

**Oyster River Cooperative School District**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**November 18, 2020**

**DRAFT**

**SCHOOL BOARD PRESENT:** Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Tom Newkirk, Denise Day, Michael Williams, Al Howland, Yusi Turell **Student Representative:** Megan Deane

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** James Morse, Todd Allen, Sue Caswell, Suzanne Filippone, Jay Richard, Misty Lowe, David Goldsmith, Catherine Plourde

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mark Milliken, Mike McCann, William Sullivan, Kim Felch, Andy Lathrop, Josh Olstad, Jim Rozycki, Mark Milliken, Kimberly Wolph

**GUEST PRESENT:** There were 8 members in the audience.

**CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00 PM by Tom Newkirk**

Tom Newkirk introduced a 90 second musical presentation by Dave Ervin accompanied by musician Jim Daley and students from the jazz band.

**Denise Day made a motion to open the public hearing on the Supplemental Public-School Response Fund (SPSRF), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

Jim Morse explained that Governor Sununu committed \$45 million in supplemental funds to provide relief and support for unanticipated costs associated with the safe opening and operation of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding was calculated at \$200 per students resulting in a total for the district of \$400,400. The funds need to be used and receipt of any products need to be bought and delivered before December 30, 2020.

Dr. Morse went on to explain that the district will use these funds for: PPE associated costs at \$123,790, Air Handler Ionization Device at \$48,000, Elementary furniture at \$183,610 and Supplies for food delivery at \$45,000.

Dr. Morse asked the Board or public if they had any questions. The Board asked if any technology purchases were considered, clarified that purchases needed to be installed and working by the deadline, and if a motion was needed to authorize the spending of this funding.

Sue Caswell stated that it was not required, but it would not hurt to do so.

Tom Newkirk closed the public hearing and called for a motion for the SPSRF.

**Michael Williams made a motion to accept the Supplemental Public-School Response Fund (SPSRF), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

Tom Newkirk moved to the approval of the agenda and clarified that the non-meeting as stated on the agenda is to discuss the outcome of the Board negotiation teams meeting with the Guild, and that it would follow after the discussion surrounding the request for students to remain in Oyster River. There were no additional changes suggested.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Brian Cisneros moved to approve the agenda as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.**

At this time Tom introduced public comment.

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### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Laura Vittorioso of Barrington stated to the Board that a better plan was needed for high school students, and relayed the number of hours that the freshman have been in school compared to the number of hours that the Board has been meeting. She stated that families should be given the choice for student return and encouraged the Board to meet with other districts that are making it work.

Natalie Lessard of Durham is a member of the girls hockey team and understands the needs for safety protocols, and that sports are a good outlet, and is vital to students mental health and well-being, and implored the Board to allow winter sports.

Jenna Young of Madbury read the letter that she previously sent to the Board. She has been playing hockey since she was eight years old and it has always helped her through the tough times. Being on a sports team is like having a second family. We knew that every game and every practice we had, could have very well been our last. Because of that, we stuck to the rules and guidelines provided by the Board to make sure that we could come to play again. Please let us play.

John Kelo is a senior at the high school and co-captain of the boy's hockey team, and he is here tonight to represent the other 44 players on the team. He stated that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity and we are following the protocols and guidelines for safe play. Playing sports is essential to our mental health and asked the Board to allow winter sports.

There were no additional public comments and it finished at 7:21 PM.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve the November 4, 2020 regular meeting minutes:**

**Revisions:** None

**Brian Cisneros moved to approve the November 4, 2020 regular meeting minutes as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0. Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS:**

#### **A. District:**

Suzanne Filippone, high school principal updated the Board on the increase of target learners into the building, and also the return of staff. She went on to state that even with the return of some of the staff she was disappointed that she had to cancel the return of the ninth graders for next week and move it to November 30<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that students need to sign up for this return to assure that transportation needs can be met. She also stated that with the rise of Covid numbers, there is nervousness among the staff.

Jim Morse stated that he is watching the Covid numbers closely and that Durham is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state for active cases. He also stated that he will be watching the numbers when UNH goes out on winter break. He is happy to state that in speaking with the elementary principals they relayed that they are seeing no impact of Covid at this level.

The Board and student representative asked a few clarifying questions which were answered by Suzanne and Dr, Morse.

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## **B. Board:**

Denise Day began by stating a line that she uses at her work, that the next time we are in a pandemic we will do better. She understands that this is a very trying time for all and that everyone is working extremely hard and asked the community to keep that in mind when sharing their thoughts and concerns during public comment.

Tom Newkirk referred to a letter that was sent to the Board that was written by Aiden Kelly a member of the Student Athlete Leadership Team (S.A.L.T). He wrote to express his opinion and concerns regarding the decision that was made for fall sports. He referred to the question of why Oyster River sports should stay open if other schools in the area are closing theirs, and stated those other schools are not Oyster River. There is a reason Oyster River has won the Sportsmanship Award two years in a row and it involves how we treat other teams we play, and how we play for and with each other. He expressed his appreciation for a very difficult decision.

Yusi Turell took this opportunity to clarify two items from the last meeting concerning concurrent teaching and students in their transition years – 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. She spoke strongly about a concurrent teaching model and felt that the public may have confused her passion for considering the model, with passion for the model itself. For the transition for 9<sup>th</sup> graders she would like to request a presentation to the Board about what we've learned last quarter about their academic and socio-emotional performance and needs. Which could include grade comparison to last year, teacher observations and suggestions, and student input. For the 5<sup>th</sup> graders she hopes to return to the Quarter 3 model discussion for students who already have an in-person option, it may do more harm than good to have 2 asynchronous days, for the sake of just one additional half-day in person.

## **VI. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA:**

### **Motion to approve the agenda items listed under the unanimous consent agenda:**

There were no items for the unanimous consent agenda.

## **VII. DISTRICT REPORTS:**

### **A. Assistant Superintendent Reports:**

Todd Allen gave a brief introduction for the upcoming sabbatical presentation by Jon Bromley, but also reminded the Board that there are still two past Sabbatical presentation that he hopes to bring before the Board at a future meeting.

Jon Bromley, an environmental science teacher for the high school introduced himself and briefly explained that he is working to develop a model for a Capstone Program at the high school. He created the Bromley Sabbatical Team (BST) with a group of approximately 20 students who have expressed interest in working with him to create the Capstone Program Model. The group consists of 4 seniors, 6 juniors, 5 sophomores. His motto is Working together to transform ORHS education and ...along the way...INSPIRE and EMPOWER some students.

His goals for this presentation are threefold. Why? Overview, and next steps. For this meeting he will explain the Why? Which is to provide a philosophical framework, justification for sabbatical project (Capstone Program concept)

In Jon's view, competency-based education (CBE), emphasis on 21st Century Learning Expectations (21st CLE) and social-emotional learning (SEL) are movements/reforms designed to address the changing social-educational landscape and needs of our schools. But despite the fact that CBE, 21st CLE and SEL are increasingly cited and used in schools to guide curricular and administrative decisions, I believe that there is a "disjointedness" to how these different reforms actually fit (or don't fit) within a teaching model that is...antiquated.

Capstone Working Definitions: A program that is integrated into the 9-12 curriculum, is guided by and evolves with a student's interest over their high school career, and culminates with an individualized project that provides students the opportunity to demonstrate and reflect on their growth as a members of the ORHS community.

A program that seeks to more fully integrate the ORHS vision of a graduate into a cohesive, school-wide, student-centered curriculum.

A school-wide, multi-year, interdisciplinary program that empowers students to bring their creative and critical thinking skills to bear upon a culminating experience focused on the issues, passions or concepts that are meaningful to the student.

He believes that a Capstone Program could help to transform the educational model at ORHS by helping us to integrate our 9-12 curriculum into a final, culminating experience for our students (school-wide backward design). Empowering students to bring their interests, experiences, and passions to bear on their high school experience as a whole. Providing a common starting point - a hub - around which programming decisions can be made (courses to offer/not offer; opportunities to create, etc.)

He went on to explain his next steps are to continue to work w/BST, engage student body, collect data, work with HS Advisory Committee, engage HS faculty on a broader level, and to expand BST to include members of the community.

The Board was very interested in Jon's proposal and asked that he plan on expanding on this project as an agenda item at a later meeting. Jon thanked the Board and expressed that he would be very interested in returning at a later date with additional information on this program.

## **B. Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Morse invited Andy Lathrop, Athletic Director up to the podium to present his winter sports presentation.

Andy began his presentation by reading a letter that he sent to fall coaches, athletes and parents for a successful fall season and then moved forward with his power point presentation. He also extended a thank you to Kim Wolph and Mike Feld for all of their assistance with his athletic program.

Andy provided the current timelines presented by NHIAA, which are: November 30 for starting of skills and drills, December 14 for beginning of try outs, and January 11 for beginning of games.

Megan Deane, student representative verified that these were NHIAA timelines and not OR.

Things we learned this fall: Parents, Coaches and Athletes were very compliant with our protocols. Additional staffing was required to help manage games and protocol. Volleyball was a successful model for basketball. The NHIAA was very supportive and flexible with restrictions individual school districts had. While not the preference of the athlete, masks are feasible during play. Cleaning and disinfecting facilities and equipment was done extremely well by coaches and facilities staff.

Things to be considered: Masks during play? Stay with regional play? Wrestlers may have no other school to train with, Exeter is not an option. Bus Use? Outside club restrictions continued. Facility Access?

ORHS and ORMS Winter Sports: Ice Hockey, Basketball, alpine skinning, swimming, indoor track (likely no meets this year), wrestling (2-3 individuals). ORMS: Basketball.

Andy presented to the Board three different options: Option 1- Hybrid #1 (Designed to mirror the fall season). Option 2 - No interscholastic Competition, and Option 3 – No Athletic or Physical Activities.

Additionally, Andy presented three questions to the Board: Which winter sport model is best for ORCSD? Outside club restriction? Fitness room to be open or closed?

Andy asked the Board if they had any additional questions.

The Board thanked Andy for his report and the great job that was done with fall sports. However, there were questions about the process of cleaning in between, protocol that is used if a visiting team does not want to follow OR procedures, the wearing of masks, the use of the locker room. The breaking point for pauses or cancellation of the sports program and when the NHIAA steps in. Participating in sports over NH borders and its repercussions, policy recommendations and guidelines that need to be followed, and a lengthy discussion surrounding the different models presented and club sport participation versus district participation. There was additional discussion pertaining to what motion with the possible removal of club sports be considered. Bus transportation pros and cons were also discussed.

**Dan Klein made a motion to adopt Option 1 as written for winter sports, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0. Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

Andy invited Mike Feld up to the podium to answer questions surrounding the use of the fitness room. Mike explained that he revamped the entire room so that it would allow technically a maximum number of 18 athletes to use the room, but he felt that 10 was a more realistic number for room usage.

The Board asked if this room was used in the fall? Mike stated that it was not. There was also a discussion surrounding Andy tracking club sports. Suzanne stated that to require Andy to track these activities was not a required part of his job and he has not been asked to do this.

Tom Newkirk asked if the creation of a policy surrounding club sports should be discussed. The issue of the usage of the fitness room had not been voted on.

**Al Howland made a motion to close the fitness room for usage only for fitness rehabilitation with the trainer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed with a vote of 6-1 with Brian Cisneros voting against. Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

Dr. Morse continued his report out with an update on the current open bus driver and paraprofessional positions and asked the audience if anyone would be interested in applying for either of these positions.

Dr. Morse updated the Board on the snow memo that was sent out to clarify how the district will be calling snow days in the coming months, and also mentioned that this would allow the district to know the last day of school.

Dr Morse updated the Board on the musical presentation that occurred last evening and that it was limited to families only, but Alexander will be putting together a streaming on the website so that all can enjoy the presentation.

Dr. Morse updated the Board on the status of reaching out to the Dover superintendent pertaining to sharing professional health advice with them. He suggested that if the Board was interested, he would collect questions and schedule a Teams meeting with Dover to discuss.

The Board asked if there were any health recommendations that Dover uses that we could review. Dr. Morse stated he would check.

There was no further discussion and the meeting moved forward.

**~~C. Finance Committee Update:~~**

**D. Business Administrator:** None

Tom Newkirk moved the meeting to the student report.

**D. Student Representative Report:**

Megan Deane reiterated that she had surveyed the students on winter sports and that 18 responses were received. She also stated that in addition to sports she also received feedback that students want to be heard and that they should have more of a voice. Students want to go back.

Tom Newkirk asked Megan to possibly set up a meeting with students that members of the Board could attend and listen to their concerns. Megan stated that she would work on that.

**~~F. Other:~~**

**VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Wakefield School District Request for Superintendent Services

Dr. Morse updated the Board on the request received by Wakefield, that at this time is just a gauging of interest.

**Tom Newkirk made a motion to decline the offer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0. Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

Draft 2021-22 School Calendar for 1<sup>st</sup> Read

Dr. Morse explained that we try to align our calendar with the Dover School District as we have a number of students who take part in the vocational program offered by Dover. He went on to explain that this is a first read and to let him know if there were any questions.

The Board asked about the first week of school being longer than normal. There was no additional discussion and Tom asked for a vote.

**Denise Day made a motion to accept the 2021-22 calendar for a 1<sup>st</sup> read, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 vote with Michael Williams abstaining. Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

Student Request to Remain in Oyster River

Dr. Morse explained that he received notification by the Dover superintendent that he approved this request for two students to remain at Oyster River.

There was no additional questions or discussion.

**Denise Day made a motion to approve the request for students to remain in Oyster River, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0. Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

At 9:14 PM Tom Newkirk stated that they will be going into to a non-meeting and made a motion to adjourn.

**Tom Newkirk made a motion to adjourn for a non-meeting for strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining for review of the Board negotiation team meeting with the Guild representatives, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0. Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

The student representative left at this time.

Meeting resumed at 10:07 PM.

## **IX. ACTIONS**

### **Superintendent Actions:**

#### **A. Board Action Items:**

##### **Discussion:**

Establish a Board/Guild/Parent/Administrator Committee

Tom Newkirk asked Al Howland to introduce the proposed charge:

The School Board will form a standing committee that includes, Guild, Parents, Administration and Board to investigate strategies to continuously improve instruction and provide recommendations to the School Board on a monthly basis. Nothing in this charge prohibits staff from implementing improvements on an on-going basis.

A discussion ensued and information clarified.

**Denise Day made a motion to accept the proposed charge and committee breakdown, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0.**

An additional discussion surrounding the creation of an additional Covid Task Force was suggested and a lengthy discussion ensued that resulted in a motion to create this second committee.

**Yusi Turell made a motion that the School Board form a COVID-19 Task Force including the Guild and at least one health representative. The Task Force will look ahead to academic; health/safety, staffing, and other complex factors related to the pandemic and recommend actions that the Board can take to anticipate and plan for these developments, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Williams. Motion defeated with a vote of 3-4 with Yusi Turell, Dan Klein and Michael Williams voting in the affirmative.**

Motion to Approve List of Policies

**Denise Day made a motion to approve the list of policies for first read, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed with a vote of 6-0-1 with Michael Williams abstaining.**

**Denise Day made a motion to approve the list of policies for deletion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0.**

Michael Williams questioned that he was unable to find some of these policies on the website and questioned if there were more that were missing.

Dr. Morse will have Wendy review the policy book to make sure that all active policies are listed on the website.

**X. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

Denise Day updated the Board on the Anti-racism committee that she is a part of and at their last meeting they reviewed all of the things that are being done at the schools.

**A. Manifests Reviewed and Approved by Manifest Committee:**

Denise Day and Dan Klein reviewed the manifests.

Payroll Manifest #

Vendor Manifest # 11 \$174,060.15

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**XII. CLOSING ACTIONS:**

A. Future Meeting Date: 11/19/20 – Budget Meeting – ORHS Auditorium

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

**NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A:2 I**

- Negotiations for Guild.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Michael Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed with a vote of 7-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy L. DiFruscio

Executive Assistant to Superintendent of Schools