

## Oyster River Cooperative School District

### Special Meeting - Public Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

**Date:** July 13, 2011

**Location:** Oyster River High School, Conference Room

**Meeting Time:** 10:00AM

Meeting called to order by Henry Brackett.

Motion made to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3, II(b) at 10:02AM by Jim Kach, seconded by Ann Lane. Roll call vote, 4-0.

Board Members Present: Henry Brackett, Jim Kach, Ann Lane, and Megan Turnbull.

Absent: Ann Wright, Jocelyn O'Quinn, Krista Butts

Administration and Staff Present: Sue Caswell, Ray Celentano, Leon Levesque, and Jay Richard

Motion made to exit non-public by Jim Kach, seconded by Ann Lane Roll call vote, 4-0 at 10:05AM in order to discuss Oyster River Middle School new special education model in public session. Roll call vote, 4-0.

Entered public session at 10:05AM

Special Education Coordinator Ray Celentano explained the new Oyster River Middle School (ORMS) model to the board and Interim Superintendent Levesque. The board members asked questions related to the model, both Mr. Celentano and Principal Jay Richard answered questions.

Mr. Celentano explained what the allocation of Special Education (SPED) teachers will be throughout the school; he mentioned that there will be two dedicated SPED teachers at each grade level. There will also continue to be paraprofessionals serving individual student IEP (Individual Education Plan) needs as well as paraprofessionals dedicated to serving the new SPED model.

The total number of paraprofessionals at the ORMS has decreased from 31 to 15.

Mr. Richard acknowledged that the ORMS is a SINI (School In Need of Improvement) school. Mr. Brackett questioned how the fall NCAP scores will be judged. Mr. Richard said that he expects to see results from this new model impacting NECAP scores in the fall, 2012. Ms. Turnbull said that evaluating entering freshman is one way to understand the impact of the new program.

Mr. Kach questioned how much training the ORMS paraprofessionals receive. Mr. Richard explained that paraprofessionals in the district often have undergraduate degrees and masters degrees and do receive professional development training.

Mr. Richard went on to acknowledge that the new model is a change for the school.

Ms. Lane inquired how the new ORMS model will affect the SPED model at the high school.

Mr. Levesque asked about how much more classroom instruction a child with an IEP should expect to receive through the new SPED model; Mr. Richard felt that it would be two hours on average.

For clarification purposes, Mr. Celentano explained how the terms 'SPED teacher' and 'case worker' are often interchanged.

Mr. Celentano stated that approximately 111 students have IEPs in the ORMS. Mr. Levesque asked that Mr. Celentano review student IEPs to ensure student IEP requirements are being met through the new model.

Mr. Levesque asked who reviews SPED staff performance. Mr. Celentano stated that such reviews are his responsibility.

Related to reporting, Mr. Levesque suggested that the ORMS has benchmarks to determine the program's success and provide periodic updates on the program's progress, especially related to curricular objectives.

On the question of program savings, Mr. Richard believes that the ORMS will save approximately \$100,000 in the year ahead. Ms. Caswell noted that she would re-run the numbers to see how the paraprofessional change affects cost savings. Mr. Brackett had requested cost savings estimates.

Mr. Celentano emphasized that the shift to the new model has been years in the making. Mr. Levesque asked for names of other districts where the model was being implemented. Mr. Celentano recalled a district in Barrington, RI.

Discussion shifted to the interim SPED director.

Mr. Celentano commented that there are often situations that require great expertise. Mr. Levesque concurred.

Motion made to enter non-public under RSA 91A:3 II(b) at approximately 11:15AM by Jim Kach, seconded by Ann Lane. Roll call vote, 4-0.

Returned to public session at 11:35AM.

Mr. Levesque placed the nomination of Alexa Grout, Nellie Dinger, and Keith Savage for SPED teachers. Mr. Brackett asked for all in favor; a vote of 4-0 passed the nomination.

Mr. Levesque placed the nomination of Elaine McNulty Knight for interim SPED director. Mr. Brackett asked for all in favor; a vote of 4-0 passed the nomination.

Motion made by Ann Lane for meeting adjournment at 11:45AM. Jim Kach seconded the motion. Motion approved, vote, 4-0, for adjournment.

Draft minutes prepared by Megan Turnbull.