

# Oyster River Cooperative School Board

## Regular Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2022

DRAFT

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

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:** Olivia Gass

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Jim Morse, Suzanne Filippone, David Goldsmith, Jay Richard, Rebecca Noe, Catherine Plourde, Sue Caswell, Melissa Jean, Kim Felch, Andrea Biniszkiewicz

**STAFF PRESENT:**

**GUEST PRESENT:** Erik Walsh, Kompan Rep.

**ABSENT:**

### **I. CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Dr. Morse**

Dr. Morse announced that the position of school board chairperson was up for nomination.

**Denise Day made a motion to nominate Michael Williams as school board chairperson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative. Michael Williams abstained.**

Michael thanked the Board for their support and asked for nominations for vice chair.

**Dan Klein nominated Denise Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Yusi Turell. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative. Denise Day abstained.**

### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Morse asked to move the Middle School Playground Update to after Public Comment.

**Brian Cisneros moved to approve the agenda as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

Michael congratulated the two new board members Heather Smith and Matt Bacon and had them introduce themselves. Heather Smith is from Durham and has a fifth grader and a first grader in the district. She is thrilled to be here and honored to be selected. Matt Bacon is from Madbury and has five kids in the district. He thanked everyone who gave their support and congratulated him on being elected.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

William Hall of Durham stated that if there is a temporary downturn in numbers at any point it does not mean they will stay. He is happy with the accommodations for the current population of students, and he said that we should not lose sight of that or negative problems that could impact that. He recently spoke to a student new to the district who felt that academically the school is noticeably different, and she is challenged more than her previous district. As far as bidding goes, Tom said he is not the least bit concerned with competitive bidding.

Dean Rubine of Lee and the Match Counts Coach of the Middle School announced that seven students are going to the state finals on March 31<sup>st</sup>. He congratulated the newly elected board members and the school board for winning all the warrant articles.

Richard England of Durham, a long-term resident and retired UNH professor, spoke about the DEIJ coordinator position. He stated it could help promote racial equality and harmony but there is a risk it could amplify them depending on who is selected and their educational agenda. He explained the "1619 Project", a campaign about slavery that was shaped by journalists, not historians, that suffered from numerous errors of fact and reasoning. It was adopted by some school districts, and he would not like to see "1619" promoted in our district. Richard

said he sees every child having untapped potential regardless of skin color and to sort children could presume them to be privileged and presume them to be victims.

### Middle School Playground Update

Jay Richard shared a site map of the new playground and said input from the PTO and parent volunteers were part of the process for selecting the manufacturer Kompan. Erik Walsh, a representative from Kompan, gave an overview of each piece of equipment made of galvanized steel and 72% green material. Equipment includes the Explorer Dome, Cocowave Pendulum Swing, Net Twister, BLOQX3 Climber, Spinner Bowl, and Supernova which is the #1 piece of play equipment in the world.

Board members raised questions about if there will be an area for four-square, the construction timeline, the surface material, and playground accessibility. Jay explained that in addition to the Kompan equipment, there will be a field turf for soccer and football as well as a paved area with three basketball hoops and two four-square courts. Although this is also the delivery area, Jay said the drivers will be encouraged to arrive after recess or will need to wait until the area is clear of students. The construction will occur the third week of June and should take three weeks. Eric explained the surface material is engineered wood fiber, in other words wood chips, that will not cause splinters and the playground will be accessible for all children including those with mobility issues. He said it is designed to be inclusive and universal, exceeding the ADA guidelines. Jay explained that students will exit the back of the building to access the playground, and everyone will reenter through the front entrance for security purposes. Dr. Morse and Jay spoke about the possibility of a swing set near the turf field so little kids are entertained while parents are watching middle school sports. They are still looking into the best spot for this. They are considering keeping the old bicycle racks, which will be near the field, and putting new ones by the school since there are a large amount of bicycle riders to school and after school sports.

### Raising of the old middle school

The deconstruction of the old middle school is slated to begin April 4<sup>th</sup> and should take three weeks starting at the old gym. Visual asbestos has already been abated, and they are now working on the internal asbestos. Jay said he will be holding a fundraiser with bricks from the original building, and they will be available to the public by donation of any amount.

## **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Denise Day moved to approve the March 2, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros.**

Denise Day submitted the following revision:

On page 5 the heading should be LRPC not LRPS.

**Motion passed with correction 5-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative. Heather Smith and Matt Bacon abstained.**

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

### **A. District**

David Goldsmith of Moharimet spoke about Friday's upcoming Teacher Workshop Day that was collaborated with Mast Way to include full K-4 work and involvement with the fifth grade. In connection to the District Strategic Plan, they will hold Reading Workshops led by consultants and specialists, as well as work on multi-tiered systems of support for effectiveness and efficiency beyond the classroom. David gave compliments to Durham Parks & Rec and 7 Rivers for their afterschool activities, as well as Destination Imagination Groups who had their big statewide exhibitions. A new Art Club ran by an ORHS sophomore will meet on Wednesdays and is welcoming new members.

Jay Richard of ORMS told the audience there will be 500 old 1935 bricks stenciled with "ORMS 1935-2022" available for any donation amount. This information will be provided in the Durham Updates, and anyone interested can reach out to the middle school. Jay reported there is a lot going on with clubs, including the DEI team getting second place at a state tournament, Math Counts led by Dean Rubine and Ruth Gehling will be taking seven kids to states and the Robotics Club led by Josh Silverio and Jason Duff will be taking three teams to the World Champions in May.

Jay provided an update on the eighth grade D.C. trip being coordinated by Trish LaBarre of Ski93 Trips. Adults taking the 120 eighth graders to D.C. from April 23-26<sup>th</sup> include ORMS staff, the Safety Resource Officer, the school nurse, Bill Sullivan, and Jay Richard.

Rebecca Noe of ORHS shared that students did very well at the New Balance Nationals and Coach Ricciardi was extremely impressed. The SASS Science testing started this week, the PSAT's and SAT's will take place next Wednesday, and two virtual events will be coming up. On March 30<sup>th</sup> Tonya Brown will work with the orchestra during school and that evening the student DEIJ committee will host a virtual community event about "Identity & Intersectionality." On March 31<sup>st</sup> Katie Greer will present to the middle and high school on Digital Citizenship during advisory/flex and that evening she will provide a virtual parent presentation. Rebecca said on Friday at the Teacher Workshop Day teachers will participate in three sessions, two by topic choice and one as individual work time. The choices for development include Adaptive Technology for All, Database, Competency Based Teaching Share-a-thon, Equity Pulse with NH Listens, Discovery Education and Canva. A team building event called Amazing Race (Bobcat style) will take place at the end of the day.

David Goldsmith made an additional announcement that the elementary school students are also taking part in the Digital Citizenship at the second-4<sup>th</sup> grade levels and all parents can attend the night session via Teams.

**B. Board** - None provided

## **VI. DISTRICT REPORTS**

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

#### COVID METRIC

Catherine Plourde had no new metrics to report since last time the Board met due in part to shrinking data and how data is collected.

She shared the following local data still being collected from the schools:

Mast Way/Moharimet – 0 positive cases  
 Middle School – 1 positive case  
 High School – 3 positive cases (no longer positive)

She also reported the following local data for COVID cases:

Barrington – 1-4  
 Lee, Madbury – 1-4  
 Dover – 12  
 Durham – 42 (many are UNH)

Catherine said they are witnessing an uptick in illness with the removal of masks. Viruses, stomach bugs, and flu are all natural and normal considering the significant change our bodies are facing without masks. She said there is an increase in kids coming to school sick and reminded parents that with fevers and throwing up students will still need a negative COVID test to remain in school. The district still has a good supply of home, rapid, and PCR tests.

### Assessing & Monitoring Student Growth – Part 3

Suzanne Filippone stated that Part 3 of the series will provide an overview of MTSS Interventions for Tier 2/3 by looking at how it happens at each building level. She explained that some pieces of the process are developmental and therefore school based, but regardless of the building teams meet weekly either by grade or building level with a variety of staff, such as the school psychologist, counselors, teachers, and administrators. In these meetings they look at data and examine it to identify students that need support in a different way, and then find more specific information about those students. The team will identify an intervention, decide who will provide it and how it will be implemented. During an intervention data is reviewed again for effectiveness to make any adjustments, which may include the duration and intensity, since the amount of time varies based on a particular need. The goal is for a student to show growth and exit the intervention. Multi-tiered supports are largely successful due in part to the collective staff who have a strong belief in individualization of education for students.

David Goldsmith of Moharimet explained that at both elementary schools, Tier 2/3 supports are provided to students who have a need that is significantly greater than the classroom teachers can support. For example, in reading, a parent or teacher can show a concern for a student needing targeted help that is beyond the general reading help. An example of a Tier 2 intervention would be a student spending time in the classroom to access the reading lesson and then leaving to work with a specialist for a certain time and duration to get them closer to grade level. Specialist work may include decoding, fluency, and comprehension.

Denise Day asked when students would move to Tier 3. David explained the process is the same, the difference between tiers is how big the size gap is to reach grade level. A student in Tier 2 might receive 30 minutes of specialized instruction four times a week, while a student in Tier 3 may see an increased time of 45-60 minutes four or five times a week.

Yusi Turell asked how the parent communication looks and David said the classroom teacher will communicate with the individual parents, but they are currently working on a more formal process to inform the parents.

Denise Day asked if this support crosses with special education. Catherine explained that an IEP gives a specific service time and if another need outside the IEP is identified the student could receive the Tier 2/3 support and/or an IEP meeting could be held to discuss if this need should have formal goals and objectives to track progress. Catherine said generally if a student is on Tier 3, and they are not in special education then the team discusses if a referral should be made so it is not a wait to fail model. A big advantage to MTSS is the collaboration of shared expertise between regular and special education.

Jay Richard of ORMS stated that MTSS interventions follow a similar process and take place every day during Bobcat Time. Andrea Biniszkiwicz, Director of Special Ed., said they hold academic meetings at grade, team and student specific levels, and parents can reach out with concerns too. A data team also meets quarterly to look at changes in student academics or behaviors. Counseling Director Kim Felch spoke about MTSS with regards to skills in social/emotional learning (SEL) outside of mental illness. She said they look at attendance, nurse info, counseling, frequency leaving the classroom, and disciplinary office referrals. For example, a student may be identified with a need to receive self-regulation skills beyond Tier 1. She said in a robust Tier 1 classroom teachers are providing all students with similar expectations and behaviors that will address these skills, but consistency is key. Kim explained that the consistency factor was impacted by COVID and remote learning, and as a result a lot of SEL work was done at the beginning of the year.

Rebecca Noe of ORHS and Melissa Jean, Assistant Director of Student Services, discussed a recent Tier 1 intervention at the high school level. Rebecca explained that post remote learning teachers have seen an increase in student cell phone use during classroom time. She said students seem to have become more dependent on their phones because of increased technology use during COVID. During advisory time teachers and students talked about cell phone use and reviewed the policies.

Melissa explained the MTSS teams use PowerSchool data to identify students. For example, if a student has a lot of missing work, but there are no academic concerns about ability, then they look at other factors, such as their executive functioning skills. She shared they have begun their second session of a 6-week Executive Functioning Skills intervention group for a small number of students. They receive direct instruction in areas of time

management, planning, and self-advocacy during their flex period. Students and teachers take a pre and post survey to look for measurable growth and upon completion students may go to monitor status or the team will identify further interventions and areas of support.

Yusi asked if flagging students who need to be challenged would also be appropriate in this system and Catherine explained that it would not be a part of MTSS which is designed to provide “support”, but it could be a part of extensions and higher order thinking. She said students tend to receive challenging opportunities in the classroom since teachers can differentiate instruction and assignments.

Dr. Morse closed the presentation stating that MTSS is an evolving program that started five years ago and will continue to improve and be redefined. He said it is designed to grow and evolve with the needs of the students and he thanked all the buildings for the work they have done so far.

## **B. Superintendent’s Report**

Middle School Playground Update – Moved to follow Public Comment

Raising of the old Middle School – Moved to follow Public Comment

## **C. Business Administrator**

### E-Rate Bid

Josh Olstad spoke about the federal ERate program that was established to help bring internet into K-12 classrooms. He reviewed two bidders that could cover the district’s internet connection, Consolidated and First Light, and gave his recommendation for First Light. He pointed out it is a lower bid than the competitor and it will double the capacity of their current First Light connection while reducing the cost.

**Denise Day made a motion to approve the proposal from First Light for the Internet connection in the amount of \$26,100, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros.**

Heather Smith asked about the current consumption to which Josh stated it is 800 megabytes and the new proposal will provide 2 gigabytes.

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

### MS22

Sue Caswell informed the Board of the MS22 form that reflects the amounts from the approved warrants and needed signing from each member.

**Brian Cisneros made a motion to accept the MS22 as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Yusi Turell. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

### Tennis Court Contractor Decision

Facilities Director Jim Rozycki provided two proposals for the new tennis courts since the project consists of two parts – site work and the actual building of the four courts from paving up. He received multiple bids for each project and recommended for site work McKenna Construction for \$242,000 based on vendor preference and price and for court finishing Vermont Tennis for \$241,380 based on reputation and price.

**Denise Day made a motion to accept bids for McKenna Construction in the amount of \$240,000 for site work and Vermont Tennis in the amount of \$241,380 for paving the court and court finishing, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros.**

The Board asked about the construction timeline. Jim said the project will start in mid-June right after final exams and is expected to be done by the first or second week of September. It was also asked why the cost is less than originally estimated and Jim explained that the volatility of the market for labor, metal and supply materials

factored into a higher estimate to be on the safe side, but prices did not go up as much as expected. Since the final cost did not exceed the quote, the district will not need to use any emergency funds.

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

#### Air Handlers

Jim Rozycki explained that three air handler units are overdue to be replaced at Moharimet. While they have been maintained and still work, they are original to the building built in 1988. Due to current HVAC market challenges with long lead times, he received quotes from two out of four bids and recommended ENE for \$78,950 based on vendor preference and price.

**Brian Cisneros made a motion to accept the bid for ENE in the amount of \$78,850 for three air handler unit replacements, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

#### **D. Student Representative Report**

Olivia Gass welcomed Matt and Heather to the Board. She announced that on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm there will be a fun game show style event called “Besties, Baes, Bros and Broods” with a \$5 charge to support the Junior Class (this event is only open to students) and on April 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a Senior Class Mattress Fundraiser, which also includes the sale of pillows and pillow toppers. She reported that the Senior Core opened and thanked Noe on behalf of the Senior Class for making it possible. Olivia said students are happy and feel it is a great step moving forward to how things used to be. Regarding the Krispy Kreme fundraiser, they sold all but six boxes and she thanked everyone that bought a box and voted that day. Proceeds will go toward Senior week and activities.

**E. Finance Committee Report** – None provided

#### **F. Other:**

Dr. Morse said he received Andy Lathrop’s spring nominations for coaches and volunteers.

Dr. Morse described artist submissions received for murals that will be featured in the Middle School Commons. They chose an artist and are going over minor modifications. A second artist who submitted artwork with inspirational sayings has been contacted to see about making a display in the stairwells. New artwork is expected to be on display this fall.

Denise Day asked if the artwork was being done voluntarily or for pay and Dr. Morse replied it is paid work since the Middle School budget included \$25,000 for artwork.

#### **VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**

Michael Williams reminded the Board that the Unanimous Consent Agenda consists of items that may not require discussion. He asked if any items needed to be discussed and there were no concerns from the Board.

Nominate and approve Continuing Contract Professional Staff Members as submitted by the Superintendent.

ORHS Maternity Leave of Absence May 31, 2022 to End of Year and a 1-Year Leave of Absence for 2022-2023

Approval for second read/adoption of Policy GEA – Hiring of Coaches

**Michael Williams made a motion to approve the Unanimous Consent Agenda as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

**VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

Dr. Morse asked Board members to give Wendy their first and second preferences for board and superintendent committees they would like serve on by March 25<sup>th</sup>. He said he would like the Sabbatical Committee to take on Tom's suggestion for redefining the purpose and he would like to reactivate the World Language Committee. He would also like to see a new committee formed, separate from the DEIJ Committee, for the advertising and hiring process of the DEIJ Coordinator to include two board members acting as a liaison to the larger board. He reminded the Board that they do not need expertise in the committees they choose, rather they should have an interest in connecting these groups to the school board. Each member went around the table providing an overview of the committee they served on.

Committees include Policy, Finance, Negotiations, Manifest, District Technology (based on needs and district work that's been done Dr. Morse doesn't think it's necessary anymore), Wellness, Sustainability, Long Range Planning, Sabbatical, Equity, Communications, World Language, DEIJ Coordinator (will be newly formed) and a NHSBA Delegate, which attends the NH School Board Association meetings to lead or weigh in on issues at a state level.

**IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES - None provided**

The Manifest Committee met and completed the following manifests.

Vendor Manifest #20 \$1,111,179.02

Payroll Manifest #18 \$977,419.63

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None.**

**XI. CLOSING ACTIONS**

- a. **Future Meeting Dates:** March 30, 2022 Manifest Review Meeting – SAU 3:30 PM  
April 6, 2022 Regular Board Meeting – Location to be determined  
April 20, 2022 Regular Board Meeting – Location to be determined

- XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** RSA 91-A:3 II {If needed}  
**NON-MEETING SESSION:** RSA 91-A2 I {If needed}

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Brian Cisneros moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper