

Oyster River Cooperative School Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2022

DRAFT

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

ABSENT: Yusi Turell

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Suzanne Filippone, Rebecca Noe. **ABSENT:** Dr. Morse, Sue Caswell,

STAFF PRESENT:

GUEST PRESENT: Amy Sterndale

I. CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Michael Williams

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Michael Williams moved agenda item "School Camera Access by Law Enforcement During a Crisis" to non-public session.

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the agenda as amended, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amy Sterndale let the board know she is available to provide comment on one of the agenda items.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Denise Day moved to approve the June 15th, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.

Denise Day submitted the following revisions:

On page 1 during Dr. Morse's comments regarding the DEIJ position, change "not acceptable" to "not sufficient to answer community members' questions."

On page 5 under fall enrollment comments change "advocate for all kindergarten classes" to "bring up the possibility of exploring having all classes for one grade in one school."

Denise Day made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 5-0-1 with Michael Williams abstaining.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District – Principal Rebecca Noe of ORHS provided an update of summer activity including professional development around World Language, Math, and History, as well as new construction that includes a nurse's suite in the old conference room and a new conference room in the multi-purpose room. Rebecca also provided the following dates and events:

August 17 Counseling 101

August 18 Application 101 (application assistance for jobs & colleges)

Introduction to HS for parents at 6:00 pm (a dialogue to answer questions)

August 25 Freshmen Orientation 8:30-12:00 pm (tours, speeches, and activities)

B. Board – None provided

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

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

Update on Reach Program

Assistant Superintendent Suzanne Filippone shared that approximately 100 kids have been attending the Summer Reach program each week. She thanked Doris Demers and her staff for providing breakfast and lunch, as well as Parks & Rec Director Rachel Gasowski and the towns of Durham, Lee and Madbury for their collaboration in planning activities and sharing facilities.

Update on Summer Faculty Professional Development

Suzanne provided an update on the professional development taking place at the various schools, including K-12 Scope & Sequence curriculum work for Science and Health with World Language occurring next. Also, she said Restorative Practices, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) have been a focus during the district's active and busy summer.

B. Superintendent's Report {Provided by Suzanne Filippone}

Enrollment Update

Suzanne Filippone stated that enrollment numbers at the high school and middle school are as expected apart from a lower senior class. Michael Williams pointed out that the senior class represents the first year Barrington students joined ORHS, and it was a small cohort in comparison to the years afterward. At the elementary level Suzanne said the numbers continue to fluctuate as families move in and out of the district and currently, they are not concerned with where they stand. Brian Cisneros asked about the numbers for Mast Way's 4th grade since they are high and Suzanne acknowledged that if a new fourth grader is enrolled into Mast Way, it is likely the student would be placed at Moharimet.

Middle School Update

The Middle School Grand Opening will take place on August 23rd. Dignitaries have been invited, performances by adults and students have been prepared, and final details are being worked out to include a ribbon cutting ceremony, speeches, and refreshments.

Suzanne shared that the blasting has ended and the delay on the turf field is for the same reasons previously identified.

Brian Cisneros reminded the listening audience that memento bricks from the old middle school are available for pick up. If you wish to donate for a brick, the proceeds will go toward the grounds and play equipment for the new middle school.

C. Business Administrator – None provided

D. Student Representative Report – None provided

E. Finance Committee Report

Electric Buses

Brian Cisneros shared that on June 21st they met with representatives from Highland Electric Fleets and had a discussion that confirmed the use of the bus depot, availability of grants, and a willingness to work out a lease program that will be agreeable to both parties. Brian said the numbers still need to be looked at, but the timing could work nicely with the upcoming budget season. Members had questions about the mileage range and concern for a bus holding enough charge to complete the routes. Brian confirmed that in optimal conditions the mileage is 134 miles and 100 miles in the winter due to heating the bus. However, unlike other companies that use a diesel heating system, this company uses electric heat making it an option with true zero emissions. Another benefit is the regenerative braking system that restores charge while braking. Brian said they would most likely use the bus for morning and afternoon routes and have it charge during the middle of the day. It could also be used for short distance sporting events and school activities. Furthermore, Highland is the company that the school bus drivers prefer and in the case of any performance problems, the lease program will cover fixing

them. Brian said if they do move forward with Highland, the company will provide the same presentation and materials for the board, and they can see the buses at their location in Beverly, MA.

In other Finance Committee updates, Brian informed the board that they met with Jim Rozycki and reviewed the capital improvement plan. They acknowledged that there are major projects to be done, as well as several smaller ones have been set aside and they will need to begin chipping away at them. The fund balance is still in flux, and no decision has been made yet on how it will be spent. Also, Brian stated that a resident requested transportation be available for athletes, specifically the football players. The cost is estimated to be \$11k and to be fair to all the sports, they will look at the transportation expenses for athletics to see if it can be a budget item.

F. Other: None provided

VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

- Motion to affirm the hiring of the high school World Language – Spanish Teacher.
- Motion to affirm the hiring of the high school Computer Science Teacher.
- Motion to approve ORMS Maternity Leave of Absence from November 7, 2022, through the End of the Year.
- Listed Policy for second read/adoption: JLCJA – Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols for Athletics Participation.

Michael Williams asked the board if any items needed to be discussed separately and Heather Smith requested pulling the item “Hiring of high school Computer Science Teacher” for discussion.

Michael Williams made a motion to approve the World Language Spanish Teacher, ORMS Maternity Leave and List of Policy for second read/adoption, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0.

Heather Smith asked for more information on what the Computer Science Teacher would be teaching and asked why programming skills were absent from the applicant’s resume.

Principal Rebecca Noe stated that they could not find a suitable candidate for a Computer Science position and as a result the position title changed to Business Teacher, which still aligns with the course and curriculum offered to students. She said the applicant can teach Adobe graphic design through the business and marketing classes.

Michael Williams made a motion to approve the hiring of the high school Business Teacher, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

School Nutrition Program price increases

Nutrition Director Doris Demers read a memo to parents that explained the expected changes for the 2022-23 school nutrition program. Doris explained that the “no cost meals” offered during the Covid-19 pandemic were an enormous success. Not only did more students eat breakfast and lunch, but the meal quality remained high with minimal substitutions to the menu, which was not the case in other districts that had to cut back. With the return of paid meals, there are factors contributing to an increase in cost including supply chain issues, labor shortages, an increase in food costs, as well as a much-deserved wage increase to the staff to make the food program more competitive with other places of employment. In fact, open positions have been filled and the district will return to school with a complete kitchen staff at every building. To meet the goal of a balanced budget, Doris proposed a \$.25 increase to all paid meals for 2022-23 without an additional increase the following year.

New **breakfast** and **lunch** prices would be as follows:

K-4 - \$1.50 and \$3.00

5-8 - \$1.50 and \$3.25

9-12 - \$1.75 and \$3.50

The Hood milk offered at the elementary schools will remain \$.50 and the local farm-fresh milk available at the middle and high school will increase by \$.15 with a new cost of \$.65.

Doris hopes that the significant increase in students eating school meals over the past few years will continue despite the benefit of free meals ending. She encouraged families to continue to support both the food program and healthy food practices by eating breakfast and lunch. Next year's menu will include vegetarian/vegan options, more ethnic recipes, and a continuation of farm to school efforts. Also, Doris was happy to announce that community dinners will return in the upcoming school year. In closing, she thanked the board, administrators, and community for supporting her role over the last ten years.

Several board members commended Doris and her staff, praised the food, and expressed their delight in the community meals returning. Brian Cisneros reminded parents of the free/reduced meal program since meals had been free to all families and they may have forgotten this assistance requires application. Doris told parents to fill out the forms, which are all private and only viewed by her, online at family.titank12.com.

Denise Day made a motion to approve the school nutrition rates for 2022-23, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0.

Communication Position

The Communication Position job description was reviewed by the board. It was determined that the candidate would be working under the volunteer leadership of Amy Sterndale for one year or less. Whether the position will be full year or part-time is still being determined. Michael Williams asked the board for their feedback on the job description.

Denise Days stated that she had no issue with the job description, however, she was concerned with the cost of a full-time position. Because of increased costs with inflation, she preferred to hire a part-time candidate for the first year with the potential to increase to a full-time position. Denise pointed out they recently added a Science Teacher, DEIJ Coordinator, and to maintain the budget without cutting into the capital budget plan she could not support more than a part-time position. Heather Smith felt the position seemed too junior and she was under the impression that they were looking for someone with more experience, even if it meant a part-time role. Heather also felt having someone during the summer could be beneficial for professional development around communication. She did not feel the required skills of the job description aligned with the amount of communication experience they were looking for, especially regarding platforms and standards for best practices. Amy Sterndale agreed, stating that the candidate would not just be a content creator, but someone who would train teachers on best practices. She felt the person could learn as they go, but also questioned who would "own" the communication on they days that person was not there. Brian Cisneros felt it would be difficult for a person to perform all the essential functions on a part-time basis. Dan Klein felt it would be important to invest adequate time early on to lead a culture change that aligns staff communication in a more efficient and organized manner.

Board members further discussed the pros and cons of a part-time verses full-time position, the implications of contracting verses hiring, summer work, and the salary and benefits that could be offered. The conclusion was that all the goals would not be reached during the first year, but the board should move forward to fill the position. Since \$50k is currently budgeted, they could offer a part-time position, or they can ask administration if there are funds that could be recovered for a full-time position. Amy Sterndale and the Communications Committee will provide guidance to administration to create a draft of required skills that meet the functions. After, they will find out how much the position would cost in the market to help guide a salary for a district employee.

School Camera Access by Law Enforcement during a crisis – Moved to non-public session

Board Goals for 2022-23

The board held a discussion that reviewed the 2022-23 goals to determine if there were too many and to identify the ones that were of high importance. The board decided the Communication goals were manageable as written

and the Curriculum goals were revised to include communicating with students on how they are graded on a day-to-day basis. Heather Smith also requested the goals be edited for grammar and format prior to adoption.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the 2022-23 Goals as amended, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES None provided

Manifest Committee reviewed the following Manifests.

Vendor Manifest #28 \$546,404.44

Vendor Manifest #29 \$111,587.14

Vendor Manifest #30 \$1,632,280.69

Vendor Manifest FY23 #1 \$2,114,017.1

Payroll Manifest #26 \$4,757,791.64

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS None provided

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: August 3, 2022 - Regular Board Meeting – MS Recital Hall
August 24, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting – MS Recital Hall
August 31, 2022 – Manifest Meeting – 3:30 PM SAU Conference Room

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

- Consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.

Michael Williams made a motion to move to Non-Public Session at 8:28, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2I {If Needed}

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Brian Cisneros made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05, 2nd by Heather Smith. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper