

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Emergency Meeting

April 1, 2020

ORHS - Library

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT VIA ROLL CALL VOTE: Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Tom Newkirk, Denise Day, Michael Williams, Kenny Rotner, Al Howland

Student Representative:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT VIA REMOTE ACCESS: James Morse, Sue Caswell, Suzanne Filippone.

STAFF PRESENT:

There were no members of the public present or anyone present with the Board Members at their remote locations.

Tom Newkirk read the following statement:

As Chair of the Oyster River Cooperative School Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing Microsoft Teams for this electronic meeting.¹ All members of the School Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 1-917-768-2821 and ID Code 293 560 289#, or by clicking on the following website address: <http://www.orcsd.org/stream>

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Microsoft Team or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the ORCSD Board Agenda for 04/01/20.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem, please call 603-280-4202 or email at: orcsd-video@orcsd.org.

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

I. CALL TO ORDER at 7:03 PM by Superintendent Morse

Jim opened the meeting by thanking everyone involved that made this remote meeting possible. He began with asking the Board for a nomination as Chair for the School Board.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Brian Cisneros nominated Tom Newkirk for Chair 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed via roll call vote 6-0-1 with Tom Newkirk abstaining.

Tom Newkirk opened the nominations for Vice Chair.

Brian Cisneros nominated Denise Day for Vice-Chair, 2nd by Tom Newkirk.

Tom Newkirk asked if there was any discussion.

Al Howland nominated Michael Williams for Vice-Chair, 2nd by Kenny Rotner.

Tom Newkirk asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none he reminded the Board of the responsibilities of the vice-chair in the absence of the Chair. He also outlined other responsibilities of the position that need to be performed including bi-weekly agenda setting meetings at the SAU.

Tom Newkirk asked for a roll call vote for Denise Day as the Vice-Chair. Voting results were: 4-2-1 with Al Howland, Kenny Rotner, Dan Klein, Michael Williams voting no. Tom Newkirk and Brian Cisneros voting yes, and Denise Day abstaining.

Tom Newkirk asked for a roll call vote for Michael Williams as the Vice-Chair. Voting results were: 4-2-1 with Al Howland, Kenny Rotner, Dan Klein, Michael Williams voting yes. Tom Newkirk and Brian Cisneros voting no, and Denise Day abstaining.

Motion passed for Michael Williams as the Board Vice Chair with a roll call vote of 4-2-1 as depicted above.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Tom Newkirk stated that he sees three items that will require a possible decision this evening: Calendar issues, HS Grading and Manifest procedure during this emergency.

Tom Newkirk moved to approve the agenda as amended, 2nd by Michael Williams. Motion passed via roll call vote 7-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jim Morse stated that we did receive one public comment from Dean Rubin of Lee that he will read into the minutes.

“Congratulations on your reelections Michael and Denise.

I was wondering what happens if there are a significant number of people who don't pay their property taxes this year due to events. Is there any planning along these lines? Is there any thought to delaying construction of the new school? What bond rate did we get?

Thanks to all of you for your service in these trying times.”

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve March 4th and March 16th regular meeting minutes:

Revisions:

Page 7 of the March 4th meeting fifth paragraph under Discussion Items, add the word “goals” to the end of the sentence.

Page 5 of the March 16th meeting fifth paragraph first sentence replace “expressed” with “praised and end with that sentence, deleting the remaining three.

Denise Day moved to approve both the March 4th and March 16th minutes with the above revisions, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with roll call vote 6-0-1 with Kenny Rotner abstaining.

Tom Newkirk asked if we should vote on the district treasurer nomination at this time. There was no objection.

Denise Day moved to approve the election of Lisa Harling as the ORCSD District Treasurer for the 2020-21 school year, 2nd by Michael Williams. Motion passed with roll call vote of 7-0.

~~V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS:~~

~~A. District:~~

~~B. Board:~~

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:

~~A. Assistant Superintendent Reports:~~

B. Superintendent’s Report:

Jim began by stating that it has been an adventurous couple of weeks and expressed his deep appreciation for all the hard work that the staff, students, and families are doing as they adjust to the remote learning. In all of his 44 years in education, he has never experienced anything like this.

Jim again commended our administrators for coordinating all of the different aspects of remote learning. He stated that Josh and his team are working long hours and are like magicians keeping everything running smoothly. The technology integrators have been a tremendous asset to our teachers and support staff, answering their questions and overseeing Schoology, Microsoft teams and creating tutorial videos for these programs. He also recognized our teachers who hit the ground running on the first day and are working all hours to support our students. Our paraeducators are also supporting our teachers as well as helping out with the school nutrition department packing lunches, with transportation by packing education bags for student drop off.

In addition, all of our paraeducators have been issued laptops. Our School Nutrition department is providing breakfast and lunches to any student/family that request them. We have heard that the USDA has expanded our school nutrition program beyond the April 30th deadline. I want to recognize Doris Demers as a tireless advocate that was in constant contact with Concord everyday inquiring about the extension of our program. Our transportation department staff are working hard making sure that food and learning material is being delivered to our students. They have shared with me their stories of children making signs and waving when they pull up for deliveries.

Jim went on to say that even with all of the positive, we still have hiccups and that our biggest issue is how do we do this for the long term. Originally this was two and half weeks, now possibly the end of the year. With that in mind I am proposing to the Board that we continue to teach through April vacation in order to end the school year earlier and also to waive the lost snow days.

Calendar/Other Issues

Jim directed the Board to the memo from Todd Allen in their packets regarding the proposed calendar. It outlines the recommendations by the Leadership Team for the ORCSD to follow for as long as we are operating in a remote learning environment. It outlines a system of re-learning or catch up/planning days. These days would not have any new material introduced by teachers. These days would allow students to re-learn concepts, catch up on work, or engage in enriching activities.

This would start the week of March 30th – April 3rd and designates the following dates as Re-learning days: Friday, April 3rd, Monday, April 13th for MS and HS as it corresponds with the transition to the 4th quarter, Tuesday, April 14th, Friday, April 24th, and Friday, May 1st. If remote learning continues beyond May 1st, we will continue with re-learning days every Friday.

The Board had a brief discussion and asked clarifying questions. Jim asked Suzanne to join the remote meeting to outline Remote Learning and Q4 grades.

HS Issues (Suzanne Filippone)

Suzanne Filippone, HS Principal explained that the transition to remote learning has been both challenging and successful but is not complete. She stated that it is important to look at all aspects of our current system and evaluate equity, effectiveness and appropriateness for students and learning. Our goal is to create a structure which honors our mission and allows for equitable and appropriate practices that honor student learning and alleviates unnecessary stress in a time of uncertainty for students and teachers. Suzanne's proposal is that they move to a pass/fail or credit/no credit model for the fourth quarter. This change to our current practices would allow students and teachers to focus on instruction and students demonstrating that they have learned the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn as they progress through their course work. This request is made due to the reality that in a remote learning setting we cannot guarantee equity and fairness in accessibility for our students. Moving to a different system allows students and teachers the ability to shift focus on learning during a time of

uncertainty and stress. Suzanne outlined what the difference was for the two different scenarios: Yearlong classes and Semester 2 classes. She explained that in either scenario students must pass Q4 in order to pass the class.

The Board had a brief discussion surrounding remote learning, the proposed calendar, including working through April vacation, possible suggested changes to creating long weekends and the proposed changes in grading.

Tom Newkirk asked if the Board was ready to make a motion to remove April vacation from the calendar and make this week a part of the school year for teaching.

Kenny Rotner made a motion to remove April vacation from the school calendar and make it a week of teaching with the stipulation that the Superintendent develop a plan to build in a few three-day weekends, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed with roll call vote of 7-0.

Tom Newkirk asked if we should vote on the snow days.

Brian Cisneros asked if we should set the last day of school taking into consideration the removal of April vacation and the snow days.

Jim felt that situations are changing daily and that we are hearing from the commissioner on a weekly basis with these changes and updates. He will keep the Board informed as he gets the updates.

Tom asked Jim to address the Manifest Meetings proposal. Jim explained that we are practicing social distancing at the SAU, and taking that in consideration, he is proposing that we suspend the manifest review meetings during this emergency and have Sue act as an agent of the Board.

The Board asked if a summary sheet could be created with a threshold component.

Denise Day moved to authorize Susan Caswell to act as an agent for the School Board for approval of the manifest during this emergency, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with roll call vote of 7-0.

Food Program Update

Jim explained that he covered most of this under his initial report, but again stated that he was amazed and proud of all of the effort that is being accomplished to help our students and families with food preparation, and again the extension by the USDA for our school nutrition program.

Middle School Update

Jim explained that they just completed a remote meeting for the new middle school with the architect and builder and is happy to report that equipment will be on the property beginning the first week in May.

C. Business Administrator:

Bus Bid

Sue explained that Lisa went out to bid to lease/purchase two new buses for the upcoming school year. Sue explained that they have gone with the company they have used in the past and that she will bring the lease back to the Board at a later meeting.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the bus bid, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed with roll call vote of 7-0.

Roof Bid

Sue referenced the Moharimet Roof Re-Coating Bid that was included in the back up. She explained that they want to go with BR Jones Roofing who they have used in the past.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the roof bid, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed with roll call vote of 7-0.

FY20 Budget Update

Sue Caswell reported out to the Board that the current budget is running close to where we were at this time last year. She was concerned with the substitute line at the time of printing this report, but now we will be fine.

Brian Cisneros asked if this would mean that we do not need to access the trust funds.

Michael Williams asked if there were any other areas of concern since we have begun the remote learning? Are there other areas that are over or expenses that are accelerating due to the remote learning?

Jim explained that we will be doing a report for balances of the budget by the end of April and would be able to provide a better financial balance at that time. He felt that the COVID-19 emergency is not costing us anymore than what we already budgeted and that there is a possibility of Federal reimbursement. He will keep the Board updated.

Brian Cisneros asked if there are no spring sports would these stipends get paid out?

Jim explained that he cannot provide an answer to that at this time but went on to say that this is a discussion happening at the state level and he will get back to the Board if an answer is provided.

~~D. Student Senate Report:~~

~~E. Other:~~

~~F. VII. DISCUSSION ITEM:~~

VIII. ACTIONS

A. Superintendent Action Items: None

B. Board Action Items:

Approve Non-Continuing Contracts

Denise Day made a motion to nominate and approve Non -Continuing Contract Professional Staff Members as submitted by the Superintendent, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed roll call vote of 7-0.

~~X. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:~~

~~A. Manifests Reviewed and Approved by Manifest Committee:~~

~~Denise Day and Dan Klein reviewed the manifests.~~

~~Payroll Manifest #~~

~~Vendor Manifest #~~

~~X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:~~

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:

A. Future Meeting Dates: 4/15/20 Regular Board Meeting –Remote Meeting 7:00 PM

~~XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91 A:3 II {If Needed}~~

~~NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91 A:2 I {If Needed}~~

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Brian Cisneros made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., 2nd by Michael Williams. Motion passed with a roll call vote of 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy L. DiFruscio
Executive Assistant to
Superintendent of Schools