

Oyster River Cooperative School Board
Regular Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2023

DRAFT

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Maeve Hickok (absent)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Morse, Suzanne Filippone, Catherine Plourde, Amy Ransom, Rebecca Noe, Bill Sullivan, Misty Lowe, Josh Olstad

STAFF PRESENT:

GUEST PRESENT:

ABSENT:

I. CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 PM by Chair Denise Day.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Brian Cisneros made a motion to approve the agenda as written, 2nd by Giana Gelsey. Motion passed 7-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None provided.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

~~**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS**~~

~~**A. District**~~

~~**B. Board**~~

VI. DISTRICT REPORTS

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

~~**B. Superintendent's Report**~~

~~**C. Business Administrator**~~

~~**D. Student Representative Report {Maeve Hickok}**~~

~~**E. Finance Committee Report**~~

~~**F. Superintendent Search Committee**~~

~~**G. Other:**~~

~~**VII. UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA**~~

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- Calendar Change of January 22, 2024, Teacher Workshop Day to January 23, 2024, due to Elections.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to change January 22, 2024, Teacher Workshop Day to January 23, 2024, due to Elections, 2nd by Heather Smith. Motion passed 7-0.

- FY 25 Draft Budget

Dr. Morse let the board know that Amy Ransom reduced and revised the number of options per board conversation, however, he said they don't have to be the only options.

Amy read through four options, which all included a behavioral health and strings position, savings from retirements, updated state funding, the use of trust funds, and retainage. The four options also included variations of the Mast Way cafeteria project, A/C at the high school, CIP cuts, additional revenues, and budget reductions. Amy pointed out that A/C is a continuation of the Capital Improvement Plan and if removed, it would be a budget cut.

The board discussed a 5th option, in which the \$500K Mast Way cafeteria project would be reduced to \$250K for engineering work and the extra revenue in option 4 would be removed. The following are key points that led to this option.

- Giana Gelsey said she felt uncomfortable passing the Mast Way project at this time due to unknowns with the construction cost and factors like repaving, installing a new fire lane and the capacity of the current HVAC system.
- Brian Cisneros said he would feel more comfortable engineering the project to get logistics and a better idea of what it would truly cost.
- Heather Smith suggested decreasing the \$500K to \$250K for engineering costs and using any remaining funding for the project. She didn't think the revenue from option #4 would be necessary.
- Misty Lowe, Principal of Mast Way, let the board know that she received a quote of \$1,400 for a 10ft. table that seats twelve children. She would need to purchase seven more to go with the two tables they already have for an estimated cost of \$10K.
- Dan Klein shared that he is not ready to approve the Mast Way project because of two factors: there is no facilities director and the district is transitioning to a new superintendent. He favors preliminary engineering work.
- Brian pointed out that remaining funds from the \$250K engineering costs could cover the tables and the start of the project.

Amy and Heather calculated figures, noting that the percentage increase for the new option #5 would be 4.2%, which is down from the 4.5% in option #4. The estimated tax impact would also come down to under \$1 for each town.

The board was in favor of option #5 which includes the Behavioral Health position, the Strings position, \$250K for the Mast Way cafeteria engineering and tables, and A/C at the high school using the funds identified and not extra revenue.

Brian Cisneros made a motion to accept the FUND 10 Balance in the amount of \$54,415,352.00 for the proposed FY 25 budget, 2nd by Matt Bacon. Motion passed 7-0.

Dr. Morse let the board know that Barrington wants to renew their tuition contract, which will be a warrant article, and Amy reviewed the other warrant articles that will be voted on.

Matt Bacon thanked Dr. Morse, Amy Ransom, and the Finance Committee for all their hard work.

~~IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES~~

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None provided.

XI. CLOSING ACTIONS

A. Future Meeting Dates: December 6, 2023 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 6:00 PM – ORHS Library
December 20, 2023 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM – ORMS Recital Hall
January 3, 2023 – Regular School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM – ORHS Recital Hall

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II {If needed}

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

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Heather Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 pm, 2nd by Brian Cisneros. Motion passed 7-0.

- Superintendent Search ~ Discussion for Interview Questions

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Karyn Laird, Records Keeper