

Oyster River Cooperative School District

Regular Meeting

November 20, 2019

Oyster River High School

DRAFT

SCHOOL BOARD: Brian Cisneros, Dan Klein, Michael Williams, Al Howland, Denise Day, Kenny Rotner. Not Present: Tom Newkirk

Student Representative: Yasmeen Gunandar

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

There were 13 members of the public present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

6:30-7:00 Manifest Review

Architect Middle School Report/Update – GMP

Ron Lamarre updated the Board on the status of the project. The 4 key elements that guide the project are Sustainability, Academics, Safety and Wellness. He explained the site plan breakdown covering parking, bus drop off and pick up. Explained the theory behind the shape of the building and its sustainability components. One is to harvest daylight via triple pane windows and a super insulated building. He also shared the building will be heated and cooled using a Geothermal System. The existing building will be 66% more energy efficient than the current building.

Questions were asked about solar panel costs. Ron explained that they are waiting for a call back from Revision Energy, who will need the square footage of the roof of the new facility to determine how many panels will be needed. Rough estimate, if bought outright, cost around \$500,000.

Jim suggested that Ron bring in a representative from Revision Energy to make a presentation to the Board for a more detailed report. The Board would like comparisons of the fuel options/usage and savings between the current building usage and the predicted usage for the new facility. The architect discussed energy savings on Site Energy vs. Source Energy.

Andre Kloetz from Bauen Construction began by explaining the process that was used over the past 6 weeks and the numerous outside contractors that were involved in determining the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the facility. He explained that everyone involved were able to give very confident figures for the project. Contractors involved are at a premium due to a tight construction industry; they have more work than they can handle. Andre presented the guaranteed maximum price for the proposed middle school of \$49,847,732. This includes \$45.1 million of construction and demolition costs, and \$4.75 million of "soft costs" for internal finishing's, furniture, etc. The school board thanked Andre for his work bringing the project in so close to the estimate.

Denise Day thanked both Ron and Andre and read the following statement from Tom Newkirk.

...I have asked Denise to share with you my deep appreciation for the tireless work of the architects, construction manager, and the Middle School committee that has worked together to get us to this point. It was truly a reiterative process, with the architects proposing, listening, modifying – always in full collaboration with Andre who had to translate plans into costs. The big question all along was: could we build the school we envisioned for the cost that we set out. On Friday we learned that the answer was yes. My hope is that we can use the Guaranteed Maximum Price as the bonding figure – and work to persuade voters that we will be getting a wonderful school at cost we can manage – and that to delay will only raise costs. I am absolutely convinced that future generations of teachers, students, parents, and townspeople will look back gratefully to the work being done to make this school a reality.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the agenda as written, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dean Rubine of Lee – Spoke about the start time change and the shortened school day and hoped that the district would look into the effect of a shortened day.

Susan Richman of Durham – High school students are now more politically active and would like to see the voter registration process brought into the school to honor and encourage their civic engagement. Let's make voter registration a rite of passage. She shared an example of what another district is doing surrounding hosting voter registration.

Bill Hall of Durham – Was pleased to see the GMP presentation for the new middle school and the progression of the plans moving forward. He felt that the GMP, for what the town was getting was very fair. He attended the original school. The building needed to be replaced decades ago. He shared his thoughts on choices made and reacted to the options for power for the new facility.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve 11/6/19 meeting minutes:

Brian Cisneros moved to approve the 11/6/19 meeting minutes as is, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 5-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative and Kenny Rotner abstaining.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS:

A. District: None

B. Board:

Denise Day attended the Opera Night sponsored by the Confucius Institute – it was a wonderful night. She stated the first publication of the Mouth of the River is out and it is wonderful, and you can subscribe and have it delivered to your home.

Kenny Rotner agreed with the thoughts from Susan Richman about the school registering eligible voters and would be willing to volunteer. He thanked the district and the Board for their part in the Orchard Drive Property. He stated that through donations and volunteers, the walking trail to UNH is complete. Also, through an \$80,000 grant, they will be able to construct a walking bridge, which will allow the Orchard Drive neighborhood children to walk to school. He also reported out that the Town of Durham has unanimously passed raising the age to purchase vaping products to 21. This is not the perfect solution or end to the vaping problem, but it helps.

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:

A. Assistant Superintendent Reports: None

B. Superintendent's Report:

Jim reported that his MS presentation sheet (Dance Card) has been updated and we just added two additional house parties with a third in the works. He stated that the two parties already completed at the Carrol's and Kelley's homes were very successful and he thanked them for hosting. He explained that at this weekend's play Denise will be covering a new middle school table on Thursday night, he will be covering Friday night and Todd will be covering Saturday nights performance. He announced to the community if they knew anyone that might be interested in hosting a house party as this has proven to be a good way to share information throughout the district.

Jim referenced Kenny's point about vaping and stated that the presentation at the high school was sadly not as well attended as they hoped. Scientist have identified what they think is causing significant health problems, the oil that is being used to facilitate the vaping. He thanked the health and counseling department for taking on this initiative.

UNH Presentation for HS Participation in NSF Survey.

Suzanne Filippone introduced Delilah Smith, Project Director for Prevention Innovations Research Center at the University of New Hampshire to brief the Board on the Healthy Relationship Project Survey that they want to present to students at the high school. Jim informed the Board that this is a voluntary survey and that both Suzanne and he are in support of this endeavor.

Brian Cisneros moved to approve HS participation in the UNH Healthy Relationship Project Survey, 2nd by Michael Williams. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

C. Business Administrator:

Sue Caswell explained to the Board the three revenue options to support the proposed 2020-21 budget.

- Option 1 – is without using the expendable trust funds or the bond interest.
- Option 2 – utilizes \$100,000 of the bond interest.
- Option 3 – utilizes \$100,000 of the bond interest and \$150,000 of the expendable trust funds. The current trust fund balances are \$1.2 million.

Her revenue pages included an Apportionment Calculation for the impact on the three towns. She noted that all projected tax impacts are always conservative and only become real the following September.

Sue answered questions from the Board and the Board discussed different scenarios if the bond does not pass.

Jim explained that the information presented tonight was just informative and that no decision is expected. The proposed 2020-21 budget will be discussed in greater detail at the December 4, 2019 meeting.

D. Student Senate Report:

Yasmeen reported out that the students are working toward raising awareness toward vaping. Winter sports are starting. The play “Little Women” will be running from November 21- 23 and the cost is \$5.00 for students and \$8.00 for adults. Everyone is looking forward to the Thanksgiving break next week.

E. Other: Strategic Plan – World Language Report Out

Todd Allen began by thanking the Board for giving the committee this task. He began by acknowledging and thanking the parents and staff that comprised this committee. He explained that Leslie Ayers and Candance French would be assisting him in presenting their findings to the Board.

He reminded the Board of their charge to the committee:

“To investigate current research related to effective elementary world language programs, to identify the obstacles faces including how world language would fit into the schedule and to present best practice options with a preliminary report in May, with a final report for Board consideration in November 2019.”

Leslie began by explaining the first of the three different Models of Elementary World Language Instruction: FLEX Model – this is an exploratory program usually one time per week for 30-45 minutes focusing on exposure to culture and language with no proficiency goals, similar to Art, Music and Physical Education.

Candace explained the FLES Model – typically meets multiple times a week for 25-30 minutes and the primary goal is to build language proficiency. She stated that the committee is recommending this model.

Leslie explained that the Immersion Model is very intense with students spending 50% to 90% of their day learning and communicating in a target language. They were unable to see this model as there are very few schools in this area using this model.

Todd explained the committee recommendations would be to establish a proficiency-based K-12 World Language program utilizing the FLES Model for all students in the district. Some key areas that need to be addressed would be expanding elementary academic time, a target language needs to be selected, 2-3 classes per week for 25-30 minutes. At the grade 5 level, the committee is recommending 3-5 classes per week for 45 minutes after choosing from 3 language options.

Obstacles faced to expand World Language would be: Where does world language instruction at the k-5 level fit into district priorities? How do we find the time to add World Language instruction in k-5? A sample day and weekly schedule were provided as examples.

Length of the current elementary school day was discussed, and using the 5 comparable districts, ORCSD day is the shorter ranging from 5 to 30-minutes. Todd had a discussion with the transportation director about different scenarios to pick up times that might allow for additional instructional time to the school day without lengthening the school day. An additional concern would be the need for 3 additional teachers and space at the middle school. The committee recommends grade 5 implementation as soon as possible. The committee asked Principal Richard to develop a schedule with grade 5 World Language.

The committee recommends implementing the K-4 FLES Model over several school years.

Kenny Rotner thanked the committee for all of the research and commitment that went into providing this presentation and recommendations.

The Board discussed different scenarios and cost ramifications for each.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEM:

Draft 2020-2021 School Calendar:

Jim shared with the Board the proposed draft of the 2020-21 school calendar. Jim explained the lateness of the Labor Day holiday this year was a discussion that the Leadership Team had, and changing this version to make Friday, September 4th a non-working day. This would allow for a 2-day, 4-day, 4-day week for the first three weeks at the start of the school year.

Michael Williams suggested that the October 9 workshop day be moved as this complicates parents plans to take a long weekend.

The calendar will be brought back at a future meeting.

VIII. ACTIONS

A. Superintendent Action Items: None

B. Board Action Items:

Motion to approve list of policies:

Denise asked if we are ready to move forward with approving policies. Kenny Rotner asked if we could begin with Policy JIHB – Searches of Students Automobiles on School Property.

Jim stated that all of the discussed changes from the last meeting have been incorporated into the appropriate policies.

Brian Cisneros moved to approve Policy JIHB – Searches of Student Automobiles on School Property for a first read, 2nd by Dan Klein. Discussion:

Kenny stated that he appreciated that Chief Kurz came to the last meeting and spoke about this policy, but he would like to add an additional line to the end of the policy that states: A search of a car should be thought of as a last resort; performed when all other options have been considered and felt to not be satisfactory.

Kenny Rotner made a motion to approve the amendment to Policy JIHB – Searches of Student Automobiles on School Property as amended, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion passed 5 – 1 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative and Brian Cisneros voting in the negative.

Kenny Rotner moved to approve Policy JIHB – Searches of Student Automobiles on School Property for a first read, 2nd by Michael Williams. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Al Howland moved to approve Policy JLIE – Student Automobile Use for a first read, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. No Discussion. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Denise asked if there were any questions pertaining to the KF – Facilities Policy, Procedure and Fee Schedule and if it was ready for a first read as is.

Michael Williams felt that this policy, procedure and fee schedule should be heard separately. He was concerned about procedures in general and he will not vote for any procedures.

Dan Klein felt that the policy needed one word “the” in the second sentence of the first paragraph be changed to “an”. The dates should be removed from the top of the fee schedule with the exception of tonight’s date. Additionally, he asked for clarification of the use of access cards as he interpreted the minutes differently, and to better define the deadlines in which we accept sport requests.

Kenny Rotner questioned the Use Priority on page 5 of the procedure. Seasonal sports should take priority.

Brian Cisneros moved to approve Policy KF – Use of School Buildings and Facilities along with the KF-R1 Fee Schedule, with a non-substantive request for a word change in the policy and date removal from the fee schedule for a first read, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Al Howland moved to approve Policy JICJ(A) – Technology Devices – K-8 Cell Phones/Personal Devices for a first read, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. No Discussion. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Kenny Rotner moved to approve Policy ADB – Drug Free Workplace/Drug Free School for a first read, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. No Discussion. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

X. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

A. Manifests Reviewed and Approved by Manifest Committee:

Payroll Manifest #10 \$993,265.96
Vendor Manifest #11: \$1,459,800.21

Brian Cisneros reported out that the manifest committee reviewed the proposed manifest and everything was approved.

Denise Day reported that the LRPC met last week and are finalizing the presentation that will be reported out at the December 4, 2019 meeting.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:

A. Future Meeting Dates: 12/04/19 Regular Meeting – ORHS Library
12/18/19 Regular Meeting – ORHS Library

**XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II {If Needed}
NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A:2 I {If Needed}**

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Al Howland moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m., 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 6-0 with the student representative voting in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy L. DiFruscio
Executive Assistant to
Superintendent of Schools

