

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Regular Meeting

August 21, 2019

High School

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD: Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Michael Williams, Al Howland, Denise Day, Kenny Rotner, Tom Newkirk

Not Present: Student Representative: Yasmeeen Gunandar

ADMINISTRATORS: Sue Caswell, David Goldsmith, Misty Lowe, Josh Olstad, Todd Allen, Jay Richard, Suzanne Filippone

There was 6 members of the public present.

I. CALL TO ORDER

6:30-7:00 Manifest Review

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Change order of agenda: Ron LaMarre Middle School update first, Josh Olstad and Sue Caswell presentation, followed by the school board meeting

Denise Day moved to approve the Agenda above as presented 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dean Rubine of Lee asked if they were still considering trying to save parts of the middle school building in the new design.

Bev Ketel of Madbury has children in the District and wanted to thank the Board for everything they have done. Catherine Plourde has been wonderful to work with.

~~IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES~~

~~V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS~~

~~A. District~~

~~—— B. Board~~

Proposed Middle School Update

Ron LaMarre from Lavallee Bresinger updated the Board on the latest proposed changes.

The city has hired a surveying firm and a traffic engineer to review all the off-site particulars. There will be more information when they have completed their analysis. The buses will be completely separate from the vehicular traffic. There will be parking on Dennison Street depending on approvals from the city. One option is to make it a one way road in the opposite direction. This will negate all the left hand turns and have the buses on Coe Drive. The city is doing traffic studies on the options. They are also trying to maximize green space. Right now, they are around 16%. Kenny Rotner asked about the foot traffic of walkers that goes down Bagdad Road to the Library after school. Currently there is someone that comes out to monitor traffic and with the new proposed design, there will be someone up by Bagdad Road to help the kids cross safely. Superintendent Morse thinks that this new proposal is a significant improvement. The ultimate traffic decision will be up to the town and they have been great to work with on this. Kenny feels that until we environmentally look at our transportation model, there will always be a problem with parents picking up and dropping off kids.

Michael Williams asked about the location of the new building. Ron replied that they have the building oriented in the best position. He reviewed the proposed interior of the building with the Board. There is a less than 25% window to wall ratio which is done strategically for energy purposes. Denise Day asked about the recital seating behind the performers. Ron replied that they moved the performers area back a little and adjusted the seating slightly.

Kenny Rotner asked if there were any spaces available for gardens at the school to grow food. Ron replied that behind the school there would be an ideal location.

Post Vote Milestones:

- 3/11/20 Start non-site structural construction documents
- 3/30/20 Bid the site and foundations
- 4/13/20 Bid the structural steel
- 5/1/20 Start construction on site
- 5/25/20 Bid underground MEP/Utilities
- 6/8/20 Start foundations
- 7/17/20 Complete remaining construction documents
- 7/20/20 Bid all remaining trades
- 8/10/20 Sign final gmp
- 8/10/20 Start structural steel

3/15/21 Start furniture equipment and tech selections
6/5/11 Furniture equipment and tech decisions
8/1/21 Furniture, equipment and Tech Contracts
1/17/22 Move in furniture
2/18/22 Complete all academic areas
2/21/22 Staff move in
4/04/22 Start demolition of existing school and site
5/13/22 Complete demolition -start clean up
6/20/22 Start Fields and Parking
8/26 Projection completion

Denise Day asked what will happen to the middle school furniture that they are currently using? Superintendent Morse replied that there is a policy in place to deal with excess furniture once it is relocated to other schools in the District. Kenny Rotner thanked everyone for all their work on this and that he really appreciates it.

Superintendent Morse added that initially we were hoping to be able to salvage the gym of the current middle school building but because of the car traffic, they were unable to do it from a safety perspective.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

- ~~A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction Reports~~
- B. Superintendent's Report
- ~~C. Business Administrator~~
- ~~D. Student Senate Report~~
- ~~E. Other~~

~~VII. DISCUSSION ITEM~~

VIII. ACTIONS

- ~~A. Superintendent Actions~~
- B. Board Action Item**

Orchard Drive:

Sue Caswell: Hoping to close on the sale on Orchard Drive in the near future:

Michael Williams moved to authorized Thomas Newkirk, Chair or Denise Day, Vice Chair to sign the deed for the Orchard Drive, Durham property comprised of 24.97 acres more or less and any other closing documents

related to the sale of this property to the Town of Durham for \$150,000. This action is authorized by Article 5 of the March 8, 2016 annual school district meeting and the January 16, 2019 School Board Meeting, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.

Purchase School Buses:

Denise Day moved to approve entering into a Master Installment Purchase Agreement with Mercedes-Benz Financial Services to purchase three Thomas School Buses, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

Josh Olstad presented a proposal to purchase 200 iPads through Apple Financial Services.

This is a three year lease for \$58,800 with a purchase of \$1.00 buy out at the end of the financed term.

Denise Day moved to approve the above proposed iPad purchase, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

Competency Based Education Workshop:

Todd Allen thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk about the competency based education and where they want to go as a District.

Todd Allen mentioned that the State Board of Education adopted a competency based model in 2005 and this took our state from the traditional approach to a concept of competency and created this idea that learning could take place in lots of different settings. This opened the door for lots of personalized learning approaches. This is about kids being able to demonstrate what they can do.

Oyster River has really been able to deeply dive into this concept and think about what else does this structure impact, how to communicate to students what is expected of them. The middle school has in the past three years really gotten involved with this.

Todd thanked Josh Olstad for all his amazing work on the competency website which is now live on the Oyster River website. He walked through the K-12 approach on the website.

Vision Statement for Competencies:

ORCSD Vision of a Graduate: ORCSD graduates will be empowered through an awareness of self and an awareness of others who utilize a strong foundation of transferable skills.

Awareness of Self: Able to self-direct, self-regulate, self-advocate, and understand oneself as a learner. Be resilient, adaptable and independent thinkers.

ORMS CBE Update:

Jay Richard reported that staff will develop a variety of assessments to measure student achievement through curricular competencies.

ORMS competencies are published on the district website and distributed to parents for Academic Information Nights. Teachers are making some minor adjustments after summer professional development.

ORMS Academic Information Nights and Open House. Jay remarked that they did not have an open house last year, but they will this year. Teachers/Teams will share competencies that they will be teaching in the upcoming academic year. He invited all Board members and parents to attend:

Grades 7/8: September 17th 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Grades 5/6: September 25th 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

ORMS Competency night question and answers with parents will be in the October/November 2019 timeframe.

Student Led Conferences will be in January 2020 on a Teacher Workshop Day. Students will lead parents and describe what they have learned so far this year, what they continue to need to work on with a teacher present. They are considering doing this by advisory. Every professional at ORMS has an advisory (Admin, counselors, teachers, etc.).

High School CBE Update:

Suzanne Filippone highlighted areas of work since 2016. The CBE curriculum is interactive. It is a living document that is worked on regularly by the staff. The work that they are continuing into next year is assessment practices and how do they ensure that they are assessing knowledge that reflects their

learning and working on calibrating and to have professional conversations around what this looks like.

They don't have any intention of changing the grading. Communication: The website is one element. The newsletters will be on a more regular basis that will have competencies and resource links attached to them.

The Science Showcase, Power of One Presentations, Senior Art Show Gallery are events and projects that kids are doing which demonstrate ways to show competencies in action.

Suzanne added that they will be using model of rotations of teachers teaching other teachers on a teacher workshop day and she would like to invite the School Board to see what kind of dialogues they are having around competencies and practices.

Aaron Ward from the Middle School is using a competency-based program called ALEKS, an online adaptive math program in his classroom. It is a great tool for him to use. On Fridays, he will have students do 10-12 review questions. This allows him to work with students and also this past year 87% of his students were proficient on the state assessment.

Val Wolfson who teaches Social studies at the Middle School feels a deeper focus, richer conversation with colleagues and students. The shift in humanities is a focus of skills and enduring and understand what they want the students to have. This allows multiple journeys to one destination. It is a perpetual tweaking of foundation. Best practices are still happening around competencies.

Mike Blouin, a Science Teacher at the High School, who teaches mostly freshman and likes to focus on the relearning in the competencies. Students are asking what they can do, and they become the driving force behind the learning. When they focused on photosynthesis, they were able to come up with experiment concepts and ideas. This is taking lessons to the next level for the students.

Todd Allen added that competency work is an ongoing practice. They are constantly tweaking what they are doing, and students are able to control what

they are learning, and it is transforming the experience that the students are having.

Denise Day thanked everyone for all their efforts. She is very impressed. She hears from parents that their kids aren't trying as much initially because they know they will get another chance. She would like to see this go into an FAQ. Aaron the kids that go through the revision process will have to play catch up and that becomes more work. He feels that students are motivated on round one. Students quickly realize that. Jay Richard reports habits of learning to parents. Suzanne Filippone added that different kids are at different points in their executive function in what they need to be prepared. For teachers the reassessment policies are a part of the syllabi. If a student doesn't perform well on their assessment there are procedures in place. As a district we want them to be lifelong learners and we want them to grow which is started at the elementary level.

Tom Newkirk feels that we need both internal and external motivation and measure. If the measure of achievement is to meet and master a competency as a teacher, you want the student to excel beyond that. It seems that the goal is to meet the competency for some students, it is extremely difficult and for other very easily achieved. What is the motivation for students to achieve excellence in a competency system? Todd replied you can move on when you are ready to move on. People are naturally engaged in something they find interesting. Most of the competences are process oriented ideas.

Jay Richard added that this year they had as many if not more receive scholastic writing awards with the competency-based grading system. In math, for the first time there are 21 students who will be doing Algebra I at the high school. Michael Williams agrees that this works for highly motivated students, answered that we have competencies allow for built in reteaching time if it is needed during the school day. This also makes the special educator's job far easier. Todd Allen said the goals of the competencies is to be transparent of expectations. It is a very personalized environment.

Kenny Rotner has concerns that we have incredibly diverse kids with different developments. He feels we need to objectively study what has been the impact. He feels the concept of CBE is great, but does it work in practice? Do we need to start anticipating how to make our system have pacing and progression? He

would like to see teachers share and develop competencies across departments. Kenny would also like to see at a future board meeting on how ELOs are doing.

Jay Richard thinks a good idea would be to ask 9th grade teachers to see how the students are prepared this year coming from the first year of CBE learning at the middle school. Kenny Rotner has heard from parents that are saying their kids are not as motivated. He doesn't know if that is accurately reflecting on what is happening and that is why we need to have data.

Todd Allen mentioned that the competencies structure is designed to fundamentally achieve success with every student. Grading and competency learning are two different things. Kenny Rotner asked as a Board do, we need to start making adaptations for students who will not make it to the finish line at the same time as other students.

Dan Klein mentioned that we are talking about a cultural shift that doesn't change overnight. We have made grade strides in the thoughtfulness with these changes. He has heard from parents who have witnessed their student who no longer has motivation. They must fine tune their response to that by directly talking to students. Students have lost some of their feedback on what motivates students and we need to find a way to replace that in their mind set.

Al Howland mentioned that this is a very high performing district with parents who have high expectations. There is a big gap between the meets and exceeds. We have two different grading systems, one in the middle school and one in the high school. When kids go from 8th to 9th grade it is a big change for both parents and students. We need to figure out how they fit together, and he thinks that is what a lot of parents are asking.

Michael Williams asked when there will be a committee formed to study grading at the middle school? Superintendent Morse replied that it will be formed this fall.

Denise Day asked how AP Classes fit into competencies. In these classes, the competencies will look a little different because they are learning for the test.

Tom Newkirk noted that there are several powerful strengths that they have heard focused on the learner and on the learning. It carries on the tradition of assessment by performance. He feels that the message is that there are some

Page 9
August 21, 2019

DRAFT

really great things going on. Superintendent Morse emphasized Suzanne and Jay's invitation for the Board to attend workshops of teachers teaching teachers. It is very inspiring, and he encouraged the Board to participate.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Kenny Rotner moved to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91:3 II C, 2nd by Michael Williams. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.

The School Board returned to Public session at 9:24 PM.

Kenny Rotner moved to accept an out of district high school tuition student, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

Al Howland moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m., 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,
Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary