwith of Lee wanted to thank the Board for taking the time to consider a football team for their kids. He is in favor for football in the District.

John Jones of Durham wanted to thank the Board for considering this football option they have before them this evening. He would like his son to be able to continue to play his sport of football.

William Hall of Durham has no preference whether the kids play in Portsmouth or Dover but would just like them to be able to play.

Brenda Worden of Lee spoke to the Board earlier in the year about the unified coach of basketball not being paid, and would like the Board to reconsider this at this Board meeting. She is considering this an equity issue and feels that they need to be paid.

Dean Rubine of Lee would like the Board to stick to the rule that if there is no school not to have a Board meeting.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve 1/3/18 regular and nonpublic meeting minutes:**

**Brian Cisneros moved to approve the 1/3/18 minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day.**

**Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Motion to approve the nonpublic 1/3/18 meeting minutes: Brian**

**Cisneros moved to approve the nonpublic 1/3/18 meeting minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.**

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

**A. District:** Sue Caswell announced that tomorrow there will be a community dinner from 5-6:30. Following the community dinner is a Middle School musical performance.

Todd Allen announced that on January 25, there is a celebration for Superintendent Morse being named the 2018 Superintendent of the Year. It will be held from 4:00 – 6:00 in the multi-purpose room at the high school.

**B. Board:** Al Howland asked if everyone going to the strategic meeting receive a copy of the five-year plan. Superintendent Morse replied that it available online, but they will make sure they receive it.

Denise Day was a judge for the recent National History Day. She said it was hard to do because the students did such a great job. Denise wanted to thank Kathy Pearce who coordinated this event.

Kenny Rotner asked Andy Lathrop to comment on a stipend for the Unified Coaches. Andy noted that right now there is no stipend in place for the unified coaches and that the unified coaches are paid out of the “officials line” as a game worker. He did note that the time commitment is not as much as a varsity coach because their season is much shorter and there are less practices. Kenny has requested that this be considered and brought to the Board at the appropriate time.

## **VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:**

### **A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Reports:**

Todd Allen mentioned that K-5 parents should be looking for mid-year progress reports on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**School Calendar Minimum Standards Discussion:** Todd Allen reported that our calendar fully meets all state requirements.

Elementary Schools must have at least 956 hours of instructional time. Middle and high schools must have at least 990 hours of instructional time. The school year for seniors can be reduced by 30 hours with a minimum of 960.

The instructional day at the elementary level cannot exceed 5.75 hours and 6.0 hours for middle and high school students.

The calendar must build into it at least 60 hours in duration to provide for instructional time lost due to weather cancellations. This can include scheduled snow days, teacher professional days workshops and parent conferences.

At least 30 of the 60 hours built into the calendar must be available to use if needed to reschedule make up time.

The ORCSD District Calendar meets the above standards:

The district calendar contains 178 instructional days and 7 teacher professional days for a total of 185 days.

At the elementary level, the instructional day is 5.5 hours long and 178 instructional days = 979 hours.

The middle level instructional day is 6 hours long x 178 instructional days = 1068 hours.

The high school instructional day is 5.933 hours long x 178 = 1056 hours.

The issue of “Blizzard Bags” has been raised within the ORCSD as a method of making up lost learning time due to weather. The following requirements must be met within the “Blizzard Bag” plan of any district:

All Blizzard Bag plans must be approved by the Commission of Education.

Once a Blizzard Bag plan is approved, school districts can utilize them for a maximum of 5 days per year.

Kenny Rotner thinks that having teachers providing students with stimulating learning things to do could be very valuable. What happens with staff and guild contracts as far as hours? Superintendent Morse replied that the teachers still met their obligations by coming in the Monday and Tuesday in June. That can be a more flexible option.

**B. Superintendent Reports:** Superintendent Morse mentioned that they have reached out to everyone involved with the Strategic Meeting. They sent out over 80 invitations in the community and feedback has been good. By the middle of February all the major stakeholders in the Districts will be involved.

**C. Business Administrator:** Sue Caswell reported that all forms are ready for posting.

**Al Howland moved to approve the MS 26, Default Budget, Warrant Articles and the FY19 Budget for Deliberative Session, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**D. Student Senate Report:** The Student Representative reported that the snowball dance is this Friday and the cost is \$10 a ticket. They are about to begin finals week at the High School.

**E. Other:** None

## **VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Football:** Kenny Rotner recused himself from this portion of the meeting.

**Brian Cisneros moved to direct the athletic director to move forward with a cooperative agreement with football, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein.**

Al Howland thinks that a cooperative agreement would allow kids to play, and it is a fair way to go. This can be reviewed every two years. Denise Day is in agreement with Al Howland. She noted that the cooperative hockey agreement with Portsmouth has gone well and she can support this knowing that this can be reviewed in two years. Dan Klein is also in agreement. There is no real consensus on the safety issues as of yet. The three towns fund and support a youth football team. Brian Cisneros also supports this program. Tom Newkirk will support this motion and thinks that it is an advantage for their kids to have this option. He thinks that it is a wonderful compromise and gives kids an option to have football. Tom thanked the parents for being articulate advocates for their children.

**The motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

The next option is to determine which program to move forward with. The Athletic Director noted that both programs are great. The Board thanked him for all the work that he has done on this.

**Al Howland moved to make a motion to move forward with a cooperative agreement with Portsmouth School, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein.**

Al Howland noted that there is already a cooperative agreement with Portsmouth for hockey and that it is a better fit for the District. Denise Day feels that either option would work well, but we already have an experience with a cooperative agreement with Portsmouth. Dan Klein is in agreement and thinks that the alignment of the start time with Portsmouth and that the football parents' community would prefer Portsmouth and that it is the logical choice.

**The motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.** Kenny Rotner rejoined the School Board meeting.

**Workshop Date for Homework and Questions the Board wants answered:**

There is a teacher group committee at the high school looking at the issue of homework. Suzanne Filippone reports that the committee has met three or four times and they have been reading a book called "Rethinking Homework".

Kenny Rotner asked if this is being looked at in the Middle School as well? Superintendent Morse replied that at this time it is the high school. Todd Allen

reported that the data is showing that homework questions are beginning in the eighth grade. Dan Klein feels that looking at homework is to understand its purpose and value. It is a worthwhile exercise to look at something that is very broad based and at least learn that it is doing what we want it to do. Al Howland wants to know how is homework being used as meaningful in the next lesson? How is it being of value? Are teachers aware of what other teachers are giving for homework? How does it coordinate with the student's other classes? Tom Newkirk wants to know how do you assess how long the homework will take? For some kids it may be taking far more time than teachers intended. Can the homework be more spread out through the semester rather than being backloaded to the end of the semester?

Kenny Rotner doesn't think this is just a high school issue. He looks at homework as instructional and to further engage learning. How many days of the week are teachers assigning homework? Is there coordination between subjects? What is the goal of homework and what is the purpose of the homework? How is this homework being utilized to make this a positive learning experiences?

The Student Representative thinks that keeping a homework log and stress levels is a great concept. She also thinks that the cell phone is a big distraction.

The Board talked about time management skills. Dan Klein has been impressed with the teachers walking the students through and focusing on time management skills at the middle school. A goal could be to challenge the assumption of homework by being able to better substantiate what it is for and finding ways to evaluate the energy invested.

Possible Board Workshop days to discuss homework are March 14 or 28.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS:**

**A. Superintendent Actions:** None

**B. Board Actions:**

**Motion to approve the list of MS/HS Spring Coaches:**

**High School:**

<b>Nicole Ricciardi</b>	<b>Head Outdoor Track</b>	<b>\$5,565</b>
<b>Scott McGrath</b>	<b>Boys Asst. Outdoor Track</b>	<b>\$3,373</b>
<b>Natalie Bilynski</b>	<b>.5 Girls Asst. Outdoor Track</b>	<b>\$1,686.50</b>
<b>Alex Johnson</b>	<b>.5 Girls Asst. Outdoor Track</b>	<b>\$1,686.50</b>
<b>James Thibault</b>	<b>Boys JV Baseball</b>	<b>\$2,660</b>
<b>Craig Walfield</b>	<b>Varsity Baseball</b>	<b>\$4,243</b>
<b>Glen Miller</b>	<b>Varsity Softball</b>	<b>\$4,168</b>
<b>Bob Heuchling</b>	<b>Girls Varsity Tennis</b>	<b>\$3,570</b>
<b>Sarah Merrill</b>	<b>Girls Varsity Lacrosse</b>	<b>\$4,093</b>
<b>Robert Hailey</b>	<b>Boys Varsity Lacrosse</b>	<b>\$4,093</b>
<b>Michael Pare</b>	<b>.5 Boys Tennis</b>	<b>\$1,597.50</b>
<b>Phil Lewis</b>	<b>.5 Boys Tennis</b>	<b>\$1,597.50</b>

**Middle School:**

<b>Dave Montgomery</b>	<b>MS Outdoor Track</b>	<b>\$2,620</b>
<b>Sunpreet Sadana</b>	<b>MS Outdoor Track</b>	<b>\$2,695</b>
<b>Nate Grove</b>	<b>MS Baseball</b>	<b>\$2,222</b>
<b>Brian Seeley</b>	<b>MS Softball</b>	<b>\$1,997</b>
<b>Emily Geltz</b>	<b>MS Outdoor Track</b>	<b>\$2,395</b>

**Al Howland moved to approve the above list of MS/HS Spring Coaches, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Motion to approve list of Policies:**

**Policies for a 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**

<b>IHCD</b>	<b>Advanced Course Work/Advanced Placement Courses</b>
<b>DGD</b>	<b>School District Credit Cards, or other Procurement Cards</b>

**Policies for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading/Adoption:**

<b>ADC</b>	<b>Use of Tobacco Products Strictly Prohibited</b>
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**Denise Day moved to approve the above Policies as a slate, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:** Kenny Rotner mentioned that during the budget process they did not approve the yellow sheet of a world language position. He is asking if it makes sense to revisit this earlier in the year. Superintendent Morse replied that until we know exactly where we stand in the budget it would be difficult to project this. We are also waiting to hear the exact number on health insurance. The balances are very tentative until about the April vacation time frame.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Dean Rubine of Lee would like the Board to look at the homework at the elementary schools and how much it varied between teachers.

Becky Cahill from Madbury asked what the calculation is for taxes. Do other districts use the same equations? The percentage for Madbury went up while the number of students declined. Superintendent Morse invited her to meet with him to discuss this.

**XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:**

01/22/18 Superintendent with Durham Town Council - Budget Update  
01/29/18 Superintendent with Town of Lee Select Board - Budget Update  
01/31/18 Manifest Review Meeting 6:30 p.m. ORHS Library  
2/05/18 Superintendent with Town of Madbury Select Board - Budget  
02/06/18 Session I - Deliberative Session 7:00 p.m. ORHS Auditorium  
02/07/18 Manifest Review 12:00 Noon – SAU Conference Room

**XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Superintendent's Evaluation**

**Kenny Rotner moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91 A:3 II (a), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0 at 8:35 p.m.**

Respectfully yours,  
Laura Grasso Dobson  
Recording Secretary