

Oyster River Cooperative School Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2022

DRAFT

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Paige Burt

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Morse, Suzanne Filippone, Catherine Plourde, Sue Caswell, Misty Lowe, David Goldsmith, Jay Richard, Rebecca Noe

STAFF PRESENT:

GUEST PRESENT:

ABSENT:

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the agenda as written, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None provided

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Denise Day moved to approve the November 2nd, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Brian Cisneros.

Heather Smith submitted the following revision:

On page 4 under Committee Updates replace the sentence starting “Composting...” with “Currently, composting bins are not available in locations outside of the cafeteria in schools except at the high school. The community dinner will not take place in November as previously mentioned.”

Yusi Turell:

On page 4 the sentence that begins “Yusi encouraged the board to look at areas that could be cut,” strike “such as costs associated with tech. integration” and insert “such as the stipend for tech. integrators who then are required to work beyond a full day, in lieu of updating their job responsibilities to be more manageable.”

Motion passed with correction 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Denise Day moved to approve the Non-Public Meeting Minutes from November 2nd, 2022, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

A. District

Rebecca Noe of ORHS announced the Girls and Boys XC teams recently attended the New England’s competition. Girls placed 20th in the region and athletes Haley Cavanaugh and Mackenzie Cook placed in the overall top 25. There was a huge turnout and positive feedback from the 40+ families that attended the Barrington Info Night. Tomorrow 50 Barrington students will visit the high school and receive tours led by NHS students. Regarding senior graduation, Rebecca withdrew her proposal of a June 10th graduation date since it is the same day as the Track & Field New England’s competition. A graduation date and details are still being determined.

B. Board

Brian Cisneros attended Sunday's UNH Football game and ORMS teacher Bernadette Labbe, also an UNH alum, was recognized for her charitable efforts collecting canned goods.

Yusi Turell commended the ORMS Counseling Department for their organization of a Veteran's Day assembly that honored veterans and others who serve in our community. She commented on how powerful the slideshow's pictures and testimonials were and noted how nicely they linked the themes of "responsibility" and "community" for students. Yusi also attended Jon Bromley's Design Thinking class where she found it inspiring to know that students are applying their values and learning to identify a community problem they will address. She encouraged the high school to continue finding opportunities for integrating learning with real world application.

Denise Day gave a shout out to the writers of the MOR magazine for their extremely well-written and thought-provoking articles. She encouraged the audience to reach out to English teacher Shawn Kelly with topics of interest for future publications.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS**A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction Report(s)**MS Grading and Progress Report Overview

Jay Richard gave a presentation on how ORMS reports student learning with a focus on improvements to consistency, communication, and technology. He let parents know that Schoology will continue to serve as a learning management system for finding, completing, and turning in assignments, however, progress reporting and grades will now be communicated through PowerSchool. This shift creates consistency in reporting within the school and the district. A report card was created to easily provide a snapshot of grades, habits of learning, and attendance. Quarterly student self-reflections will serve as another form of communication to parents.

Jay introduced Digital Learning Specialist Janet Martel who has been essential to setting up all the behind-the-scenes work. Janet provided instructions on how to access and navigate PowerSchool. She let parents know that if an account has not been set up, they will need to create one using the email that was used to register their child. She shared the following PowerSchool features:

- Click on Grades and Attendance Tab to access courses
- Click the [i] symbol to see the individual assignment grades for each subject
- Click on Standards Grades Tab to see an overall view of progress on each standard and competency
- Click on the blue bar graph symbol to see the standards grades that go along with the assignment
- A legend on the bottom contains icons indicating if the assignment was late, incomplete, or excluded from the grade
- A comment icon indicates that a teacher has provided feedback

To assess standards, teachers are using summative and formative assessments which are scored with a (4) exemplary, (3) meets, (2) partially meets, or (1) beginning. Formative assessments are used as check points to evaluate learning and provide feedback between the student and teacher, while summative assessments are used to measure mastery at the end of a unit or topic.

Jay stressed the importance for parents to read the teacher comments provided in PowerSchool. He has asked teachers to provide personalized comments that are meaningful and important, and this communication is a valuable piece to understanding student learning.

Michael Williams appreciated the work that was done on grading noting its part of the school board goals and it creates an important building block from middle school to high school.

B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Morse shared that the Barrington Board Meeting was positive and productive. He commended Rachael Blansett, Suzanne Filippone, Kyra Dulmage, Val Wolfson, and Paige Burt for their recent DEIJ presentation at the NHSAA Equity Conference. Dr. Morse received positive comments for all their work, including Paige's competence and public speaking that stood out. He praised her powerful and influential voice remarking that she is another student rep that shines at Oyster River.

Dr. Morse let the listening audience know that the district's quarterly newsletter will be available soon. This edition will focus on resources to extend student learning, and an additional gun safety memo will be sent out later this week. He also touched upon the current lawsuit over inadequate state funding for New Hampshire public schools. Recent depositions are indicating progress in the litigation process.

The Master Schedule of School Board Meetings and the Budget Process Calendar were updated on Nov. 9th to reflect the following changes: The January 10th Bond & Budget Hearing will now be January 11th, 2023 at 7pm in the Middle School Recital Hall.

C. Business Administrator - None**D. Student Representative Report**

Paige Burt shared that the school recently held a celebration on the turf to celebrate all the fall sports teams and their successful seasons. Girls XC and Unified Soccer were runner ups, and Girls Volleyball and Boys Soccer were State Champs. The fall play *CLUE* will be performed on Nov. 17th, 18th, 19th at 7pm with a 2pm showing on Saturday. Paige announced that Student Senate is holding a competition between advisories to see who brings in the most food for End 68 Hours of Hunger.

E. Finance Committee Report – None provided**F. Other – None provided**

VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA – Michael Williams asked if the item needed to be discussed separately and there was no concern from the board.

- ORHS Maternity Leave of Absence from May 1, 2023 to End of School Year.

Michael Williams made a motion to approve the ORHS Maternity Leave of Absence from May 1, 2023 to End of School Year, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMSInviting newly elected state representatives to discuss topics of local school concern – Discussion.

Board members supported setting up a meeting with state representatives to discuss topics of local school concern. It will be scheduled an hour before a board meeting prior to the end of the calendar year.

FY'24 Budget Discussion

Michael Williams informed the listening audience that the state adequacy aid will be \$847,000 less for the 2023-24 school year. This considerable loss in revenue does not match the level of responsibility the board felt they had covered. A 3% increase in budget would result in some of the highest tax rate increases that's been seen in the last 10 years. For this reason, the board will focus on what is best for students and most affordable for the community. The board discussed adjusting their increase options to lower than anticipated, such as a range of 1.05% to 2%. They discussed what would have the least impact on students noting that operations will take a larger hit than services for students. Initial cuts include the capital improvement funding to expand and pave the Moharimet parking lot and the Mast Way library floor. The board discussed not filling current "unfilled" positions for next year, except for three special ed part-time positions that would become full-time. They also looked at potential savings if they offered a retirement incentive to the 25 staff that have reached the required

age and number of teaching years for retirement. Board members favored splitting the eligible pool and spreading the incentive option over two years to reduce widespread vacancies for the district. Possible funding was identified to help offset costs, such as grants for security and robotics. The board will review figures and discuss more scenarios tomorrow night at their Budget Workshop.

Brian Cisneros acknowledged Dr. Morse and Sue Caswell for their immediate attention toward finding ways for the district to save money after the reduced state revenue was announced.

Policy for First Read: B.1 – Acknowledge School Board Candidates for Office

Denise Day presented changes to policy B.1. Members discussed how the board can be a vehicle for informing and supporting candidates while not favoring or endorsing them or owning the process. Several board members supported a general posting that identifies the candidates running. Ways in which the board can provide technical support to forums were also considered. Denise will meet with the Policy Committee and provide a revised first read of B.1 for the Dec. 7th board meeting.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES

Manifest Committee reviewed the following Manifests.

Payroll Manifest #10- \$1,133,478.10

Vendor Manifest #11 - \$208,857.87

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None provided

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: December 7, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting – ORMS Recital Hall @ 7:00 PM
December 21, 2022 – Regular Board Meeting – ORMS Recital Hall @ 7:00 PM

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

- Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel

Michael Williams made a motion to enter Non-Public Session at 9:06 pm under RSA 91-A:3 II (I) , 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2 I {If Needed}

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Brian Cisneros made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karyn Laird, Records Keeper