

Oyster River Cooperative School District
Special Meeting DRAFT Minutes
April 13, 2011

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Brackett, Jim Kach, Megan Turnbull, Ann Lane, Jocelyn O'Quinn, Krista Butts and Ann Wright

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Howard Colter, Meredith Nadeau, Danielle Buldoc, Kris Gallo, Sue Caswell

ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Merrick, Anne Knight, Rob McEwen, David Taylor

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Harry Slepian, a ORHS student, believes we had a good candidate and believes that it is beneficial to have a principal.

Jennifer Rief of Durham cautioned the Board against special meetings and indicated that she is concerned about the possibility of an interim candidate and the direction of the Board.

David Ginnski, of Durham, expressed that he was fearful of the direction of the district and believes that the faculty morale has declined and we need to focus on students.

Ethan Hotchkiss, ORHS student, expressed concern with the Board decision and that he does not want an interim principal. He would like more explanation for the decision and would like to add to the agenda a revote on the candidate.

Anne Eiseman of Durham expressed that she would like an explanation and a plan going forward.

Anne Leahey, ORHS student, said she was worried about the decision and the prospect of an interim principal.

Suen Weber, ORHS student, attributes the success of the district to the faculty and is concerned that an interim principal won't have enough time to get to know the students.

John Collins, of Lee, mentioned that he was offended by the police officers present and his concern with the Board principal vote.

David Taylor, of Durham, expressed that he agreed with all the previous comments and encourages the Board to vote again.

Sara Farwell, of Lee, expressed disappointment in the Board's decision.

Karen Larsen, of Madbury, believes that the decision is based on poor listening and that the district needs more love in the air.

Sara Farwell, of Lee, is very disappointed in the decision.

The Board then moved on to discuss releasing more information to the public regarding the principal decision and Jocelyn O'Quinn's prepared statement.

The Board discussed whether to move into non-public session. Some members of the Board felt like it was necessary to discuss the appropriateness of the inclusion of candidate specific data to the statement.

Jim Kach made a motion to move into non-public session citing RSA 91-A:3 II (C) to discuss addition more information to the statement. Second by Krista Butts. Roll call vote, 6-1 with Ann Wright opposing.

Krista Butts made a motion to move into public session, seconded by Ann Lane. 7-0.

The Board discussed the statement prepared by Jocelyn O'Quinn. The Board discussed changes to the document including clarifying the first paragraph to indicate that upon moving into non-public, Superintendent Colter immediately nominated a candidate.

Ann Lane made a motion to approve the statement with the change and Krista seconded. The Board voted 7-0. The Board also discussed releasing the statements on the Board website, to Fosters and to the town governments of Lee, Durham and Madbury.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Rief, of Durham, indicated that the students have demonstrated civility and her concern that the Board's decision had to do with budget issues.

John Collins, of Lee, expressed that the budget is not an excuse.

Marjorie Wolfson, of Durham and a search committee member, believes that Howard Colter is being unfairly targeted and that Justin Campbell was the choice of the committee.

Sara Farwell, of Lee, is very concerned that the district won't find a good candidate now.

Griffin Sinclair Wingate, ORHS student, feels the Board has failed the students.

Emily Barret, ORHS student, feels that the Board has failed the community.

Harry Slepian, ORHS student, asked the Board to reconsider their decision.

Ethan Hotchkiss, ORHS student, asked the Board to reconsider the decision.

David Taylor, ORHS student, feels disrespected by the Board.

Julie Reece, of Lee, expressed that she hopes the Board has a plan.

David Asberg, ORHS student, believes that there is a divide in the community and that the four members who voted against the nomination should step down.

Cody Jacobson, ORHS student, stated that the Board is wrong.

Collee? , an ORHS student, told the Board to listen to the community.

David Taylor, of Durham, stated that the school is required to have a principal based on law.

Jeff Jacobson, of Madbury, would like to see more information included in the Board letter.

David Taylor, ORHS student, urged the Board to reconsider their vote.

Katherine Meredith, of Lee, expressed that the Board made the wrong decision.

Ben Bachman, of Durham, expressed concern in what happens next.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Clarify Charge for Advisory Budget Committee (ABC)

The Board and ABC discussed the budget committee composition and charge and discussed possible changes given the most recent budget cycle and how the committee functioned with the Board and Administration. Changes were made which will be brought back to the next meeting for approval.

B. Conversation with ABC Members Regarding Communication/Coordination

C. Proposed Budget Process Calendar FY-13

The Board and representatives of the committee discussed the proposed 2012 objectives as presented by the ABC. The Board agreed and supported the objectives as drafted by the ABC and discussed possible ways to work together in the upcoming budget season including expectations in terms of reports and the budget calendar. It was agreed upon that an ABC report would be useful to the Board. The Board expressed that they would like to see an integrated approach between the ABC, the Administration and the Board. Tom Merrick encouraged Board members to contact the committee through abc@sau5.org.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Nominate Community Member to Advisory Budget Committee

Henry Brackett nominated Lisa Allison and Bill Hensey to the open spots on the ABC committee. The Board decided that since letters were not available from both candidates the vote would be put off until the next meeting. Henry Brackett withdrew his nomination.

B. Henry Brackett nominated himself as the Board Member assigned to the ABC. Jim Kach seconded the Motion. The motion was approved 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jocelyn O'Quinn