

Oyster River Cooperative School District

REGULAR MEETING

June 1, 2011

Oyster River High School C-124

6:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Henry Brackett, Ann Wright,
Jim Kach, Krista Butts, Megan
Turnbull, Ann Lane, Jocelyn
O'Quinn
Student Rep: Cody Jacobsen

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Superintendent Colter, Meredith
Nadeau, Danielle Bolduc, Sue
Caswell, and Kris Gallo

There were 11 visitors present

I CALL TO ORDER: Krista Butts moved to enter into public session at 7:00 p.m., 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion approved 7 - 0.

III PRELIMINARY ACTIONS:

A District Announcements: None

Board Announcements: Megan Turnbull announced that this Friday there is a Murder Mystery Sweet Sixteen Themed Event in the multi-purpose room at the high school. This will be performed by the Drama Club.

This Sunday will be a curry dinner at Moharimet to raise funds for school building in India.

Ann Wright announced that next Wednesday is the Power of One celebration at 6:30 p.m.

Ann Lane announced that the sixth grade class is participating in the annual two day seacoast hike. They are learning a lot about the seacoast region. This is a great experience for these students.

On June 7th Carol Glover the author of Loving Hanna will be at the Middle School library at 2:45.

Krista Butts announced that on June 6th there will be a multi-age class discussion at Mast Way at 7:00 p.m.

Correspondence: The Board received correspondence from the community regarding: that the Board should listen to the Superintendent, the Board should follow policy. There were four letters regarding the senior graduation, the Board should have a handheld microphone available at meetings, and a right-to-know request.

Commendations: Megan Turnbull attended the Volunteer Tea at Moharimet. It was a lovely event and roses were distributed for volunteers. Senator Jeanne Shaheen was also in attendance.

Ann Lane commended the Middle School Guidance Department for all their work. Their work is often “quiet” but what they accomplish is very important.

Henry Brackett commended the cast and coordinators of “Once on this Island” for a job well done.

D. Approval of 4/13 Minutes: Page 2 paragraph 7 delete “with the change” and change “7-0” to “6-1 with Ann Wright voting against”. **Jocelyn O’Quinn moved to approve the April 13th minutes, 2nd by Henry Brackett. Motion approved 7 – 0.**

Approval of May 25th nonpublic minutes: Krista Butts moved to approve the nonpublic minutes of May 25th, 2nd by Jocelyn O’Quinn. Motion approved 6-1-0 with Jocelyn O’Quinn abstaining.

Approval of Manifests:

PR#24=\$1,027,230.95 - 5/27

VM#44=\$98,860.96 – 6/1/11

IV REPORTS

A Superintendent’s Reports: Superintendent Colter referred to Todd Selig and the Durham Town Council who are working on obtaining a second government television system. This would be an additional channel dedicated to the school district and would allow for more district wide filming.

Superintendent Colter announced that Meredith Nadeau has accepted another position. The Board accepted her resignation in nonpublic session. It has been a pleasure to work with her and he wishes her the best. Superintendent Colter spoke about how the position was filled previously. The Policy GCC does not address central office staff. He will start advertising the position. The Board will need to discuss what role they would like to play in the search at the June 15th meeting. The Board agreed by consensus for Superintendent Colter to move forward with the process.

The Wellness Committee met yesterday. Their next meeting is on June 13th at 3:30 p.m. They are drafting a comprehensive wellness policy. Ann Lane added that it has been an impressive operation. The nurses do such a good job.

Superintendent Colter attended Al Stuart's Middle School Technology class and watched his students who built a robot. He was very impressed how skilled the students are.

Interim Principal Update: Kara Sullivan, a teacher at the high school, read a letter from the high school staff to the Board. It noted that the search is being restarted so late and will be impossible for the position to be filled before Principal Rogers leaves. The faculty and the staff met yesterday afternoon and feels that it is best to hire an interim principal and postpone the search until next year. It will give them time to revise the policy and set criteria. The circumstances have changed and this is the best option.

Superintendent Colter would like to come to the June 15th meeting with an interim candidate.

Krista Butts moved to authorize the Superintendent to recommend an interim principal at the June 15th Board meeting, 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion approved 7 – 0.

The Board discussed the interim solution and the importance of starting the search early. The Board agreed by consensus to start the search in the January/February timeframe. Student Representative Cody Jacobsen requested that the School Board go into the next search with a plan.

B. Business Administrator's Report: Sue Caswell reported that they are working on a budget schedule. The auditors are coming in June.

She will have the retirement numbers at the June 15th Board meeting. There are nine teachers retiring this year. Krista Butts expressed appreciation for all the teachers retiring. She thanked them wholeheartedly for their dedication and service.

C. Student Senate Report: Cody Jacobsen reported that the lacrosse playoffs are tomorrow. Baseball and volleyball playoffs begin next week. The Student Award Ceremony is on Monday and the senior class graduation is next Friday.

D. Curriculum/Instruction: Meredith Nadeau noted that the draft Language Arts and Music curriculum will be discussed at the June 15th Board meeting. They will also be adopting the Art Curriculum and give an overview of the planned summer professional development work.

V SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES: Ann Wright and Ann Lane reported that the Academic Affairs Committee met. They discussed student exit interviews. They will give graduating seniors a place to give details on their experiences. They will find it important for this to be done before this year's graduation. They are working on a tight timeframe.

Superintendent Colter referenced a past Board goal to value feedback. He does not want to see this rushed for this year. It is a very busy time of year. The staff and teachers need to be on board. He encouraged this to be used as a goal – enriching the senior year. This could also include senior projects. What is going to be done with this information? He encouraged the Board to see what other Districts are doing with this information.

Ann Wright has an appointment with Guidance and Laura Rogers tomorrow to see how and if this can happen for this year.

Superintendent Colter is concerned. How this information is going to be used matters. He feels that it is a lot to work out for this to be successful.

VI PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kara Sullivan of Lee told the Board not to miss the point. The only reason that the faculty and staff support an interim principal is because of the situation they were put in.

Bryan Zottoli of the high school announced that June 8th is the Power of One celebration at the high school. It is really good to see what the students are capable of.

Loren Selig of Durham attended the Moharimet Tea for volunteers this week. She also mentioned the Curry Dinner Fundraiser that will be at Moharimet on Sunday night.

Tracy Schroeder encouraged everyone to read the book Loving Hanna by Carol Glover. It is an incredible story.

David Taylor of Durham mentioned that the senior class survey was also done when Don Lafferty was Principal. He encouraged the Board to look into it.

David would like to see how much money was wasted in the past week on advertising for a Principal. He would like the Board to discuss their plan in public and follow policy. He also feels that the Board committees are not being functional.

John Collins of Lee feels that the decision to hire an interim principal could have been done last week and not needed to sign a contract with NESDEC . He asked if it is the role of the Board to do the senior class survey.

BOARD COMMENTS: None

VII DISCUSSION ITEMS

A Purpose/Charge School Board Subcommittees: The Board reviewed each purpose and charge for the Board's subcommittees. Superintendent Colter noted that ideally the "charge" will connect with School Board goals and urged the Board not to have their work be disconnected from the bigger picture.

B. High School Graduation Ceremony: The Board spent some time reworking a draft letter to the senior class.

Dear Oyster River Senior Class,
Congratulations to each of you on the eve of your graduation. You have so much to be proud of as you mark one of life's great milestones, and as Board members, community members and parents, we are proud of you, too.

This is your time, and graduation is your day. To make absolutely certain the focus of the ceremony is where it belongs, we agree that it is best to do as you have asked and put a pause on the current tradition of having a board member pass out diplomas to students. Instead, we will be among the loudest voices in the audience cheering you on.

Each of you represents a tradition of excellence at Oyster River High School and in our district as a whole. It's a tradition to which all of us in the community are devoted, and which will keep our district strong through the turbulence that comes with change.

Class of 2011, we salute you! See you on graduation day.

Sincerely,

The ORCSD School Board

Megan Turnbull moved to submit this letter to Principal Laura Rogers for distribution to the class of 2011 and to *Foster's Daily Democrat*, 2nd by Ann Lane.

Jim Kach moved the question. This motion does not pass 4-3 with Jocelyn O'Quinn, Ann Wright and Krista Butts opposing.

Megan Turnbull withdrew her motion and Ann Lane withdrew her second. After a further discussion and revising of the letter, Megan Turnbull moved to accept the letter above which includes revisions to Principal Laura Rogers for distribution to the class of 2011 and to *Foster's Daily Democrat*, 2nd by Ann Lane. Motion approved 7 - 0.

VIII ACTION ITEMS

A Authorize Retirement Incentive to Food Service Director: Krista Butts moved to approve a retirement stipend for Harlene Batchelder, 2nd by Henry Brackett. After a Board discussion, **the motion passed 5 – 2 with Ann Lane and Jocelyn O’Quinn opposing.**

IX PUBLIC COMMENTS

Loren Selig of Durham urged the Board to please make wise choices at the graduation ceremony.

John Collins of Lee would like to know what change is being referenced in the graduation letter.

David Taylor of Durham wants to know what the change the Board is talking about. Please involve all the stakeholders in these discussions.

The Board had a brief dialogue about obtaining prices for a wireless microphone for the public comments portion of the meetings.

X CLOSING ACTIONS

A Agenda Planning: Setting/Review of future agenda item list: curriculum reports, Board Goals, Policies.

B. Future Meeting Dates: 6/8/11 workshop, 6/15/11 regular meeting

Krista Butt moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m, 2nd by Jim Kach. Motion approved 7 – 0.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary