

Oyster River Cooperative School District

School Board Meeting

October 4, 2017

High School Library

**DRAFT
7:00 p.m.**

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Denise Day, Michael Williams, Brian Cisneros, Tom Newkirk, Kenny Rotner, Dan Klein, and Al Howland
Student Representative: H.J. Wilson

ADMINISTRATORS: Sue Caswell, Todd Allen, Superintendent Morse, Carrie Vaich, Suzanne Filippone, Jay Richard, David Goldsmith

There were 9 members of the public present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS: N/A

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Revision: Place Superintendent's Report before Assistant Superintendent's Report

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Erin Sharp of Durham has two kids in the District. She wrote a letter to the editor about the racial incident in the District this week. The child talked about in the paper is in 2nd grade and we have to be really careful. A second grader can say things and we should be careful about what we call it. We have to be open and supportive as a community and a District. No child at the elementary school level can be a villain.

Karen Smith of Newmarket spoke about the racial incident and feels strongly that people need to be connected. She is supportive of the family of the child who has been accused in this racial incident. She hopes that the response will be in proportion.

Rebecca Troop of Lee has two students in the District. The Busing situation and time change on her tenth grader has had a huge negative impact. She feels that this decision has been rushed into. Her son is up so late doing homework because practice is later and he is up early in the morning to finish homework. Family dinners have been decimated. Bus time is 70 minutes long. Doesn't dispute the science but disputes how it was handled.

Barbara of Lee NH also has concerns for the late start time. She has two sophomores in high school. They both do golf and miss at a minimum two entire classes a week. They need to think about rotating class schedule and adjust rules as to who can take study hall at the end of the day.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Motion to approve 9/13/17 regular and non-public meeting minutes:
Revision Page 1 Section III replace "Pulic" with "PUBLIC"
Page 2 replace "second" with "a new"**

Denise Day moved to approve the September 13th regular meeting minutes with the above revisions, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Denise Day moved to approve both non-public meeting minutes of September 13th, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Revision: "William" with "Williams". The motion with revision passed 7-0

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS:

A. District: Carrie Vaich of Mast Way spoke. They started a running club last spring. The club has doubled in size. She mentioned the "Only One Of You Book" and the focused activities around the book. The fourth graders are touring the hydroponic garden at UNH. Carrie gave a huge thank you to the PTO and donors to the playground. The kids are really enjoying them.

David Goldsmith of Moharimet thanked everyone in the community for making the beginning of the year go so smoothly. A number of afternoon school activities are going on and it is exciting to see so many students involved. David announced that October 19th is the annual Pumpkin Stroll.

Jay Richard of the Middle School announced that all three winners at the New England Writing Awards all are from Oyster River Middle School. It has been a

great start to the school year. They had a great open house. There is now a golf club, and a mythology club at the Middle School.

Suzanne Filipponne of the High School reported that the open house was very successful. Teacher Workshop Day is coming up and teachers are working on competencies. The PSATs will be during the school day on October 11th. Dr. Moyer has been coming to talk to the faculty on mindfulness. She will be returning to work further with the faculty. They have been working on the master schedule and looking at scheduling options. They have visited several schools in the area to get an idea to see how they balance their schedule. The scheduling committee is looking to create two or three options to present to the faculty and to come to the Board to have a conversation on the possibilities.

B. Board: Brian Cisneros attended curriculum night at Mast Way. It was great to see behind the scenes. They were able to sit with the specialists and get feedback. The high school open house was good and the band did a great job!

Kenny Rotner thanked everyone who spoke this evening and also those who send letters. It is great to get feedback from everyone. Kenny would like to have a homework update at a meeting in the near future to address the issue. He has heard from parents that it is such a pressing issue. The impact on bus rides and family dinners is crucial and we need to pay attention to that.

Denise Day noted that the concert at the high school open house was great. She attended a community dinner recently and she encourages everyone to attend. It is a nice community event. Denise Day attended the high school PTO meeting last week and she encourages people to get involved. It is the third Thursday each month. It is a great way to find out what is happening in the schools. She added that part of the busing issue is that we are still short on drivers.

Hannah Jane Wilson suggested that there is a lot of benefit talking to the students to get their perspective and input. She encourages a dialogue with students and the Board about homework and not have the Board simply rely on a survey. The Board members agree and will be coordinating a conversation at a later date.

Michael Williams has seen and heard conversations that would be more quickly addressed if people knew where to go to get their questions answered. He

suggested crafting a response that is approved by the Board to put on various social media sites to help give the community members direction to get their questions answered. The Board agreed by consensus to Michael's suggestion.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:

B. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Morse reported that enrollment in the District continues to climb. There are 2148 students in the District. The 4th grade classes are in the 23-24 student range. We need to pay attention to the impact of the growth in the District.

Busing: We started the school year 5 drivers short. We are currently 4 drivers short in the District. There are two more additional drivers going through training and they are approximately one month out from being hired. The time that the kids are on the bus is directly related to the bus driver shortage. The bottle neck of the busing issue is primarily in Lee. It is an important issue and is being worked on daily.

Diversity Forum: The forum on Diversity has been scheduled for October 25th at 7:00 at the high school cafeteria. It will be an Oyster River Centric Panel. We have approached this from a much broader perspective and it will be moderated by Andrew Smith. This will talk about discrimination on race, disability, religion, children who identify differently than the gender they were born with, and children who have been the exception. It has become apparent that these other areas could not be omitted. Superintendent Morse has also has invited UNH student representatives to the panel. The capacity of the cafeteria is 450.

Kenny Rotner wants to make sure the word gets out on this forum. Communication is the key. He also suggested the UNH Newspaper to inform of the forum.

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report:

Todd Allen reported that there are three homework surveys that will be done at the end of October. The surveys will be given to students, parents, and staff.

Todd Allen also detailed the survey the Wellness Committee created and was reported at the last meeting. They met last week and reviewed the data. They will be doing the survey again this spring.

They are working with Lisa Huppe on the bus schedule. They were able add another bus on the road this week for Mast Way. They are continuously working on the bus routes.

Todd Allen reviewed the diversity curriculum with the Board:
K-4 Diversity Curriculum school wide themes: bucket filling, multi-cultural themes, anti-bullying, bystander awareness, and importance of kindness. In encore classes the focus will be on individual difference/tolerance, self-esteem, individual strengths, appreciating each other's abilities, self-expression, celebrating different cultures, responsible use of tech, poster reminders of diversity, exceptionality, diverse library collection.

Middle School Diversity Curriculum: Tolerance of individual differences, conflict resolution, appreciating diversity, understanding diversity values, beliefs and practices, analyze visual arts in relation to culture, impact of technology on culture, perform music from diverse genres and cultures. Counseling will focus on acceptance of individual differences, anti-bullying, beauty in all cultures, celebrating strengths, supporting challenges, stereotypes, Project LEAD in 6th grade, Advisory Program all grades.

High School Diversity Curriculum: Counseling/Advisory will focus on Bystander Training, Bullying awareness, 21st Century Learning Expectations, Awareness month themes. Courses with a Cultural Diversity Focus: Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, AP Biology, World Cultures, Citizen Education, US History, American Studies, Russian Studies, Mythology, Nonfiction, Science Fiction, Issues in Literature, World Language Classes, Health, PE, and Advisory.

The entire staff in the District is involved with Diversity Training. The training is in groups of twenty and is three hours.

C. Business Administrator: None

D. Student Senate Report: Hannah Jane Wilson talked about the student parking passes. The seniors get first priority and then it was opened up to a lottery for the remaining spots for juniors. There are many juniors that were unable to obtain passes. They are looking for a solution to the parking issue. Suzanne Filippone mentioned that they are looking at how the parking spots

are selected and will be talking to the Student Senate to get their feedback on the process.

Mr. Bobcat was a huge success this year. There is a video on Mouth of the River website. The junior class hosted a fundraiser with hypnotist and Spirit week was a fun success.

E. Other: None

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

FY19 Budget Goal:

Budgeting is directly related to our academic vision. The proposed 2018-19 budget reflects the priorities of the adopted District Strategic Plan which guides the decisions at a realistic and affordable pace.

The proposed budget will include all completed negotiation agreements, health insurance costs, and other proposed expenditures consistent with the District Strategic Plan.

The budget will ensure that the account additional trust funds, used in the 2017-18 budget, will be replenished by at least \$100,000.

This goal does not include any petitioned warrants.

This budget goal is to limit the overall impact to an increase of 3.25% or less in the general fund.

FY 2019 Calculations:

Guild Contract	\$568,708	
ORESPA Contract	\$ 45,638	
ORRA Contract	\$554,042	
Health at 10%	\$528,000	
Total:	\$1,196,388	2.78%
3% increase:	\$1,288,302.03	\$91,914.03
3.25% increase	\$1,395,660.53	\$199,272.53

Additional Revenue:

Tuition:	\$180,000
Kindergarten	\$130,900

These calculations do not currently include any funding for facilities.

The Board had a lengthy discussion on the overall increase to the budget and what the impacts are. Michael Williams would like to have a thoughtful discussion on the long-term vision and approach to the budget.

Denise Day moved to approve the budget goal as presented by draft 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

VIII. ACTIONS

A. Superintendent Actions: None

B. Board Action Items:

Motion to approve list of policies:

Michael Williams moved to approve the following policies for a first reading , 2nd by Denise Day:

KCDA - Memorials, dedications and recognitions and procedure

KLG - Relations with Police Authorities

CHCA - Approve of Handbooks and Directives

EBCA - Emergency Plans

The motion passed 7-0.

Policy EAAF Special Use of School Buses for Deletion:

Denise Day moved to delete Policy EAAF, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion to appoint Catherine Plourde as Affirmative Action Officer: Denise Day moved to appoint Catherine Plourde as Affirmative Action Officer, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion to approve the list of ORMS Coaches:

Heather Concannon	.50 fte Cross Country	\$1,197.50
Juliann Woodbury	.50 fte Cross Country	\$1,197.50

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the above list of ORMS Coaches, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Tom Newkirk reported that the Negotiations Committee met with the Bus Drivers Guild and negotiations are ongoing.

Superintendent Morse announced that the Superintendent's Facilities Committee will be meeting tomorrow evening.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

Future Meeting Dates:

10/16/17 Town of Madbury Select Board 7:00 p.m.
10/18/17 Regular School Board Meeting ORHS Library 7:00 p.m.
10/23/17 Town of Lee Select Board 6:30 p.m.
11/1/17 Regular School Board Meeting ORHS Library 7:00 p.m.
11/6/17 Town of Durham Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

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

NON-MEETING SESSION RSA 91-A2 (b) Consultation with Legal Counsel

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Michael Williams moved to adjourn the School Board Meeting at 9:56 p.m., 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully yours,
Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary