

Oyster River Cooperative School District Board Meeting

Regular Meeting

June 17, 2015

High School

6:30 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER: by Tom Newkirk at 6:30 for Manifest Review.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Tom Newkirk, Al Howland, Kenny Rotner, Denise Day, Maria Barth, Sarah Farwell, Dan Klein. Student Representative-Absent.

ADMINISTRATORS: Superintendent James Morse, Sue Caswell, Todd Allen, Carolyn Eastman, Carrie Vaich

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Dean Rubine of Lee talked about the budget goals and revenues with the Board.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 3rd Regular Minutes: Denise Day moved to approve the June 3rd minutes, 2nd by Al Howland.

Revisions:

Page 5 - Delete first paragraph (repeat from page 4)

Page 8 - 2nd paragraph replace "original" with "amended"

Page 9 - 3rd paragraph add in Design before Subcommittee

At the bottom of page 8 insert: The Board had a discussion of the advantages and value of hiring less experienced teachers.

The motion with the above revisions passed 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MANIFEST:

Payroll Manifest #26 - \$948,813.79

Vendor Manifest #25: \$202,909.49

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENDATIONS:

A. District: Carrie Vaich of Mast Way commended Kathy Baker for putting together a great field day and to all the parent volunteers that helped.

Additionally, the expression sessions were last week and tomorrow morning will be the fourth grade breakfast.

Todd Allen, high school principal discussed how last week's senior week was a great success.

Maegan Doody won the New England 1600 race this weekend and will be competing nationally next week.

Sue Caswell announced that Lisa Huppe from Transportation applied for a state grant and was awarded \$55,000 for the new buses.

B. Board: Kenny Rotner highlighted Todd Allen and his great relationship that he has with his students.

Denise Day was impressed with the number of NH Scholars in the graduating class.

Maria Barth talked about graduation and in the top ten graduating students only one was a boy. We need to do something to encourage our boys.

Sarah Farwell attended the silent musical and it was a phenomenal experience.

She also thanked Pam Felber for her work with the first graders on a musical.

Tom Newkirk thanked everyone collectively in the school district who has committed themselves to the kids and who has made this year possible.

V. DISTRICT REPORTS:

E. Other: (Okay to shift to this position on the agenda)

Chinese Program Update: Yusi Turell gave an end of the year update and the next steps to the Board.

Yusi is pleased to report that the program is going very well. The pilot program launched in January with 22 students in grade 1-3, taught by a qualified Chinese teacher with support from UNH student volunteers. Classes were held at Oyster River Middle School with transportation provided from Mast Way and Moharimet schools. Families also participated in seven “community dinners” over the course of the semester to reinforce students’ learning.

The Confucius Institute has been a reliable and responsive partner.

Next year their goal is to enroll another full cohort of beginners, as well as to offer a more advanced class for returning students.

Looking forward to fall 2015:

Returning students: They expect to offer both M/W and T/Th classes with an average of 8-10 students in each class in grades 2-4.

Beginning Students: Currently, we plan to offer classes for students who are new to the Chinese language and culture, taught by the new Confucius Institute teacher due to arrive in late summer.

Community Dinners: We plan to reduce the frequency of community dinners to monthly which we believe will achieve the same impact while reducing time commitment and cost.

Middle School Club: Jay and a few parents have expressed interest in an afterschool Chinese Club at the middle school.

Heritage Chinese Classes: Weekend classes will continue with children of native Chinese speakers in our community.

A. Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report: Carolyn Eastman updated the Board on the work that will be going on during the summer. There are 52 camps running in Summer Reach this summer. K-5 Eureka Mathematics materials and online tools have been ordered. She also thanked the educators in the District for all they do for the students throughout the year.

B. Superintendent's Report: Kindergarten Enrollment Date:

Superintendent Morse talked about the spring registration for Kindergarten for the fall.

Moharimet: 47 students

Mast Way: 53 students

Normally, Mast Way has fewer registered students than Moharimet. There are four sessions at Moharimet and three at Mast Way. If these numbers stay constant then he will recommend at the July Board meeting to move a session from Moharimet to Mast Way. Superintendent Morse will also have updated numbers at that time.

C. Business Administrator: Budget Update: Sue Caswell updated the Board on the budget. There are additional Medicaid and revenues and she will give the Board an update in August.

Health Trust Authorization: Kenny Rotner moved to authorize the District to sign the updated application and membership agreement with Health Trust, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0.

D. Student Senate Report: None

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Property on Orchard Drive, Durham NH: Superintendent Morse discussed that the District owns property on Orchard Drive. An assessment was completed in December 2005 assessing the property at approximately \$600,000. Since the property assessment is ten years old, he is recommending that the property be reassessed.

The Board had a discussion on the possibility of selling the property. If they ultimately recommend to sell the property, it would be decided by the voters as a future warrant article.

Kenny Rotner moved to authorize the administration to move forward and obtain an appraisal on the property on Orchard Drive in Durham, 2nd by Dan Klein. Motion passed 7-0.

VII. ACTIONS:

A. Superintendent: None

B. Board Actions:

Motion to Authorize the Superintendent to offer contracts to qualified teachers and staff during the summer months. Al Howland moved to authorize the Superintendent to offer contracts to qualified teachers and staff during the summer months, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion to approve ORMS Grade 5 Math and Science Teacher. Denise Day moved to approve the ORMS Grade 5 Math and Science Teacher, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0.

Motion to approve Mast Way Grade 2 Teacher. Kenny Rotner moved to approve the Mast Way Grade 2 Teacher, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0.

Motion to approve Moharimet Literacy Specialist. Kenny Rotner moved to approve the Moharimet Literacy Specialist, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0.

There was a Board discussion on the hiring of teachers at the top of the scale rather than newer teachers.

Motion to approve ORHS Maternity Leave of Absence 11/2/15-2/26/16. Kenny Rotner moved to approve the ORHS Maternity Leave of absence November 2, 2015 – February 26, 2016, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0.

Motion to approve ORHS Girls Varsity Soccer Coach. Kenny Rotner moved to approve the ORHS Girls Varsity Soccer Coach, 2nd by Denise Day. Motion approved 7-0.

Motion to approve list of Policies:

Policies for a First Read:

Denise Day moved to approve the following policies for a First Read with the approved changes noted:

JJA - Student Activities, Clubs and Organizations – 1st paragraph last sentence replace “recommendation” with “approved”

JJE - Student Fund Raising Activities,

JJF - Student Activities, Clubs, Fund Management -3rd paragraph add after for “the purpose” replace “it” with “they” replace “was” with “were”

EI - Risk Management

2nd by Al Howland.

Motion approved 7-0.

Policies for Request of Public Hearing:

BBAA - School Board Member Authority

BDF - Advisory Committee to the Board

Kenny Rotner moved to have a public hearing as it pertains to Policy BBAA and BDF at the School Board meeting in July, 2nd by Denise Day. Maria Barth asked to move the hearing to the August 19th meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

This will allow the board to obtain public comment on these policies.

VIII. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Denise Day reported that the Long Range Planning Committee met on June 4th. They discussed the Barrington Tuition Agreement and will obtain numbers for the upcoming year. They have had a real estate agent provide them with some statistics and the market has been a little slower this year.

Dan Klein reported that the Sustainability Steering Committee discussed the eco throw program by Foss Manufacturing that aims to recycle water bottles. Oyster River is the first district in the state working on this program. They discussed forming a subcommittee in forming renewable energy. They were very pleased with the green team applicants. They are also looking at trying to

purchase more local food and building on relationships with local food. Their next meeting is Tuesday, September 22nd.

Maria Barth reported that the 68 Hours of Hunger Committee had their last meeting before summer break. It was a celebration of the work that has been done this year. \$17,800 has been raised and many food drives have been held.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dean Rubine of Lee mentioned that the Band Performance at the Silent Movie was great. The multi-age class at Mast Way performed Midsummer Night's Dream. It was a great performance and the kids were adorable.

X. CLOSING ACTIONS:

Future Meeting Dates: July 1, 2015 Manifest Meeting, July 15, 2015 Regular Meeting.

XI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION/NON-MEETING SESSION: None

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Al Howland moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., 2nd by Maria Barth. Motion approved 7-0.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary