

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Additional Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2021

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT: Dan Klein, Tom Newkirk, Denise Day, Michael Williams, Al Howland, Yusi Turell, Brian Cisneros. **Student Representative:**

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: James Morse,

STAFF PRESENT:

GUEST PRESENT:

CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Tom Newkirk

Tom Newkirk stated that they will begin using a round robin method of allowing each Board member to speak for 5 minutes.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Denise Day stated that in the past one major issue with COVID it was constant decision making. We lacked time to delve into issues as the COVID world was against us.

Perhaps a task force would have helped.

I felt a little bit out of touch with issues/communication breakdown at the Board Level.

We need to hire a note taker, not fair to Wendy.

We need to avoid adding items to the agenda at the last minute ~ if not available by Monday – delay unless it is an emergency.

Al Howland stated that the budget process was phenomenal.

The reports on blended and synchronous learning ~ let's keep revising.

What did we learn – technology, homework, learning lab.

Springing solutions for us. Lack of supporting materials (plausible deniability) limited choices/make recommendations. Context, why and recommendations.

Keeping everyone in the loop ~ send it to us.

Clear pathway to where we are going. Elementary presentation is an example.

Michael Williams stated MS bond/School up. A lot of crap/no overreaction.

Good progress on communication.

Lack of process ~ no clear goals. What does success look like?

Squishy motions – share the motions in writing.

My bringing budget late was frustrating to all.

Finance committee not seeing the budget before all.

Concerned about rubber stamping.

Guess what we want ~ not what educators recommend

Right-to-Know policies – review with Gordon.

Thomas Newkirk stated that the Budget was approved at 78%/New Middle School passed Board taking decision roles rather than administrators.

Questioned the process of elementary model ~ little to go on.

Administrator opinion/teacher opinion.

Brian Cisneros stated to provide motions in writing.
Communications/Board decisions not translated to community.
We need to stick together as a group.
Put explanations out there ~ Change from governor not from Board.
Strategic Plan ~ more foundation for budget process/does it fit the plan.
Finance committee was great.
Communicate it ~ be more decisive.
Administration listen – what can we do?
More on consent ~ speed it up.

Yusi Turell stated it is a plus that the group of people who come together is real here.
What is normal/what is different.
Trying to understand relationship between administration and Board.
Recommendation at end eliminates decision making along the way.
Does the administration/capacity of leaders in crisis.
Think about non-teacher representative on the Board.
I want to acknowledge that my out of the box thinking can be disruptive.

Dan Klein stated that Brian hit on something critical. Mutual respect/do not overreact.
We need to do a better job articulating expectations.
Can we define our process better?
Project management style.
Create a running list of those things ~ parking lot.
Set up administration better so that administration is not walking on eggshells.
We come from a position of strength.

Tom Newkirk began the next phase of the meeting with suggestions of the changes.

1. Agenda development process.
 - a. Council communications
 - i. What is this about
 - ii. Provide supporting materials
 - iii. Submitted to Chair/Vice-chair ~ Chair does not decide 100% of all requests.
2. With all motions.

Yusi Turell ~ plan agenda over weeks and months.

Denise Day ~ the policy procedure currently provides opportunities for multiple opportunities to provide input.

Yusi Turell ~ work plan for strategic plan example world language. Questions to guide the outcome.
Be able to have conversations without being vetted to an idea.

Dan Klein ~ the middle school process was extremely well done.
Create timeline with milestones. Things change over time.
Report back to ourselves and to administration.
Board representing committees – Board reports to itself.

Dan Klein – How/what can we learn from others?
Opportunity to hear from others.
How's evaluation going?
Highlights of what is going on.
In dealing with community it is good to know what is going on.

Brian Cisneros suggested having a Board representative on Governance committee.

X. ACTIONS

A. Board Action Items: Discussion:

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. James C. Morse, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools