

**Oyster River Cooperative School District
Special Deliberative Session I
Oyster River High School
February 8, 2011 7:00 PM**

School Board Members:

Henry Brackett (chairperson)
Jocelyn O'Quinn (vice-chairperson)
Krista Butts
James Kach
JoAnn Portalupi
Ann Wright
Jennifer Rief

Moderator: Richard Laughton

Clerk: William Leslie

Legal Consultant: Diane Gorrow

Superintendent: Howard Colter

Business Administrator: Susan Caswell

Student Board Representative:

116 members of the public in attendance in the auditorium.

Moderator Laughton called meeting to order at 7:10 pm, read the emergency announcement and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joanne Portalupi presented the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Alex Handlesman.

Henry Brackett made mention that we lost a dear volunteer and member of the community, Ann Murdoch.

Moderator Laughton read the certification for posting of MS-26 as follows:

I, Wendy DiFruscio, certify that on January 20, 2011, I posted the MS-26, the default budget and the written warrant attested by the School Board of the Oyster River Cooperative School District: in the Town of Durham at Oyster River High School, the place of meeting; in the Town of Lee at the Mast Way School; and in the Town of Madbury at the Moharimet School.

Moderator Laughton read the School Warrant as follows:

To the Inhabitants of the Oyster River Cooperative School District of Durham, Lee, and Madbury qualified to vote upon District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Oyster River High School in said district on the 8th day of February 2011, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for Session I of the Annual School District Meeting for discussion of Articles 3 through 7 and for any amendments thereto. Warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended at Session I.

Official ballot voting for school district officers (articles 1 and 2) and on articles 3-7 will occur at town polling locations on Tuesday, March 8, 2011:

Town of Durham	Oyster River High School	7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Town of Lee	Lee Safety Complex	7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Town of Madbury	Madbury Town Hall	11:00 am to 7:30 pm

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the coming year.

ARTICLE 2: To choose two at-large School Board members for the ensuing three years and one Madbury position for a one year term.

Jennifer Rief read Article 3 as follows:

ARTICLE 3: Shall the District vote to approve within the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 273-A:3 the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Oyster River Teachers' Guild (ORTG) and the Oyster River School Board which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2011-2012	\$ 398,217
2012-2013	\$ 357,217
2013-2014	\$ 397,564

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 398,217 for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increases in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement? (Note: Pursuant to RSA 273-A:12, VII, this collective bargaining agreement, including pay plan but excluding the cost of living increases, will continue until a new agreement is executed.) *The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

Motion made by Jennifer Rief to accept Article 3 as written. Seconded by Henry Brackett

Jennifer Rief presented information on this article.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on Article 3, there were none.

Moderator Laughton called for a vote on Article 3 as written. Article 3 passed.

Krista Butts read Article 4 as follows:

ARTICLE 4: Shall the District raise and appropriate a sum of \$ 309,800 for capital improvement items at all District facilities, including but not limited to pump house to support sprinkler system, bathroom upgrades, HVAC central controls, middle school office build out, and electrical upgrades. *The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

Motion made by Krista Butts to accept Article 4 as written. Seconded by Ann Wright

Krista Butts presented information on this article.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on Article 4.

Bill Hanson, of Lee asked for explanation in difference of amount show in the voter information sheet of \$253,000 and the amount shown in the Warrant Article of \$309,800.

Moderator Laughton stated that the amount in the voter information sheet is in error, the amount in the Warrant Article is correct.

Moderator Laughton called for further discussion on Article 4, there were none.

Moderator Laughton called for a vote on Article 4 as written. Article 4 passed.

Ann Wright read Article 5 as follows:

ARTICLE 5: Shall the District vote to create an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the school buildings maintenance fund, for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the school buildings. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate a sum of up to \$ 75,000 to be added to the school building maintenance expendable trust fund, with such amount to be funded from the year-end undesignated fund balance surplus and to name the School Board as agents to expend from this fund. *The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

Motion made by Ann Wright to accept Article 5 as written. Seconded by James Kach.

Krista Butts presented information on this article.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on Article 5.

John Parsons, of Durham, noted that this expendable trust fund requires approval from the school board for use of stated funds. John's understanding is that this fund, as well as the track funds created in 1998, requires approval of the district voters to spend. He would like someone to check into this discrepancy.

Diane Gorrow, legal consultant, stated that the school district meeting can appoint agents to spend the fund. Without that, the statute allows the legislative body to spend the funds.

Lee Rice, of Madbury, is asking if this fund can also be used for other use as stated in the voter information sheet.

Susan Caswell, Business Administrator, Stated that this is correct, this fund could be used for some other large capital expenditure

Lee Rice, asked if there is a cap on how large this fund can grow.

Susan Caswell, stated that the school board did not set a cap on this fund but would be prudent to do so.

Joanne Portalupi stated that this is a single year request and does not carry over into the following year.

Moderator Laughton called for further discussion on Article 5, there were none.

Moderator Laughton called for a vote on Article 5 as written. Article 5 passed.

Jocelyn O'Quinn read Article 6 as follows:

ARTICLE 6: Shall the District raise and appropriate up to \$50,000 to be added to the expendable trust fund known as the Special Education Fund, with such amount to be funded from the year-end

undesigned fund balance surplus. *The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

Motion made by Jocelyn O'Quinn to accept Article 6 as written. Seconded by Krista Butts.

Jocelyn O'Quinn presented information on this article.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on Article 6, there were none.

Moderator Laughton called for a vote on Article 6 as written. Article 6 passed.

Paul Gasowski, of Lee, was asked to present Article 7. Paul yielded floor to Emma Rous, of Durham.

Emma Rous, of Durham, read Article 7 as follows:

ARTICLE 7: By petition shall the District establish a study committee, to be comprised equally of school district personnel (teachers, administrators, and board members) and community members from each town, to study best practices involved in creating an environmentally sustainable school district, thereby integrating sustainable environmental, energy and economic practices into its operations, curriculum, community and culture. The committee would meet during the 2011 school year and present recommendations to the School Board at its first November, 2011 meeting.

Motion made by Emma Rous to accept Article 7 as written. Seconded by Paul Gasowski.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on Article 7.

Paul Gasowski read amendment to Article 7 as follows:

By petition shall the District establish a study committee, to be comprised equally of school district personnel (teachers and administrators), students, school board members, and community members from each town, to study best practices involved in creating a sustainable school district. The committee will meet during the 2011 calendar year and examine the integration of sustainable ecological, economic, and cultural equity policies and practices into school operations and the curricula presenting its findings and recommendations to the School Board at its first November, 2011 meeting.

Motion made by Paul Gasowski to accept amendment to Article 7. Seconded by Emma Rous.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on amendment to Article 7.

Paul Gasowski, provided further explanation on amendment to Article 7.

Moderator Laughton called the question on amendment.

Moderator Laughton called for a vote to accept amendment to Article 7. Amendment was accepted. Warrant Article 7 is amended as presented.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on Article 7, as amended.

Paul Gasowski, provided further explanation on Article 7, as amended.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on Article 7, as amended.

Beth Pescosolido, of Durham, asked if this includes the food in the cafeterias.

Paul Gasowski answered yes, this would include a study of the way food is procured.

David Prue, Durham, does not see fiscal sustainability. Thinks we should integrate that into the curriculum and teach our children about fiscal sustainability.

James Kach, school board member, asked about what is meant by “cultural equity policies.

Paul Gasowski stated that looking for balance over the long term and provided further detail on “cultural equity policies”.

John Collins, of Lee, expressed concern that committee would form, do work, then cease to exist. However, it is possible that out of this study there would be some recommendations that would have cost. He has a concern that recommendations would not be implemented since too late for November budget cycle.

Paul Gasowski acknowledged and hopeful that some recommendations might be made before November report and make it into budget cycle.

Moderator Laughton called for further discussion on Article 7, as amended.

Karen Larson, of Madbury, signed the petition and fully supports this article.

Moderator Laughton called for further discussion on Article 7, as amended. There was none.

Moderator Laughton called for a vote on Article 7 as amended. Amended Article 7 passed.

Henry Brackett read Article 8 as follows:

ARTICLE 8: Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$ 37,424,552 distributed as follows: Fund 10 = \$ 35,963,504 (regular operating budget); Fund 21 = \$ 650,000 (expenditures from food service revenues); Fund 22 = \$ 630,285 (expenditures from federal/special revenues); Fund 23 = \$ 180,763 (expenditures from pass through funds)? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$ 37,155,241(Default Budget) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the district or by law; or the district may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X, and XVI to take up the issue of the revised operating budget only. *The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

Motion made by Henry Brackett to accept Article 8 as written. Seconded by Ann Wright.

Henry Brackett presented information on this article.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on Article 8.

David Taylor, of Durham, made motion as follows: I move to add \$15,000 to fund 10 for a fund 10 total of \$35,978,504 and an overall total of \$37,439,552 for the purpose of hiring a contractor, nominated by the Superintendent and elected by the School Board, to investigate the culture of distrust and disrespect in our district leadership and community at large and to report specific recommendations to improve that culture. Seconded by **John Collins**.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on amendment to Article 8.

David Taylor presented information on this amendment.

Moderator Laughton called for further discussion on amendment to Article 8.

Henry Bracket asked who would control the study and disagrees with statements made in comments and what is being asked would need to be more defined before moving forward.

Lorraine Morong, of Madbury, has not had any notice mailed in advance of the budget meeting or the deliberative session. Thinks there has to be something to what is being said.

Jenna Roberts, of Durham, called for a ballot vote and much of the culture of distrust is related to the administration of the district and do not need \$15,000 to tell us that.

Bill Hanson, recommend that we turn this down, does not think \$15,000 will solve the problem.

Moderator Laughton called for further discussion on amendment to Article 8. There were none.

Moderator Laughton called question on amendment for Article 8. Passed

A written [secret] ballot for the vote on the amendment for Article 8 was requested. The 5 petitioners requesting the written ballot are as follows: Loren Selig of Durham, Sibylle Carlson of Durham, Renee Capicchioni Vannata of Durham, Jenna Roberts of Durham, and Anne Knigler of Durham.

Moderator Laughton called for a ballot vote on amendment to Article 8. Amendment to Article 8 to add \$15,000 to hire contractor passed by a vote of 51 to 30.

Moderator Laughton called for further discussion on Article 8, as amended.

Loren Selig, of Durham, made motion as follows: Motion to remove \$32,000 and adopt the ABC's [Advisory Budget Committee] recommendation 4-A-2 "We recommend that the proposed .4 FTE World Language position be removed from the budget for FY-12". Seconded by **Roger Speidel**.

Loren Selig presented information on this amendment.

Moderator Laughton called for discussion on amendment to Article 8.

Nate Grove, of Durham, does not favor passage of this amendment. Does support the .4 FTE World Language position.

Bill Hanson, in favor of Budget Advisory Committee recommendation to not fill this .4 FTE position.

Dee Dunbar-Hambucken, of Durham, spoke in favor of keeping this position and against the amendment. Stated that need to keep World Language in the Middle School.

Meredith Nadeau, director of instruction, spoke in favor of this .4 FTE position.

Beth Pescosolido, asked for clarification on what grade this .4 FTE position is for.

Meredith Nadeau, stated that this position is for the elementary schools, approximately 1 day per week at each of the 2 elementary schools. Next year this position would increase to 1.0 FTE, then 2.0 FTE the following year to reach grades 1 through 12

Jenna Roberts, of Durham, supports what Meredith Nadeau is stating but unfortunately this was never presented at the Advisory Budget Committee.

Moderator Laughton called for further discussion on amendment. There was none.

Moderator Laughton called for a vote for support of amendment which removes \$32,000 from Article 8. Motion failed.

Moderator Laughton called for further discussion on Article 8, as amended.

Bill Hanson, asked for explanation of each reduction item that the Budget Advisory Committee Final Report recommended and the boards response to these recommendations.

Henry Bracket responded to each of the items in the Advisory Budget Committee Final Report recommendations.

Ann Lane, of Durham, asked if there is a language specified for the .4 FTE position.

Meredith Nadeau, stated that this position is for French and Spanish.

Ann Lane, of Durham, asked if there is a language specified for the .4 FTE position.

Lorraine Morong, asked how we find out about the Advisory Budget Committee and other information.

Henry Bracket stated that the school board is working to improve communication and that all minutes are posted on the school district web site.

Roger Spiedel, of Durham, talked to class size guidelines and budget goals as published by the school district.. Stated that there are 690 students and 63 teachers at Oyster River High School. That is 1 teacher for every 10.9 students. At Exeter High School there is one teacher for every 15 students. Yet the guidelines state that there is 1 teacher for every 22 students. He would like to know that before vote on a 37 million dollar budget. Need more information so can vote with understanding where money is going.

Ann Knight, of Durham, a member of the ABC [Advisory Budget Committee], stated that the budget committee has made attempts to publish information to local town and PTO newsletters.

John Parsons called question. Passed. Seconded by Shirley Thompson.

Moderator Laughton read amended Article 8, which included the previous motion made by David Taylor at add \$15,000 to fund 10, as follows:

Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$ 37,439,552 distributed as follows: Fund 10 = \$ 35,978,504 (regular operating budget); Fund 21 = \$ 650,000 (expenditures from food service revenues); Fund 22 = \$ 630,285 (expenditures from federal/special revenues); Fund 23 = \$ 180,763 (expenditures from pass through funds)? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$ 37,155,241(Default Budget) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the district or by law; or the district may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X, and XVI to take up the issue of the revised operating budget only. *The School Board recommends this appropriation. (Majority vote required)*

Moderator Laughton called for a vote on Article 8 as amended. Article 8 passed as amended.

Moderator Laughton reminded everyone on polling times and places on Tuesday, March 8, 2011:

Town of Durham	Oyster River High School	7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Town of Lee	Lee Safety Complex	7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Town of Madbury	Madbury Town Hall	11:00 am to 7:30 pm

John Parsons moved to adjourn. **Shirley Thompson** seconded the motion.

Moderator Laughton adjourned the meeting at 9:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Leslie, School Clerk,
Oyster River Cooperative School District