

Oyster River Cooperative School Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2023

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT: Denise Day, Dan Klein, Heather Smith, Matt Bacon, Tom Newkirk, Giana Gelsey

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Maeve Hickok

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Suzanne Filippone, Catherine Plourde, Amy Ransom

STAFF PRESENT:

GUEST PRESENT:

ABSENT: Dr. Morse, Brian Cisneros

I. CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 PM by Chair Denise Day. Tonight's agenda was abbreviated.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tom Newkirk made a motion to approve the agenda as written, 2nd by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None provided.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Giana Gelsey made a motion to approve the September 20th, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Tom Newkirk.

Giana Gelsey made the following revisions:

On page 2 in the last sentence of the first paragraph, delete “it takes away” and replace with “the Learning Everywhere program can take away local school board control...”

On page 4 in the second line of the fifth paragraph change “don’t” to “doesn’t.” In the first line of the second bullet insert “Exercise, Physiology, and Wellness” next to EPW and in the second line, change “EWP to “EPW.” In the second line of the third bullet, change “state” to “country.”

Denise Day made the following revision:

On page 4 add the bullet “Denise Day stated that she hopes students whose interests and talents lie within language arts rather than math also have the opportunity to advance in their coursework.”

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

Heather Smith made a motion to approve the September 20th, 2023 Non-Public Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

~~V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS~~

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

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

B. Superintendent's Report

October 1 Enrollment

In Dr. Morse's absence, Assistant Superintendent Suzanne Filippone provided an enrollment update. She said enrollment numbers are as predicted for October 1st. There is a slight decline in the 5th grade numbers, but overall, enrollment numbers are in line with projections and there are no concerns.

~~C. Business Administrator~~

D. Student Representative {Maeve Hickok}

Maeve Hickok reminded the listening audience that tomorrow, October 5th, is Open House at 6 pm. Parents will use a schedule filled out by their child to locate classrooms and meet teachers. Several clubs will be available to provide information.

E. Finance Committee Report**F. Superintendent Search Committee****G. Other****VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA – Chair Denise Day asked if any items needed to be discussed separately and there were no requests from the board.**

- List of policies for Second Read/Adoption: IHAM – Health Education & Exemption From Instruction, JJIB-A – Spectator & Parent Expectations, GCBD & R – Sabbatical Leave & Proposal, JLCE – Emergency Care and First Aid – Current with Narcan Language.
- Appoint Catherine Plourde as the FY24 Affirmative Action Officer.
- ORHS Leave of Absence from September 2023 through January 2024.

Denise Day made a motion to approve the unanimous consent agenda as presented, 2nd by Tom Newkirk. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMSNH DOE Required Critical Shortage Letter signed by the Superintendent.

Suzanne Filippone explained the NH DOE required critical shortage letter and informed the board that it will need their approval. She said there are approximately 28 critical shortage areas identified by the state. Although Computer Science is not an identified area at the state level, the OR district has found the position challenging to fill for the past two years. For this reason, it can identify it as a local critical shortage area, which changes the pathway for certification and makes it more direct.

Heather Smith made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to sign the required NH DOE Critical Shortage Letter, 2nd by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Barrington Tuition Rate for FY25.

Amy Ransom provided the Barrington Tuition Rate for FY25 in the amount of \$19,718. The Tuition Agreement requires our district to notify Barrington in October of the tuition rate for the next year.

Tom Newkirk made a motion to approve the Barrington Tuition Rate for FY25, 2nd by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Draft Budget Goal. FYI for October 20th Action.

In Brian Cisnero's absence, Heather Smith updated the board on the Sept. 27th budget meeting. She said there are two dominating factors affecting the budget - health insurance and pay raises that approximate \$1,000,000 each. While the negotiated wage increase was anticipated, the higher insurance costs were not. In fact, they are the highest they have been in years, although they are not the highest in the state. For these reasons, the 2024-2025 budget discussion begins with approximately a 2-million-dollar increase. Since a 3% increase does not cover the costs described, the committee is recommending a four-tiered budget goal of 3.3%, 3.6%, 4.3% and 5%. Heather encouraged board members to reflect on this information and come to the Nov. 7th board meeting with questions and thoughts for discussion.

Denise Day wondered if option #1 – 3.3% is worthwhile to consider for the fiscal budget. Heather said the committee discussed this and concluded it would be a useful exercise to see what the district would need to lose to meet the budget goal.

Giana Gelsey stated that in the past the goal was to not exceed 3.3%. She let the listening audience know that a 3.6% budget goal would be an increase of \$1,920,099. Heather pointed out that this is not the amount taxpayers

would be responsible for, and other factors have not been configured yet for calculating the tax amount. She said identifying budget goal options is just step one and only one part of a bigger process.

Amy Ransom stated that the 15.1% insurance rate could come in less, but she was advised that it will most likely not. Tom Newkirk clarified that the actual cost will be identified and announced later. Amy said this is not the year to budget for a lower amount, but in the end, it could come in lower.

Denise reiterated that the budget increase options are suggestions, and the discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Appoint a Survey Committee.

Chair Denise Day stated that “Competency-Based Learning” was a board goal pre-pandemic, and it still needs finishing. A previously used UNH survey will be revamped by a survey committee to focus on relevant questions for parents, faculty, and students. Denise proposed a survey committee of board members Tom Newkirk, Dan Klein, and Giana Gelsey joined by administrators, faculty, and parents.

Matt Bacon made a motion to appoint Tom Newkirk, Dan Klein, and Giana Gelsey as the School Board Representatives to the Survey Committee, 2nd by Tom Newkirk. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Manifest Committee met and completed the following manifests.

Payroll Manifest # 7 Total is \$783,490.32

Vendor Manifest # 8 Total is \$408,936.42

Heather Smith announced the Last Focus Group for the Superintendent Search is being held tonight from 7-8 pm in the high school multi-purpose room. She encouraged the public to attend, even for just a portion of the time.

Denise Day asked for an update on the attendance and search criteria identified during the Focus Groups.

Matt Bacon said he appreciate the new website and the pop-up feature, which provides reminders that are helpful and not burdensome for the user to bypass.

Giana Gelsey asked how spectators can access the new stadium seating at the ORMS turf field, noting that some are unsure and still watching from the sidewalk. Suzanne explained that the stadium seating is accessed through the parking lot alongside the field’s fence. In the corner nearest the bleachers is a worn-down grass pathway. In the future, this pathway will be paved and accessible. Giana suggested signage to indicate the pathway and its accessibility.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None provided.

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: October 18, 2023 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM – Mast Way Cafeteria
 October 26, 2023 – Board Budget Workshop @ 8:00 AM – Durham Council Office
 November 1, 2023 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 6:00 PM – ORMS Recital Hall

~~**XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91 A:3 II**~~

~~—— **NON MEETING SESSION: RSA 91 A:2 I**~~

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Heather Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm, 2nd by Giana Gelsey. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karyn Laird, Records Keeper

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