

Oyster River Cooperative School Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2024

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT: Matt Bacon, Heather Smith, Denise Day, Brian Cisneros, Giana Gelsey, Kelly Ickes

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Maeve Hickock

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Morse, Suzanne Filippone

STAFF PRESENT:

GUEST PRESENT:

ABSENT:

o. MANIFEST REVIEW/APPROVAL AT EACH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

I. CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Chair Matt Bacon.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by Denise Day.

Matt Bacon made the following amendments: move the Student Presentation and Sabbatical Conclusion to the April 17, 2024, board meeting.

Motion passed with amendment 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS –None provided.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the March 20, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Denise Day.

Kelly Ickes made the following revision: On page 2 change the date of the PSAT/SAT from “April 13” to “April 3”.

Giana Gelsey made the following revisions: The April 17, 2024, regular school board meeting was missing under future meeting dates. On page 3 under Giana’s comment in the 3rd paragraph change “scripted questions” to “unscripted or cold questions”. On page 3 under “Transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9” change the spelling of “Gaham” to “Gahm”. On page 4 in first line insert “trip” so it reads “a Browne Center fall field trip”. In the first bullet change “not” to “in” so it reads “not being in a pod”.

Motion passed with correction 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District – None provided.

B. Board

Denise Day thanked Gab Anderson for the invitation to join a sociology class round-table discussion. She appreciated the good questions students asked, the inclusion of adults and students in the conversation, and the relevance of the topics.

Giana Gelsey also appreciated the invitation and felt it was a beneficial experience interacting with students.

Heather Smith echoed her enjoyment of the sociology discussion. Regarding the recent musical, she said *Little Women* was absolutely spectacular. She commended everyone that was part of the phenomenal performance. She appreciated having a full-live music pit of teachers and students for the first time and said it was really great to witness Sarah Kuhn, Andrea von Oeyen, and Jacob Boulay as musicians.

Moharimet's musical *Finding Nemo Jr.* will be held this Friday, April 5th at 6:30 pm and Mast Way's *Wonka Jr.* will be held on Thursday, April 11th at 6:30 pm following the Community Dinner. Both performances will be in the ORHS auditorium.

Matt Bacon thanked Denise Day for serving as chair and taking the board through the difficult process of the superintendent search.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction Report(s) – None provided.

Student Presentation – Future in Childhood Education – Michaela Downs – Postponed.

Sabbatical Conclusion Presentation – Jennifer Weeks – Postponed.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Morse announced a restaffing at ORMS due to a decline in enrollment that has been on the district's radar. At the next meeting, Bill Sullivan will speak about plans to reshuffle staff and announce adjustments at the middle school.

The Competency Based Reporting survey that was completed by students, staff, and parents is now available on the district website under the topic "Competency Based Learning."

C. Business Administrator – None provided.

D. Student Representative Report {Maeve Hickok}

Student Rep. Maeve Hickok announced that Oyster River's FIRST Robotics Team recently competed at UNH and were qualifiers. Team Overdrive is ranked 46 out of 214 teams and will travel to Springfield, Massachusetts on Thursday April 5th to compete in the New England Championship. The Coffee House has been moved to next Wednesday, April 16th from 6-8 pm in the ORHS Library, which is a new location. After April break, the Student Senate will host a Mental Health Week from April 29th – May 3rd.

E. Finance Committee Report – None provided.

F. Other – None provided.

VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA – Chair Matt Bacon asked if any items needed to be discussed separately, and there were no concerns from the board.

- Nominate and approve Non-Continuing Contract Professional Staff Members as submitted by the Superintendent.
- Revision to 02/07/24 middle school Maternity Leave of Absence from May 13, 2024, to the End of the Year, to now state an additional one-year Leave of Absence for the 2024-25 school year.
- Acceptance of four Teacher Resignations, two Mast Way, one middle school and one high school.

Matt Bacon made a motion to approve the Unanimous Consent Agenda, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

At-Large Vacancy

Matt Bacon informed the board they received three resumes in response to the at-large vacancy: Qiaoyan Yu, Dr. Renee Beauregard-Bennett and Jessica Rodriguez Boudreau.

Denise Day and other board members expressed anticipation of meeting the candidates tonight and did not feel ready to vote having never met them.

Brian Cisneros expressed concern over waiting longer to fill the seat. He gave his support for Renee Beauregard-Bennett stating she did a very good job answering questions at the Candidate Forum, received the next amount of most votes, and has an outstanding academic background. She is also from Lee, and he pointed out that the board historically lacks Lee representation. If there is a delay with voting and committee assignments, he asked for a board member to be appointed to the Finance Committee since there are important, time sensitive projects to be completed.

Giana Gelsey said she understands the urgency to fill the seat, but she also agreed with Denise in believing that the candidates would be present to ask questions. She endorsed Jessica Rodriguez Boudreau stating her experience and voice around policy would be beneficial.

The board continued discussing the process for filling the seat. Matt apologized for not being clearer at the last meeting. He suggested identifying a first and second choice candidate to invite to the next meeting. Each board member announced their choices and agreed to meet next week to speed up the process. A regular board meeting will take place on April 10th at 6:30 pm. Renee and Jessica will be invited to speak and board members will vote.

Matt thanked Qiaoyan Yu for her application and for being actively involved in the community.

Meeting Date Change for Board meeting on June 19 to Thursday, June 20

In honor of Juneteenth, Dr. Morse proposed changing the Wednesday, June 19th board meeting to Thursday, June 20th.

Heather Smith made a motion to change the June 19th Board Meeting to Thursday, June 20th, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Heather Smith announced that the Sustainability Committee was unable to meet on Monday, however, the Community Dinner will take place next Thursday, April 11th from 5:00-6:30 pm in the ORHS cafeteria. It will feature information tables led by student, town and UNH groups. Pre-registration is highly encouraged, and a link to register is available on the school website.

Denise Day announced that Policy did not meet as scheduled since they don't have a full committee yet. The next meeting will be in May.

Giana Gelsey announced that DEIJ met and solidified details for the May 2nd "One Community, Many Voices" event in the ORMS Recital Hall. It will feature three guest speakers, visual art, and light refreshments. Also, half of their meeting was a workshop discussing classism in the community.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None provided.

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: April 10, 2024 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 6:30 PM – ORMS Recital Hall
 April 17, 2024 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM – ORMS Recital Hall
 May 1, 2024 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM – Moharimet Cafeteria
 May 15, 2024 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM – ORMS Recital Hall
 June 5, 2024 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM – ORMS Recital Hall

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II (c)

- Discussion pertaining to Acceptance of High School Tuition Request

Matt Bacon made a motion to enter into Non-Public Session at 7:40 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3 II (c), 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A2 I {If Needed}

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Brian Cisneros made a motion to adjourn the meeting at: 7:50 pm, 2nd by Heather Smith. Motion passed 6-0.

The School Board reserves the right to take action on any item on the agenda.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karyn Laird, Records Keeper