

Oyster River Cooperative School Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2023

DRAFT

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Paige Burt (Absent)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Suzanne Filippone, Sue Caswell, Rachael Blansett, Rebecca Noe

STAFF PRESENT: SRO Mike Nicolosi

GUEST PRESENT:

ABSENT: Dr. Morse, Catherine Plourde

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Michael Williams moved to approve the agenda as written, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Darren Keller of Lee shared a handout with the Board that explained his disagreement with Electric Vehicle (EV) charging of non-ORCSD vehicles at the middle school. He asked the Board to rescind their motion and eliminate electric charging rights to staff. He stated the chargers were purchased by the residents and 100% should go back to the taxpayers. He felt that charging was inequitable across the district, taxpayers who funded the solar array should be the ones to recoup, it's a large cost over the lifetime of the system & the daily rate was disingenuous. Regarding solar hours, Darren stated that charging before sunrise and after sunset would be fully off grid power, not solar, and when it's cloudy or the array is snow or ice covered there would be zero solar power used for charging. He argued that sustainability was overstated at the last meeting since he argued that EVs use the highest charging rate during initial plug in, which is early morning and no solar. He also said that the production of EV vehicles comes at an environmental impact and batteries in cold climates last only 8-12 years. He cautioned what the district pushes as sustainable and felt the memo from Dr. Morse was misleading.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the February 1st, 2023 Regular & Non-Public Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Matt Bacon.

Yusi Turell submitted the following addition to the regular meeting minutes:

Under the Discussion & Action Item titled "Comprehensive Update on Status of School Board Goals..." add the following statements to the last comment: "Yusi requested a list of the main tasks remaining on the way to a stable K12 competency-based system and each task's percent complete. Dr. Morse said that he and Suzanne would craft a progress report format to share with the Board for review."

Motion passed with addition 7-0.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District

Rebecca Noe of ORHS announced the following awards and commendations:

Swimming – Division 2 State Championship

BOYS - William Carrico set a new school record & UNH pool record for the 200 individual medley and a new school record for the 100 breaststroke. Boys won 4th overall with only 5 swimmers.

GIRLS - Jenna Parks finished 2nd in diving setting a new school record. Podium finishers included Libby Davidson for the 50 and 100 freestyle, Laura Kelly for the 100 breaststroke, and Una Bleckmann for the 200 freestyle. Girls placed 3rd overall.

Track & Field – Division 2 State Championship

GIRLS - Erin Carty, Mackenzie Cook, Haley Kavanagh, & Talia Banafato placed 1st in the 4x400 relay. Podium finishers included Mackenzie Cook for the 3000 & 1500, Haley Kavanagh for the 1500 & 1000, Avery Baumgardt for the long jump, Amalie Trump for the high jump, Erin Carty for the 55 hurdles and Erin Carty, Shea Sullivan, Avery Baumgardt & Talia Banafato for the 4x200 relay. Girls placed 1st overall.

BOYS –Ty Dorow, Keane Swiesz, Talon Oullette & Chris Jernigan placed 1st in the 4x400 relay. Ty Dorow placed 1st in the 300 and other podium finishers were Talon Ouellette for the 300, Chris Jernigan for the 600, Ty Dorow for the 55, Dan Doherty for the long jump and Keane Swiesz, Eli Mariacher, Ty Dorow, & Nick Jurrissen for the 4x200 relay. Boys placed 2nd overall.

Scholastic Art Competition

In the Scholastic Art Competition, the following students received awards:

Emily Macpherson – Gold & Honorable Mention

Sofia Self – Gold & Honorable Mention

Connor Wilson – Gold

Ana Figueiredo – Silver

Sebastian Gullo – Silver

Madeline Healey – Silver

Grace Wentworth – Silver & Honorable Mention

Abigail Frankiewicz – Honorable Mention

Jessica Li – Honorable Mention

Stella Pillet-Shore – Honorable Mention

Ella Roberge – Honorable Mention

Artwork from these extremely talented artists will be on display at the Durham Public Library.

In March playoffs will be held as well as the following:

3/2 Mental Health Panel from 6-8 pm at the ORHS auditorium

3/3 Progress Reports

3/20 Try outs start for Spring Sports

3/21 Barrington Course Night

3/22 PSATs (sophomores)/SATs (Juniors)

DEIJ Coordinator Rachael Blansett reminded the listening audience that Tona Brown will be visiting in late March. Advertising will begin after Feb. break, and it will include a link to register for the free concert. Tona will hold a master class with students, a meet & greet with students and staff, as well as a Q & A panel interview at UNH. Rachael shared that she held her first PD session “Let’s Talk About Race” with the elementary staff. Tomorrow there will be a session for the middle and high school teachers, and during the day she will be facilitating a BIPOC (Black, Indigenous & People of Color) student space during middle school FLEX. The next DEIJ Community Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 1st at 6 pm in the library.

B. Board

Denise Day enjoyed attending Moharimet’s recent 3rd grade chorus concert. She said the students looked like they were having a fun time and she congratulated them on their performance.

Heather Smith shared that the Winter Carnival sponsored by Moharimet's PTO was a huge success. It was held at the high school, and she gave a big shout out to custodians Marek and Salao for being so accommodating and great to work with. She also thanked art teacher Tricia Hall for having students create banners to decorate the hallway. Tricia is always supportive of extra art projects and puts in a lot of extra work for events.

Chair Michael Williams gave board members his personal notes on the capital planning process. He made a general recommendation for the Board to consider the current policies regarding committees, particularly the definition, hosting, and minutes.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

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

Sabbatical Committee Decision update

Suzanne Filippone reported that the Sabbatical Committee received three half-year sabbatical submissions and they forwarded the proposal by high school teacher Jen Weeks for approval. Jen's focus would be on developing curriculum for the advisory program "One Trusted Adult." This fall she would work closely with students, counselors, and administrators to create a 9-12 curriculum.

Denise Day moved to approve the sabbatical recommendation for the fall 2023 half-year proposal, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

B. Superintendent's Report – None provided

C. Business Administrator – None provided

D. Student Representative Report – None provided

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 the board had no concerns.

- Mast Way Librarian Letter of Retirement.
- ORMS Maternity Leave of Absence from April 4, 2023 through the end of school year and for the 2023-24 school year.

Michael Williams made a motion to approve the Unanimous Consent Agenda, 2nd by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

School Resource Officer (SRO) – Role and Responsibilities – Officer Michael Nicolosi

SRO Mike Nicolosi summarized his position for the Board. His role encompasses a wide range of responsibilities in and outside of the building, with a large focus on safety and supporting students. During mornings and afternoons Nicolosi monitors the traffic to help make it safer for vehicles, walkers, and cyclists, as well as to cut down the departure time. He investigates accidents and parking issues, speaks with unsafe drivers, and helps to address improper stopping for buses. He played a big part in the traffic planning for the new parking lot and assists at special events, such as vaccination clinics, voting, and graduation.

Officer Nicolosi's presence at school acts not only as a deterrent, but also as a vital liaison to emergency services. He has helped identify and improve safety deficiencies in addition to creating emergency operation plans and classroom flipcharts. His work involves conducting drills, making medical calls, locating missing students and responding to safety concerns that may have to do with the property, SAU, and student body.

Facilitating trainings for the staff and attending workshops are another part of Officer Nicolosi's responsibilities. He has led ALICE trainings for all four schools and several tabletop exercises, in addition to attending trainings on

a variety of topics that he feels may be helpful to his job. For example, he has participated in work centered around de-escalation, active shooter preparedness, bomb threat management, cyberbullying, vaping, addiction, youth mental health, and understanding implicit bias to name a few. Officer Nicolosi is also part of the educational day, taking part in forensic, health and driver's education classes, and classroom activities around the fourth amendment, internet safety as well as future planning with seniors.

Nicolosi feels the most important part of his job and what he enjoys the most is the relationships he forms with students and the school community. He is an active part of the school experience attending recess and gym classes, class fundraisers, student games, bicycle rodeos and even the 8th grade DC trip. Students call him when they need a ride to school and have no other means to get there, and to address truancy, he tries to find the root of the problem by working with parents in order to get a better outcome. On top of all that, Officer Nicolosi will fulfill any role needed, such as answering the phone in the front office and doing lunch duties when staff are out.

Yusi Turell stated how amazing it is to see the breadth of work that ranges from intimate conversations to safety for the building. She told Officer Nicolosi how fortunate the district is to have his positivity, creativity, and dedication.

Denise Day thanked Officer Nicolosi and thought it was interesting to see the wide range of activities he's involved in and the relationships he has across the district.

Michael Williams commented on how informative the work has been for the district, especially concerning safety and being a bridge between school and emergency services.

List of Policies for first read: BEDH & R – Public Comments at Board Meetings & Procedure, BIB & R – Board Members Development Opportunities & Procedure, EG – District Communication Plan, JJJ – Access to Public School Programs by Non-Public, Charter Schools and Home Education, Pupils, IHBG – Home Education.

Board members asked questions about the policies for first read. Regarding policy JJJ, Heather Smith asked if students would have 1:1 technology access to online resources. Since it is new law and a required policy, Denise Day said she will address this with the committee and bring the policy back to the next meeting. Policy BEDH-R will be revisited regarding the language in statement #1. Denise announced a change to Policy BEDH which included combining statements from #3 into #4.

Policies BEDH, BEDH-R and JJJ were removed from the motion for the committee to review and revise. Any changes will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

Denise Day made a motion to approve list of Policies for first read: BIB & BIB-R – Board Members for Development Opportunities & Procedure, EG – District Communication Plan, IHBG – Home Education, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

School Board Self Evaluations

The Board held its annual self-evaluation that is required by policy. Chair Michael Williams led a discussion of general observations regarding Board effectiveness, productivity, priorities, and overall outcomes. Each board member was given the opportunity to speak, and their summarized points are as follows:

Michael Williams – He stated that this year the Board was able to return to ordinary topics and they did an overall good job with statutory obligations.

Paige Burt – (written comments shared by Michael) She appreciated that she could ask questions and be actively involved, and she felt her voice was valued. She felt the Board generally cares about school and student experiences.

Denise Day – As her 9th year, she felt it was also the smoothest year, especially since there was no derailment from hot button topics. She thanked Michael for his leadership stating that the board functioned effectively and thoughtfully. She felt hiring a DEIJ Coordinator and Communications Specialist were noteworthy accomplishments.

Brian Cisneros – He agreed with Denise's comments and shared that although the budget worked out well it wasn't the process and budget they wanted. He said the city can present challenges with issues regarding policy

and budget, but he felt that overall, the Board uses procedures and processes that work well, and they provide a good level of service.

Matt Bacon – He agreed with the previous comments made and added that he'd like to see board members take on more of the burden of the goals since it falls mostly on administration and faculty.

Heather Smith – She felt there was progress made on many goals, noting the hiring of a superintendent search firm and a communications specialist. In terms of the grading and reporting changes made at ORMS, she would like to have had the parent/student feedback prior to the second round of progress reports as was discussed. Regarding new positions and their roll out, she wondered how the board can provide support to the superintendent and administration during unfavorable reactions or sticky situations that arise.

Yusi Turell – She felt the Board was efficient and attempted to build systems of accountability, and she liked the process for goal development. Regarding competencies, she felt they made development, but she wished they got further with political and community facing questions. She enjoyed the presentations by students and administration and her only concern was for documentation and follow through of any requests made during them with a timely follow up.

Dan Klein – He credited new members Matt and Heather for hitting the ground running. He felt the Board is in a good place and is well-equipped for the changes that lie ahead.

Suzanne Filippone – She felt there was a lot of movement toward goals, and she would like to see the student perspective continued.

In closing, Michael encouraged board members to consider the benefit of contributing more individually and what that might look like. He recognized that their competency work is not finished but they have made gains, specifically toward transition.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Manifest Committee met and completed the following manifests.

Payroll Manifest #16 Total is \$1,090,443.81

Vendor Manifest #17 Total is \$424,915.58

Brian Cisneros let the Board know that the commissioner may be making changes to licensing that would reduce the number of requirements for positions, including administrative ones.

Heather Smith provided a Sustainability update. She said they are still working on their goals for reducing waste since there is contention and discomfort in students manning the bins, which was a solution they had previously discussed. They are starting to prepare for Earth Week at the middle and high schools, and regarding the Community Dinner, they had 300 people attend making it a huge success. They hope to organize another one for April.

Matt Bacon reported that the Wellness Committee is currently looking into how to best show and navigate information on the webpages. He thanked counselors for all the hard work they do.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Darren Keller of Lee let the Board know that the audio was bad from where he was sitting tonight, which was behind the Board in the first row. He felt the acoustics may be great for musical performances but not for speaking. Yusi agreed stating there was difficulty hearing during the Deliberative Session.

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: March 1, 2023 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM MS Recital Hall
 March 22, 2023 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM MS Recital Hall –
{This meeting moved from March 15th due to Later Voting Day}
 April 5, 2023 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM MS Recital Hall

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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 8:20 pm, 2nd by Heater Smith. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper