

Oyster River Cooperative School Board
Regular Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2022

DRAFT

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

ABSENT: Yusi Turell

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Paige Burt

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Morse, Suzanne Filippone, Sue Caswell, Rebecca Noe, Shannon Caron, Jasmine Daniels

STAFF PRESENT:

GUEST PRESENT:

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

Chair Michael Williams announced the addition of a non-public session after the regular meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None provided

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the September 7th, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Matt Bacon.

Michael Williams made the following revision:

Under II. Approval of Agenda – In the first motion move the vote on the agenda as amended to after the vote on the amendment.

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

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District

Rebecca Noe of ORHS announced that due to a school board meeting on Oct. 6th, the Open House has been moved to Oct. 20th. She said students had a lot of fun at last night's Hypnotist event and next week they can look forward to Spirit Week with theme days and a pep rally. On Sept. 26th and 27th freshmen students will attend the UNH Browne Center to participate in a ½ day of team building. If it rains either day, the location will be moved to the high school. There is no school for students on Oct. 7th due to a Teacher Workshop Day and Oct. 10th to observe Indigenous Peoples' Day.

B. Board

Denise Day attended Team Inspire's Open House at ORMS and was impressed by the classroom set up. She appreciated the opportunity to see one in action.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

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

Curriculum Overview:

Suzanne Filippone acknowledged that three departments took part in summer work across the K-12 process for scope and sequence and curriculum review. She explained that several phases of evaluation, research, writing, and revising are undergone in order to produce written documents. It was noted that curriculum writing is a

continual process, and any document created reflects work done at a given time and that work is still on-going. Next year, Physical Education, Social & Emotional Learning, and Counseling will have dedicated time for curriculum work.

World Language

Members of the World Language department and school leaders created a document for the 5-12 curriculum that includes, but is not limited to, a mission and vision, proficiency guidelines, and world-readiness standards for learning languages, which coincide with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

Health

Members of the Health department and school leaders created a document for the K-12 curriculum that includes, but is not limited to, a mission and vision, health content strands, core concepts, and competencies, which coincide with National Health Education Standards and the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE).

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Morse introduced Jasmine Daniels, our new Director of Facilities, to the board and listening audience.

Construction-In-Progress Update [Jasmine Daniels]

Jasmine shared her appreciation for how welcoming the community has been to her and her family. She provided an update on various construction projects across the district. Highlights are as follows:

- The high school MPR stage will undergo construction October 1st -12th to provide a new conference room that is sound-proof and equipped with technology.
- The 2nd phase of air conditioning for the high school science wing is in progress and should be completed by October 10th.
- The tennis courts remain in progress due to a vendor delay and should be completed at the beginning of October.
- The middle school turf field is in progress and should be completed by the end of October.

Dr. Morse shared the public announcement commercials that were created by Durham police officers and school leaders. He thanked AAA for their support and sponsorship.

The following updates were provided by Dr. Morse:

The DEIJ Committee will meet next Tuesday, Sept. 27th in the ORHS library at 6pm. The agenda will be posted online.

In Concord there are bills under review relating to Co-Op and Section 306 that could result in a negative impact on how things are done at the public-school. Teacher certification is at stake since new law would no longer require teachers to be certified. Dr. Morse plans to make comment in Concord and during the state listening tour which will have a stop in Durham.

C. Business Administrator - None provided

D. Student Representative Report

Paige Burt announced that senior t-shirts will be sold next week in the Senior Core for \$10. She looks forward to the return of Mr. Bobcat on Thursday during Spirit Week and a new format for the Pep Rally which will feature a faculty vs. students' basketball and soccer game. Homecoming will be held on October 21st, and it is open to all grade levels. Candidates in the Freshmen class are running for student government officer positions and voting will take place on Sept. 29th.

E. Finance Committee Report

Brian Cisneros stated they discussed athletics with Andy Lathrop, particularly the fees and transportation costs. It was acknowledged that all general costs are going up dramatically. They are beginning the early stages of the budget process by looking at the 2023-24 budget drivers, some of which include an ORMS counselor and tutor, the MS bond, staff contracts, and health insurance. Brian noted that retirement rates are dropping over the next few years and there should be savings from that line item.

Finance Committee will hold its next meeting on Monday, Sept. 26th.

F. Other – None provided

VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Michael Williams asked if any items needed to be discussed separately and there were no objections from the board.

- Nomination of District Truant Officers for the 2022-23 school year.

Michael Williams made a motion to approve the Nomination of District Truant Officers for the 2022-23 school year, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

High School Elective Overview [Rebecca Noe presentation]

Rebecca Noe gave a presentation on the course offerings at the high school, focusing on the electives and choices made available to students. She went over the required credits for graduation and provided examples of the courses. She noted that even within these requirements, students are provided choice. Furthermore, as students' progress through their grade level, the amount of course offerings and electives increase. Rebecca explained this allows for more individualized, student-centered schedules with opportunities for students to explore their interests. She also stated there are an additional 28 programs available at the three CTE locations and several students choose to participate in them each year. A sample of student schedules from various grade levels was provided. A complete listing of the courses and programs are available on the counseling website.

Student representative Paige Burt commented that she felt freshmen year's more structured and organized class selections made it less overwhelming. She said as students' progress each year they receive more choices, and it makes sense because they are also more comfortable and confident with their selections. She also felt that changing classes is a really easy process, which is an added advantage for students to try a class with the option of changing their mind.

Superintendent Search Planning Committee

The board reviewed a set of recommendations for the development of a superintendent search planning committee.

Heather Smith made a motion to establish the Superintendent Search Planning Committee with the charge and membership of Michael Williams, Denise Day, and Dan Klein, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Budget Goal – Discussion of input to Finance Committee

The board held a discussion regarding the FY24 Budget Goal. The question was raised as to what the structure of the goal should be, such as providing three goals verses only having one. A few members stated that they liked having a range to work with and it was agreed that last year's structure provided clarity for board members and administrators, specifically Dr. Morse and Sue Caswell. Brian Cisneros felt that the challenge is not knowing the state revenue until November, so making a goal relative to expenses makes the most sense.

Oyster River hiring practice and response to hypothetical adverse events – Discussion

Dr. Morse spoke about the hiring process he adheres to, which consists largely of fingerprinting, faithfully checking three references, and veering off script by contacting the candidate's previous principal or superintendent. FBI checks, fingerprints and background checks are instituted by state and federal law, while other hiring steps are often unique to a district and/or superintendent. Dr. Morse stated there are a few cases, especially at the end of summer, when a candidate is hired and begins teaching with the contingency of their fingerprints. In these cases, the reference checks are absolutely done. If a violation comes back from a background check, Dr. Morse said he meets with the candidate. He said it is not unusual to have misdemeanor charges that are very dated, and a conversation often reveals that the person has since matured into a professional in the field.

Dr. Morse also explained the disciplinary process for staff accused of wrongdoing that could result in dismissal. A few key components can include placing the staff member on leave with pay during the school's investigation and providing due process for the person to plea their side. Police may simultaneously run their own investigation alongside the school, and any criminal issues uncovered by the school are sent to the police. Final actions may include termination, a plan for improvement and/or continuation of employment.

District Role in Election Information – Discussion of draft policy

Dr. Morse explained the "minimum information" approach the district uses to provide candidate information during school board elections. Candidates may fill out a form providing their general information to be posted, and from there community members are encouraged to seek out information on their own.

Board members discussed the PTO's involvement in hosting a Candidate Night, which has typically rotated each year by building. It was suggested that if the PTO does not host the event, students could from either the Debate Team or Student Senate. Another recommendation was to create a long-standing subcommittee of members represented by each school to annually host the Candidate Night. As a next step, Michael will reach out to this year's PTOs and ask them if and how they'd like to be involved.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Manifest Committee reviewed the following Manifests.

Payroll Manifest #6 - \$1,026,406.21

Vendor Manifest #7 - \$942,458.10

Matt Bacon announced the Health & Wellness meeting will take place September 22nd on Teams from 4-5 pm.

Heather Smith announced Sustainability will meet on Sept. 28th.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None provided

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: {Thursday} October 6, 2022 – Regular Meeting – MS Recital Hall 7:00 PM
October 19, 2022 – Regular Meeting – Mast Way Cafeteria
October 27, 2022 – Budget Workshop – Durham Town Council 8:00-1:00 PM

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 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 enter Non-Public Session at 8:20pm under RSA 91-A:3 II (i), 2nd by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A:2 I (a) – {Followed Non-public meeting from 8:45 PM – 9:27 PM}

- Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Heather Smith made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:45 pm, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. 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