

**Oyster River Cooperative School District
Regular Meeting
ORHS Library**

April 18, 2018

7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD: Denise Day, Brian Cisneros, Tom Newkirk, Kenny Rotner, Dan Klein, Al Howland, and Michael Williams
Student Representative: Patty Andersen

ADMINISTRATORS: Superintendent Morse, Todd Allen, Suzanne Filippone, Sue Caswell, and Jay Richard

There were 18 members of the public present.

I. CALL TO ORDER: By Tom Newkirk at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Tom Newkirk took a moment to remember student Jonathan Fairchild. His heart goes out to the family and supporting them in their time of loss. They have been an incredible group of people to work with in their time of loss. Tom also wanted to thank the community for their support. Superintendent Morse detailed that the crisis team was in place within thirty minutes and the next morning NH Behavioral Health was in place for the students and staff. Throughout this process we had professional guidance and advice. He gave credit to the Durham Police Department and the SRO. The SRO worked with the FBI to have the social media posts taken down. We lost a precious soul last week.

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:

Payroll Manifest #30: \$918,897.09
Vendor Manifest #22: \$217,926.63

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Proposed revision to add the slate of spring coaches for Board's approval.

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the agenda with the above proposed revision, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dean Rubine of Lee commented on the tragic loss in the community and his heart goes out to the family. We need to do more and there is no bigger issue we need to work on. Our baseball issue with ORYA also needs to be examined.

Jennifer Pribble of Durham has two children in the district and is in support of the cell phone banned policy. With the pressure of a personal device on the student as a resource there is an inequality on them. Other schools in the region are providing students with devices for the classroom.

Erin Hale of Durham wrote the school board last fall regarding the cell phone policy and appreciates that the Board is working on it. She is concerned that the draft states that teachers can allow use of devices if they see fit. Would encourage a policy that is equitable.

Giana Gelsey of Madbury is concerned about the cell phone policy. This is an inadvertent policy of the have and have nots.

Belle Vukovich Kenoyer who is a parent in the District is in favor of the middle school cell phone ban. Using a cell phone is not the only way to reach children during the day. Contacting the office is a method of communication to reach children for an emergency or change of plans.

Mike Stark of Durham spoke about the cell phone use in the Middle School. Feels that the loophole that has been created in the draft policy renders this policy useless. He is disappointed at the size of the loophole and encourages the board to go back and look at this policy again.

Amy Sterndale of Durham would like to see a bell to bell policy of no cell phone use at the middle school.

Lori Bromley of Durham and parent in the District wanted to thank the Administration for caring for the students and staff this past week. She is a teacher at Greenland and they have a bell to bell no cell phone policy and it has never come up as an issue.

John Polagi a resident of Durham urged the Board not to pass the draft policy that has the “loophole” built in. It is not enforceable and would bring forth a lot of challenges.

Kathy Collins of Durham thanked the district for hosting the Greater Reads talk. Thanked the District leaders for allowing the walk out on Friday and allowing them to organize it themselves.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve 3/14 regular and 4/4/18 regular and nonpublic meeting minutes.

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the March 14th minutes with the below revision, 2nd by Denise Day.

Revision: Page 5 Paragraph five change “Spoked” to “spoke”

Motion passed 5-1-1 with Kenny Rotner voting against and Michael Williams abstaining.

4/4 Denise Day moved to approve the 4/4 minutes with the below revision, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.

Page 9 Resilience should be capitalized

Page 10 paragraph three insert “abstained.”

Motion passed 6-0-1 with Kenny Rotner abstaining

April 4th Nonpublic Minutes: Brian Cisneros moved to approve the April 4th nonpublic minutes, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District: Andy Lathrop, Athletic Director updated the Board on the progress of the football cooperative. The Classification Committee approved the proposal 7-0 and the next step is to meet with the council on May 17th. If that passes, then participation is approved for the fall.

B. Board: Denise Day attended the social media awareness education night on April 9th and thanked the Durham Police Department for organizing the evening. Denise Day thanked the Oyster River Community Reads. She attended several events that have been held over the past months and they have done an outstanding job.

Al Howland attended the Moharimet Pancake Breakfast. It was great to see the student's work with this and the Middle School Jazz Band performed. The expansion of the gym works out great.

Brian Cisneros commended Pam Felber who did a great job with the students on Peter Pan Jr.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report:

Todd Allen reported that the Middle School has begun their standardized testing. Both elementary schools will be doing their testing in May and the high school will be doing their science portion at the end of May.

The REACH registration process is open and if you are interested, please sign up soon. It runs from July 9th to the 1st week of August.

All the buildings are going through a technology plan to see how technology will be used. This is a multi-year approach that they are working on. The educational exception that is currently in the cell phone draft is a transitional phase as they move to a one to one model.

B. Superintendent's Report:

Tomorrow night there is a strings concert at the high school. Superintendent Morse encouraged everyone to attend. Community Reads was an amazing effort to bring the issue of white privilege front and center. Their culminating activity will be on May 3rd to talk about what it next. On May 15th Andrew Smith will be coming to the District to talk to parents and the theme will be how to talk about race.

House Bill 193 was voted 7-1 to go to a study.

Superintendent Morse announced that Lori Buckley Mast Way Food Service Manager was named Nutrition Manager of the Year.

C. Business Administrator:

Sue Caswell reviewed the FY17 Audit with the board. She explained GASB 75 for OPEB was recommended for the District to continue planning for the implementation and ensure that actuarial valuations are performed in a timely

manner and in compliance with new requirements. It will also be important for the District to maintain an adequate system of documentation to support the employee census data information provided to the actuary, since this information will now be subject to annual audit testing.

D. Student Senate Report:

Student Representative Patty Andersen reported that on Monday April 9th Senate speeches were given and April 13th was senate election in Student Government. On National History Day competition 5 teams were sent to the state competition. They had two teams place 3rd. The Robotics Team competed in the semi-finals. There are two trips for April break: one to Tanzania, and a group of students are leaving for France and Spain. The student walk out is planned for Friday. She thanked the Administration for handling the situation last week and it was appreciated.

E. Other: None

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Last Day of School: Superintendent Morse is proposing that Friday, June 22nd will be the students last day of school. This day will be an early dismissal at 12:15 p.m. for all schools. He is working with the Guild on a proposal regarding the two additional work days owed to complete the teachers' contractual obligations. Another option is to have the last day on Wednesday, June 20 and have the teachers work on independent project development.

Al Howland moved to end the school year on Wednesday June 20, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-1 with Michael Williams opposing.

Rough Draft Cell Phone Policy – Not a first reading

Superintendent Morse wanted to thank all the parents who have brought this to the forefront. There is a difference between a policy and a procedure. The intent of this policy is to eliminate cell phones and personal devices. The Board approves policies and reviews procedures. Procedure is how the policy is implemented. They reviewed and studied the policies of other schools.

Rough Draft for Discussion:

Technology Devices K-8 Cell Phones/Personal Devices – procedures
Students who carry cell phones and other personal devices must keep them turned off during the school day.

Students who violate the K-8 Cell Phone policy:

1st offense: Will have the device taken away by the teachers for the day and returned at the end of the day.

2nd offense: the devices will be confiscated by administration and returned to the parent.

3rd offense: The student will not be able to possess the devices during the school day for an extended period of time defined by the principal and upon entrance to the school at the beginning of the day will leave the cell phone/technical device with the principal.

Parents/guardians who need to talk to their child during the school day must call the school office. Their child will be given the message to call home. Students will be allowed to use the classroom phone to return calls to parents/guardians.

Exceptions:

IEP

504

Medical

Educational purposes defined by the teacher.

Exeter AUP: "the use of electronic devices should be consistent with the District's educational objectives, mission and curriculum.

Stratham Middle School Handbook – Devices are intended to enhance education with adult permission.

Tom Newkirk and Brian Cisneros talked about their visits to other middle schools. Lebanon has a bell to bell cell phone ban and while the administration was looking to bring back cell phone usage during lunch, they are receiving pushback from the parents. Tom and Brian had a chance to talk to the students during their lunch at Hanover and they are okay with the policy.

Hanover has one to one devices and teachers have the ability to see how the devices are being used in the technology.

Denise Day mentioned the NELMS letter which they received on the Middle School for being a spotlight school, and the students' ability to do important work on personal technology in a classroom setting. She feels that they will need to have some sort of a bridge policy until they are able to secure one to one technology. Jay Richard of the Middle School has full faith in the teachers for making the appropriate decisions. Dan Klein is proposing a clarification on what NELMS was referring to in regard to technology. He asked Jay about if they had no personal devices available in the classrooms. Jay replied that it would have a significant impact in the 7th and 8th grade classes. Students are also using their personal devices for tuning instruments and recording their music for classes. There is a significant need for teachers wanting more devices for use in the classrooms. Al Howland asked how are we not meeting the technology need in the classroom. It is the hope that the inconsistency with cell phones is removed. Brian Cisneros asked what would it look like to transition to a one on one managed devices? Josh Olstead replied that there are models that introduce a grade level at a time or one school at a time. There are a lot of options and every school does it differently. There will be a plan for the Board to consider in August moving forward. Superintendent Morse thinks that it can be done in three to four years.

Tom Newkirk talked about the 1) unmonitored use of cell phones at lunch, 2) the use of parent communication, and 3) for teachers that think that there is a viable use in the classrooms. Al Howland believes that we should eliminate 1 and 2 and 3 would be harder to eliminate. Dan Klein believes that if we leave 3 open, then 2 would be very hard to eliminate. He appreciates the complexity of the situation.

Michael Williams asked about the current policy and believes that items 3,4,5 should be in the new proposed policy. It is significant where the threshold of exceptions lies.

The Board agreed by consensus on the policy of no cell phones during the day at the middle school. The Board discussed removing the exception of educational purposes defined by the teacher. Dan Klein would like to see another draft on how the exceptions would be narrowed down and managed. It is the nature of the personal device and the access that troubles him.

Michael Williams suggested using the revenue savings from the health insurance towards buying \$300 ipads at the middle school for one to one students in the fall. Superintendent Morse will go back and run some analysis and now has a better sense of where we are. At the next conversation, he hopes that the Board can reach a majority on the exceptions to the policy. It was noted that the savings from the health insurance has also been talked about going towards the District's rainy-day fund which has been depleted.

Superintendent Contract and Benefits: Brian Cisneros moved to approve a one-year extension and three percent increase to the Superintendent's contract, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Superintendent Actions: None

B. Board Action Items:

Motion to approve the spring volunteer coaches:

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the below slate of volunteers for spring coaches, 2nd by Al Howland:

Scott Clark	JV Softball
Paul Stenmark	JV Softball
Deirda Brown	Varsity softball
John Cunningham	Varsity softball

Motion passed 7-0.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Denise Day reported that the Policy Committee met on April 11 and reviewed all the B policies which include Board conduct, minutes, etc. and have no recommendations for changes. They are required to review those annually.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Keith O'Brien commended the presentation of Peter Pan tonight. It was amazing. He thanked the Board for the conversation tonight and thinks that Michael Williams really opened a door this evening in possibly finding a solution. He urged the Board to follow the money to see what they can come up with.

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates:

- 05/02/18 Mast Way School 7:00 p.m.
- 05/16/18 Moharimet School 7:00 p.m.
- 05/30/18 Manifest Meeting SAU Conference Room 5:30 p.m.

XII. NONPUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (if needed)

NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2 I (b) – Consultation with Attorney

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Brian Cisneros moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m., 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,
Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary