

Oyster River Cooperative School District

REGULAR MEETING

June 15, 2011 **Oyster River High School C-124** **6:15 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, Jay Richard, and Kris Gallo

There were 65 visitors present

I CALL TO ORDER: Krista Butts moved to enter into public session at 7:15 p.m., 2nd by Jocelyn O'Quinn. Motion approved 7- 0.

Jim Kach moved to have Board announcements first on the agenda, 2nd by Megan Turnbull. Motion passed 6 – 1 with Krista Butts opposing.

III PRELIMINARY ACTIONS

A Announcements: Board: Henry Brackett read a letter announcing that the Board and the Superintendent have entered into an agreement effective June 30, 2011 at which time Mr. Colter will leave his position as the ORCSD Superintendent.

The mutual decision to end Mr. Colter's employment contract early, prior to the June 30, 2012 contract date, is an amicable agreement between the ORCSD School Board and Mr. Colter.

Jim Kach moved to authorize Henry Brackett to make contacts for an interim Superintendent for one year, 2nd by Megan Turnbull. Motion approved 7 – 0.

The Board had a discussion on the interview procedures. The finalists will be interviewed in public. The criteria need to be set and will be discussed later this evening.

Megan Turnbull moved that the full Board, Leadership Team, Sue Caswell and Danielle Bolduc take part of the interview process. Once the finalists are selected with community input, the Board will go into nonpublic session to deliberate and vote on a candidate, 2nd by Krista Butts. Motion approved 7 – 0.

Megan Turnbull moved to add to the agenda criteria for the Interim Superintendent position under discussion items, 2nd by Ann Lane. Motion passed 6-1 with Ann Lane opposing.

This information will be posted on the website. The Board discussed talking to the press on this situation and how the process will be moving forward.

District Announcements: Meredith Nadeau commented that she saw three School Board members at the Durham Police Department last Friday having meetings regarding an interim Superintendent.

Laura Rogers commended Celeste Best and Jon Bromley for all their work on the Science Showcase. She thanked Mark LaForce for all his work on the music program. Laura also noted that the “Power of One” has raised over \$16K.

B. Correspondence: The Board has received correspondence regarding: 6/8 taping of Board goals workshop, the Power of One Project, and a letter asking to please keep child health and wellness as a Board goal.

C. Commendations: Ann Lane attended the Science Fair at the high school and thought that it was very inspiring.

She also commended the 16 students who received the Granite State Scholar Award. Congratulations on a job well done!

Krista Butt mentioned that there were lots of field trips this week and she thanked the teachers for coordinating these.

Ann Wright commended the Pay It Forward Project at the Middle School. \$2600 was raised. She also commended the Power of One Project at the high school. These are well done programs in the District.

Megan Turnbull commended the ORHS Class of 2011 and the Power of One Project. She commended Laura Rogers and Howard Colter for their service and work in the District.

Jim Kach commended Donovan Kelly for reaching 100 points in Lacrosse. Great job!

Jocelyn O'Quinn noted that today was the last day of the PEP Program. They do a great job.

D. Approval of 5/25 Minutes: Revision page 2 change “detour” to “deter”.
Krista Butt moved to approve the minutes of May 25th with the above revision, 2nd by Jim Kach. Motion approved 6-0-1 with Jocelyn O'Quinn abstaining.

June 1st: Ann Lane moved to approve the June 1st minutes, 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion approved 7 – 0.

E. Approval of Manifests:

VM#50=\$133,612.76 – 6/8/11

VM#51=\$243.00 – 6/9/11

VM#52=\$1,918.00 – 6/13/11

VM#53=\$527,262.64 – 6/14/11

PR#25=\$865,999.62 – 6/10/11

IV REPORTS

A Superintendent's Reports: Superintendent Colter commended Mrs. Webb and Mr. McCormack at Mast Way for doing such a great job.

He offered congratulations to this year's graduates.

Superintendent Colter discussing the hiring and offering of contracts over the summer. Typically, this is done by the Superintendent but he wanted the Board's thoughts on this. The Board could authorize the Superintendent to issue the contracts or the Board will need to meet more often in the summer to approve them.

There will be a community reception tomorrow night for Laura Rogers in the multi-purpose room from 5:00 – 6:30.

Superintendent Colter attended the Middle School Field Trip to Odiorne Point last Friday. He is very impressed with the coordinated instruction that was offered.

The Wellness Committee met this week. They are working on a more comprehensive Policy to bring forth to the School Board. They are meeting again on June 21st.

The Sustainability Committee met last night. They are looking at food and nutrition, energy and transportation, energy and facilities, education outreach and grants. They are meeting again on Tuesday, July 5th.

The telephones were briefly down today at the SAU and Moharimet. This is a reminder that the system is worn out. The SAU, Service Building and the

Middle School will be switched out by the start of next year. Moharimet and the High School systems will be replaced by fall or winter.

Superintendent Colter thanked everyone for the honor to serve the school and the District for the past five years.

B. Business Administrator's Report: Sue Caswell reported that there is land for sale near the school. She will bring the information and the details to the Operations Committee.

The Advisory Budget Committee met on Monday and they are meeting again on the 27th to discuss the Budget.

C. Student Senate Report: Cody Jacobsen wanted to thank Superintendent Colter for all the work he has done on behalf of the students. He is looking forward to having Mr. Allen as the Interim Principal at the high school next year. He also reported that the Bobcat Bolt is on June 25 and they are still looking for food donations.

D. Curriculum Instruction:

Music Curriculum: Pam Felber, Sarah Kuhn, and David Irvin reviewed the Music Curriculum with the Board.

They reviewed the 10 curriculum standards with the Board:

1. Sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Compose and arrange music within specified guidelines.
5. Read and notate music.
6. Listen to, analyze, and describe music.
7. Evaluate music and music performances.
8. Understand music and the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.

9. Understand music in relation to history and culture.
10. Identify the range of careers in the field of music.

They will continue to meet this summer to work on this curriculum revision.

Language Arts Curriculum: Barbara Jasinski, Judy George, Amanda Zeller, and Marjke Yatsevitch presented the Language Arts Curriculum to the Board. They reviewed their mission statement with the Board.

The purpose of the Oyster River Cooperative School District Language Arts curriculum is to develop inspired, independent, competent learners who will become life-long readers, writers, listeners, and speakers able to effectively communicate their thoughts and ideas and respond to the thoughts and ideas of others.

We are guided by the belief that within a social context, learning is a unique individual experience through which students will:

- Use language to make sense of their world, extend their thinking and learning, and contribute to their society.
- Realize that their ideas, voices, beliefs, knowledge, and opinions matter.
- Understand that the process of learning is dynamic and includes accessing and building on prior knowledge.
- Use a wealth of tools and resources to effectively manage, evaluate, and create information.
- Reflect on and evaluate ways in which the language of other affects them.
- Reflect on and evaluate their own use of language.

We believe that learning occurs best when teachers create a support, interactive environment that:

- Actively engages students in developmentally appropriate instruction.
- Fosters participation in meaningful activities designed to meet the needs of all learners.

- Values reading and writing as processes in which students are given time, choice, positive response and models in order to creatively craft a quality product.

Through this Language Arts curriculum, students will begin to understand themselves as literate, articulate, product members of a global community.

Summer Curriculum and Professional Development work slated for summer 2011: Danielle Bolduc reviewed the following items that will be worked on over the summer with the Board:

Power School training

HS Science – Google documents and lab report rubrics

³/₄ Science – Gizmo training

Math – Gizmo training and progress reports

DINI

SINI (Mast Way, MS and HS)

Music curriculum

Differentiated instruction (team/unit planning, level 1 and level 2 trainings)

Reading specialist planning for vocabulary workshops

First grade teachers and world language teacher planning 2011-2012

New teacher orientation

V SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES

Krista Butts reported that the Policy Committee met last Monday and went through the second reads. There are only two sections left to revise. They have discussed having someone such as the NHSBA work with them to go over the rest of the Policies in an all day workshop and then complete the revisions on their own. There are some required policies that are not currently in the book. Superintendent Colter is suggesting that they move forward with the required policies.

Jocelyn O'Quinn reported that the Operations Committee met yesterday.

Henry Brackett reported that the Advisory Budget Committee met yesterday and they elected their officers for the upcoming year.

The Strafford Learning Center is meeting tomorrow and discussing plans for next year.

Ann Lane reported that the Long Range Planning Committee is ready and would like to make their presentation to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

VI PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Pam Raiford a teacher at the high school is incredibly shocked and deeply saddened that the Board has decided to buy out Superintendent Colter's contract. Not having him help the District during this transition is not in the District's best interest in the community.

Matt Pappas, a teacher at the high school, thanked Superintendent Colter for all his work and is saddened that he is leaving.

Drew Christie of Durham wants to know what is going on. He feels that the Board needs to justify this.

Leslie Martin of Lee is very upset about Laura Rogers and the Superintendent leaving.

Calvin Jarvis is happy to see Todd Allen as the interim Principal. People want to know what is going on in the District.

Denise Day of Durham feels that as a taxpayer that there needs to be some answers and no more backdoor deals.

Roger Spiedel of Durham feels that the school systems are overstaffed as the population continues to decline. Fiscal responsibility needs to be achieved.

Linda Rief, a middle school teacher, is shocked, dismayed, and disheartened that the Superintendent is leaving. He puts children and teachers at the center of everything. Why are we losing these great professionals?

Kay Morgan of Durham is offended by the buyout of the Superintendent's contract.

Tracy Schrader of Durham is going to miss the Superintendent. She has worked on the Strategic Planning Committee and the Wellness Committee. She would like the Board to keep District wellness as one of their goals.

Laura D'Meglio of Lee is concerned about the Superintendent's contract being bought out. Our District is losing its leadership. How much is this costing the District?

Jennifer Rief of Durham thanked Superintendent Colter for his service. She learned a great deal from him while she was on the Board. The Board should discuss the amount of the buyout and be transparent. The public needs to know how this is fiscally sound.

JoAnn Portalupi of Lee thanked Superintendent Colter for all his work. She would like to know what the cost amount was of the buyout including lawyer fees and also what the Board vote was.

She also feels that engender a culture of trust, respect and support should be back on the list of Board goals.

Loren Selig of Durham noted that field day was last week at Moharimet. She commended the bus drivers and all they do. Because of her daughter's schedule she has three different bus drivers and they all do a great job!

Brian Turnbull of Durham is excited to hear the plans for the Music Department. Bonds form in the ensemble arts and he urged the Board and the Superintendent to support the Music Department.

David Taylor mentioned that it was a pleasure to work with Superintendent Colter during his years on the Board. He is a level 5 leader. He would like to know what the Board vote was.

Sarah Farwell of Lee is disappointed in the Board's decision. She is anxious and scared where they are steering the District. She asked the Board to spell out their vision.

Kenny Rutpner of Durham thanked Superintendent Colter for all his work. He has been a strong leader. He has never seen this community as torn apart as it is now. The community needs to hear what the Board's agenda is.

Doug Hoff of the Teacher's Guild thanked Superintendent Colter, Meredith Nadeau, and Laura Rogers for all they have accomplished.

Deb Alberts of Durham wants to know what the Board is doing. The school is the most important investment we have for our children.

BOARD COMMENTS: None

VII DISCUSSION ITEMS

A School Board Goals: The Board had a discussion on Board goals. They will be having a workshop on June 20th from 4:30 – 6:00 at the SAU to further continue this discussion.

B. Interim Superintendent Criteria: The Board discussed the criteria for the Interim Superintendent: Prior Superintendent experience, come from a District that has faced changes, series of experience, calming force, strong leadership

and mentor/skills, help with policy, comes from NH, collaborative worker not a top down leader, and to continue ongoing curriculum and work initiatives.

C. NESDEC Contract: Henry Brackett contacted NESDEC requesting that the Principal search be stopped. The contract will be vacated. The District is responsible for \$634 in fees that have been incurred.

D. Draft Operation Committee Purpose: The Board had a dialogue on the draft Operation Committee purpose. They talked about aligning this with the Board goals. They will continue this discussion as part of the Board goals discussion.

VIII ACTION ITEMS

A Adoption of Art Curriculum: Krista Butts moved to adopt the Art Curriculum, 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Ann Lane abstaining.

B. Policies: Krista Butts moved to adopt policies ADB, DFA, EB, EBBC, EBBB, EEAEA, EHB, JICI, JKAA/KAA-R, JLCE, JLDBA, JLF, KED, JFCJ, and JG, 2nd by Jocelyn O'Quinn. Motion approved 7 – 0.

Krista Butts moved to recommend for adoption Policy DID, 2nd by Ann Lane. Motion approved 7 – 0.

D. School Board Representative to Director of Instructor Search Committee: Krista Butts nominated Ann Wright to the Director of Instructor Search Committee, 2nd by Jocelyn O'Quinn. Motion approved 7-0. They will be meeting in late June to set the criteria for this position. The position has already been advertised.

E. Fund Balance Update: Sue Caswell discussed with the Board items for consideration before year end. They discussed the \$10,000 purchase of kitchen equipment and water refill stations at \$1,000 per station.

Krista Butts moved to authorize the purchase of \$10,000 for kitchen equipment and \$6,000 for 6 water stations, 2nd by Jocelyn O’Quinn.

Motion approved 7 – 0.

Ann Wright moved to approve the purchase of \$45,000 for a bobcat to be used for sanding and plowing, 2nd by Krista Butts. Motion failed 3 – 4 with Henry Brackett, Ann Lane, Jocelyn O’Quinn and Megan Turnbull opposing.

F. Hiring Procedures of Teachers during the summer: Superintendent Colter mentioned that if the Board would like to approve the hiring of teachers over the summer they would need a quorum or they can authorize the Superintendent make these approvals. **Ann Wright moved to authorize the Superintendent to issue contracts, 2nd by Krista Butts. Motion failed 3-4 with Ann Lane, Henry Brackett, Jim Kach and Megan Turnbull opposing.**

Henry Brackett moved that the Board Chair will call special meetings as needed to approve and discuss contracts, 2nd by Ann Lane. Motion passed 5 – 2 with Ann Wright and Krista Butts opposing.

IX PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Taylor noted that the criteria for a Interim Superintendent are interesting in that Superintendent Colter meets that and much more. He would like to know what the Board’s agenda is. Also, the Board should not be spending unreserved fund balances.

JoAnn Portalupi of Lee would like to know what the buyout is for the Superintendent.

X CLOSING ACTIONS

Agenda Planning: Administrators Salary Study, Role of the SRO in schools, efficiency in meetings and the LRPC presentation.

The Board discussed the possibility of a community forum and will discuss this further at the next meeting.

B. Future Meeting Dates: 6/20 workshop and 7/20 regular meeting.

Jim Kach moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 p.m., 2nd by Henry Brackett. Motion approved 7-0.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary