

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2020

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT: Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Tom Newkirk, Denise Day, Michael Williams, Al Howland, Yusi Turell

Student Representative:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: James Morse, Todd Allen, Sue Caswell, Suzanne Filippone, Jay Richard, Misty Lowe, David Goldsmith, Andy Lathrop, William Sullivan

STAFF PRESENT: None

GUEST PRESENT: Dan Moulis, Barrington Superintendent, Dave Gibson, School Board Chair, Moira Taylor, Vice Chair, Carrie Neill, School Board member. Ned Reynolds – Revision Energy

GUEST'S PRESENT VIA REMOTE ACCESS: None

There were 10 members of the public present.

Jim Morse opened the meeting by explaining that this is a Joint Board meeting with the Barrington Superintendent and 3 Barrington Board Members. He stated that this has been a positive relationship for both parties. He stated that seven years of a ten-year agreement for tuition students to attend Oyster River High School has passed and looks forward to our renegotiations.

Dan Moulis, Barrington Superintendent agreed with Dr. Morse that this has been a great relationship and that they keep in constant contact with each other. He stated that they average 50 students almost every year to enter the high school. He also will be looking forward to renegotiating with Oyster River.

Jim Morse invited Suzanne Filippone, high school principal to come up and give her thoughts. She stated that she enjoys having the Barrington student at the high school as part of the community and that she would not be able to tell whether a student was in district or from Barrington. She expressed appreciation for the collaborative work that is done between the Barrington and Oyster River faculty.

Tom Newkirk introduced himself and asked if Barrington had any questions for Oyster River and vice versa. He also stated that the arrangement with Barrington was the first thing that he worked on when he and Al joined the Board and looks forward to renegotiating a new agreement in the next couple of years.

Dave Gibson, Barrington School Board Chair explained that before moving into an agreement with Oyster River, the Barrington District was in a very precarious place and looking for a school of record. They looked at Oyster River, Dover and Coe Brown. He went on to explain that this agreement has worked well and that they have received nothing but positive feedback from their students and parents. Our students have integrated well into Oyster River.

Al Howland asked how the re-opening has gone. What have they learned from it and what would you do different or change?

Dave Gibson explained that communication was key and starting early was also important. There was a lot of meetings between administrators, teachers, Board members to keep abreast of the continuous flow of new information. We invested a lot of time in safety protocols and procedures. The challenges were trying to plan for every scenario, and we had a notable hiccup at the

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elementary school that we learned from and what we needed re-evaluate and continue to move forward.

Dan Moulis, Barrington Superintendent stated that there were multiple drafts of different plans that continually needed to be revised. We had multiple community forums for families for their input as well as staff input. We developed three plans for starting school, in-person, hybrid, and remote. The plan is not perfect, but we continue to refine it.

Tom Newkirk stated that where the decision for the high school to be mainly remote and with Coe Brown being all in, did this have a large impact on the students that are mainly remote?

Dave Gibson stated that we underestimate our kids and that there was some level of disappointment, but kids largely adapt to the situation that is presented to them. Dave took this time to ask Oyster River what the plan was for the incoming freshman, if they felt a hybrid model would be implemented to bring Freshman into the building.

Tom Newkirk stated that we are not quite ready to answer that question at this time and that this topic will be discussed further at our possible workshop on the 14th and again at the October 21st Board meeting.

Jim Morse stated that the freshman students were at the high school today in an AM/PM scenario. Our primary goal is to introduce the freshman to the high school. Suzanne has been working on ways to make this happen and there is constant contact between administration, teachers and staff.

Tom Newkirk mentioned the new middle school and the concert hall and invited the Barrington Board to view the site.

Jim Morse asked both Boards if they had any questions. He also asked if there was a timeframe in which they wanted to start negotiations as we are in year 7 of a 10-year contract and did they want to put a committee together to start this review.

Dave Gibson stated that he did not want to state anything in the 2020 year, but in 2021 think about moving forward with negotiations.

Al Howland stated 2021 hopefully post Covid to see what the high school looks like and protect the elective system. Did we meet the need and how can we make it better?

Brian Cisneros mentioned that last year Barrington spoke about 1:1 at the middle school. How did that go and were there any issues with transition from 8th to 9th grade, any technology issues?

Dave Gibson explained that there were no hiccups and that they started the 1:1 with the higher grades in the middle school and that they have not heard any criticism.

Brian Cisneros asked about parent communication from Oyster River to Barrington, are they receiving information.

Dave Gibson stated that he has not heard any complaints from parents and that usually the students have the information anyway.

Tom thanked the Barrington Superintendent and Board members for coming and looks forward to starting the renegotiation process.

Barrington left the meeting at 7:30PM.

Tom Newkirk called a 15-minute break as the posting for the meeting states a 7:45 start time.

At this time Jim Morse asked the audience if anyone planned on speaking during public comment. Several members of the audience raised their hands. Jim explained the 3-minute timeline and also went over the procedure that needs to be followed to come up to the podium on the stage and speak.

CALLED TO ORDER at 7:45 PM by Tom Newkirk

Tom welcomed Yusi Turell to the Board and stated that he looks forward to working with her.

Tom Newkirk then stated that he had two changes to the agenda, the first being that the Unanimous Consent Agenda should be moved to after Announcements, Commendations and Comments. Secondly, add an additional workshop meeting on Wednesday, October 14th from 7:00 – 8:30PM.

There were no additional changes suggested.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Al Howland moved to approve the agenda as amended, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

At this time Tom introduced public comment.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Melissa Veroneau stated that the Hybrid Model for K-4 is working well. She requested that the immediate implementation of a hybrid model at the middle school especially for the 5th grade who require and deserve the same hybrid model. Fully remote is not developmentally appropriate and concerned about the social adjustment and mental well-being of these children. She also asked for the rationale of why students are not in school on Wednesday's as well. Thank you.

Kathleen Hopkins of Madbury explained that she is experiencing the same situation as Melissa especially at the 5th grade level. Thank you.

Jill Papero expressed her concerns that her 5th grader watches his grade 4 sibling leave for school each day. She is worried about him. She urges the implementation of the hybrid model for all middle school students. She expressed her appreciation to the Board for all of their hard work, but urges them to move forward.

Michelle Dunbar of Madbury has 4 children, 1 in hybrid, 2 in remote and a high schooler at St. Thomas and explained their model for school. She is concerned for the high school level students as they are more vulnerable with suicidal ideation. She emphasized that we need kids in school.

Alyson Jumper of Durham and has 3 children in schools. Thanked the Board for getting the Hybrid model at the elementary level and getting the children back to school. She also thanked the teachers and paraeducators. She wants to advocate for a hybrid model for the middle school. She thanked everyone for their hard work.

John Diesel of Durham stated that he has a high schooler and he is an advocate for an in-person hybrid model for SEL and that Durham is one of the most restrictive. Kids want in. Understands that teacher and administration are doing their best and also incorporate clubs.

Christine stated that she has a 5th and 8th grader and agrees with everything that was said. Concerned about her children's mental health.

There were no additional public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the September 16, 2020 and September 30, 2020 meeting minutes:

Revisions:

Michael Williams requested throughout the minutes the correction of the last name “Klapp” to “Clapp” in the September 16, 2020 minutes and on page 2 the second last paragraph change “Denis” to “Denise”

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the September 16, 2020 and September 30, 2020 meeting minutes as amended, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 with Yusi Turell abstaining.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS:

A. District:

Misty Lowe and David Goldsmith updated the Board on the elementary schools. Misty stated that she was proud of the staff, students and parents for supporting all of the procedures and protocols that are in place. The students have done a tremendous job at wearing masks and washing their hands.

David Goldsmith echo’s what Misty is saying and that they are ironing out the schedules, and trying to problem solve the upcoming holiday travel outside of New England and what the plan is for any students that fall into that category.

The school Board asked if kids were doing the checklist in the morning before arriving at school, is the school providing masks to the students, and remote standards across the district for the minimum and maximum hours per week being met.

David and Misty answered all questions presented by the Board.

Jay Richard informed the Board that they held their first cross country meet against Barrington and that we won. He went on to state that they have scheduled the individual grade levels in school on different days this week and so far that has been very successful and the students were happy to be in school. He is very proud of his staff and the structure that they are providing.

Suzanne Filippone updated the Board on the happenings at the school and the plan surrounding the increase of bringing targeted learners into the school. They have currently started some of their clubs and that some will be meeting in person. Suzanne would like to send a very short survey to her parents for their input so that she can develop a plan to present at the Board level.

The Board asked how much room is being used at the present time and if an increase in staff and students into the building, how much additional space is required. Also, if students are in class and the teacher is remote is a substitute required in that classroom.

Suzanne answered the Board questions and Jim Morse gave the one example of an incident of a teacher working remote, but a support person was located within the classroom.

B. Board:

Denise Day thanked everyone who spoke during public comment and for those who have taken the time to write letters to the Board, your input is appreciated.

Michael Williams echo's Denise's statement and also thanked the community for reaching out to the Board. He also wanted to thank the students that reached out as we appreciate their perspective. He informed the Board that the NHSBA Annual meeting is coming up and that he would like the discussion of proposed resolution placed on the agenda. The Board resolution from last year is still ongoing.

At this time, Tom moved the unanimous consent portion of the meeting up to here and asked the Board if there were any questions and also asked Al Howland to explain how this works.

Denise Day asked if an item could be removed and how that works.

Al Howland explained that any item that shows up under unanimous consent can be pulled off the agenda by any Board member for further discussion.

Michael Williams clarified that the moved items would fall under Discussion.

Tom Newkirk asked that the request for athletics to play in state tournaments be pulled.

Al Howland asked that Revision Energy Agreement be pulled.

Dan Klein asked that the coaching nomination be pulled.

Al Howland made a motion to approve the remaining list of actions on the unanimous consent agenda as amended: Manifest approval, Chair to sign ORPASS and ORESPA MOA's, Catherine Plourde as Affirmative Action Officer, Policy List for second read/adoption and deletion, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:

A. Assistant Superintendent Reports: None

B. Superintendent's Report:

New Middle School Site Visit

Jim updated the Board on the proposed site visit scheduled for October 23rd, He stated that he received a call from Andre from Bauen Corporation that the steel work will be finished a week earlier than scheduled, therefor we will move the visit to October 16th at 1:00 PM for the GoVote committee and 2:00 PM for the elected officials. This will allow everyone to sign the steel beam before it is placed in the structure.

Update for October 21 Board Meeting

Jim stated that this will be an immense decision for the Board for the beginning of Quarter 2 on November 9th. There will be a lot of data collections and processing and it is important to have another meeting in October to give the administration time to present their proposals and the Board to ask questions prior to the October 21st meeting. Discussion surrounding generating a survey. A workshop on the 14th would give the Board a better position to make an informed decision on the 21st.

The Board had a lengthy discussion surrounding the generation of a survey, the timeline that this would happen in, possibility of extending the decision to a later date and extension of the current quarter to allow for extra time to generate a rough draft for a better quality survey for more input from families, possibly use a survey that was successful, possible from the Bow School District. A request

for additional information from the already created survey done by the Guild. Number of responses that were received from this survey. If the information from the September 16th meeting will be provided at the October 14th workshop. If additional information can be obtained on the comfort level from the teachers pertaining to remote and in-person instruction models as well as information from the Technology aspect from the IT Director.

Tom Newkirk made a motion to add an additional workshop meeting on October 14, 2020 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM to prepare for the reconsideration of options for Quarter 2, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Request for Athletics to Play in State Tournaments

Andy Lathrop referred to the memo that was included in the back up that listed the possible dates for upcoming tournament games. He informed the Board that the NHIAA is still in the process of designing common themes but in regional play for the first round will be completed in pods with area teams. As teams advance travel comes into play. He explained that the NHIAA has developed a comprehensive 18-page safety protocol that is in place for all tournament games.

The Board asked if the NHIAA protocols will be consistent throughout, the concern for mixed messages surrounding club play and regional play and the possible focus more on procedures. The Board expressed concerns of denying this opportunity for students, making sure that it is a sustainable practice, and make certain that our students do not let their guard down.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the request for athletics to play in state tournaments, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 with Dan Klein abstaining.

C. Finance Committee Update:

Revision Energy Solar Array Agreement

Al outlined the 3 options for the PPA. One being all in for the district to pay everything or put \$202K in the PPA with a potential energy rebate of \$150K and put the \$352K for the busport into the PPA. The committee determined to eliminate the 2nd option.

Al also stated that with the health insurance coming in lower than anticipated this will lower the percentage rate even more and we have not touched the reserve fund.

There was discussion surrounding costs coming out of the budget instead of placing in the PPA, clarified the difference in the kWh per hour for the two remaining options and the cost attributed to each, and that there is no prepayment included in the PPA. Concerns about the CIP for future years, and that we still are unsure of the revenues to come.

Ned from Revision Energy answered all of the Board's questions.

Al Howland made a motion to enter into a Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) to include the \$352,000 for the busport in the agreement, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Ned left the meeting at 9:42 PM.

Budget Update

Al confirmed the retirement incentive savings at \$676,878 and that 4 teacher positions and 2 para-educator positions will not be replaced.

Denise Day asked which positions were not being filled. She also expressed concern about future enrollment and the impact on positions.

Jim verified 1 elementary position from each school, a second elementary position and a special education position.

Jim asked the Board if there was anything that they wished to see included in the information for the Budget meeting?

Michael suggested that possibly identify any significant increase, even if it is offset elsewhere, and setting a threshold of \$10K throughout the regular budget. He also liked where Josh provided the aging and replacement plans for technology. He would like to see the same for transportation as well.

Dan Klein asked to see not only the new position requests outside the budget (yellow sheets) but also the unfilled positions and the position not being filled.

Yusi Turell asked about staffing in these unprecedented times, possible use of support people to patch temporarily holes like extra admin support or student engagement on Wednesdays.

D. Business Administrator:

Budget Memo

Sue Caswell asked the Board if they had any questions pertaining to her memo. They did not.

~~E. Student Senate Report:~~

~~F. Other:~~

VII. DISCUSSION ITEM:

October 1 Enrollment

VIII. ACTIONS

A. Superintendent Actions: None

B. Board Action Items:

List of Coach Nominations and Replacements

Discussion: None

Denise Day made a motion to approve the list of Coach Nominations and Replacements, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with a vote of 5-0-2 with Dan Klein and Michael Williams abstaining.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Tom Newkirk asked about the LEED Certification. Jim stated solidly in Bronze and Silver with a possibility for Gold. He also apologized that one of the public comment speakers removed their mask and that in the future he will make an announcement to not remove your masks.

A. Manifests Reviewed and Approved by Manifest Committee:

Denise Day and Dan Klein reviewed the manifests.

Payroll Manifest #

Vendor Manifest # 7 \$823,143.84 and Vendor Manifest # 8 \$2,148,262.81

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:

- A. Future Meeting Date: 10/21/20 – Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
10/29/20 – Budget Workshop – Lee Safety Complex 8:00 – 1:00

~~**XII. NON PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91 A:3 {if needed}**~~

~~— **NON MEETING SESSION: RSA 91 A:2 {if needed}**~~

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Al Howland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 p.m., 2nd by Michael Williams. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy L. DiFruscio
Executive Assistant to
Superintendent of Schools