

Oyster River Cooperative School Board

Regular Meeting

Draft

April 6, 2011 Oyster River High School Room C124 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Brackett, Jocelyn O'Quinn, Ann Wright, Jim Kach, Krista Butts (7:10 p.m.), Megan Turnbull, and Ann Lane
Student Representative: Cody Jacobsen

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent Colter, Meredith Nadeau, Danielle Bolduc, and Sue Caswell

There were ten visitors present

Jim Kach moved to enter into public session at 7:09 p.m., 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion approved 6-0-1 with Krista Butts not present.

III PRELIMINARY ACTION ITEMS

Guild CBA Signing of the 2011-2014 Contract: This item has been postponed until the next meeting.

A Announcements – District: Danielle Bolduc announced that the summer recreation camp flyer and information is now available on the District website.

Meredith Nadeau announced that tonight is the Mast Way Concert, Seussical the Musical is being performed this weekend, and the Jazz Band is leaving to perform in Disney in early May.

Announcements – Board: Ann Wright announced that tomorrow night from 6:00 – 7:30 the public is welcome to meet the Principal candidates at the high school. The talent show is tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m.

Henry Brackett reported that the Sustainability Committee is looking for volunteers. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please forward a letter of interest to the SAU. He also noted that the Advisory Budget Committee has two openings – one each from Lee and Madbury. Please submit a letter of interest to the SAU if you are interested in joining this committee.

B. Correspondence: Jocelyn O’Quinn detailed the correspondence that the Board has received: 5 letters regarding the sustainability committee, tracking and AP, letter a letter regarding that community members do not feel comfortable at Board meetings, lacrosse fund raising, the committee assignment process, and a proposed third and fourth grade spelling bee.

C. Commendations: Megan Turnbull commended all those who turned out for Todd’s Trot event this past weekend. This was a wonderful event.

Krista Butts commended the staff at the elementary schools for their various outstanding programs and to the administration and staff for the upcoming summer enrichment programs.

Ann Wright attending the third grade Invention Convention at Mast Way. It was very exciting and interesting.

Jocelyn O’Quinn attended the Moharimet Kindergarten Concert Program and thanked everyone involved in coordinated such a great concert.

D. Approval of the March 16th Minutes: Page 5 revision change “Millican” to “Milliken”. **Henry Brackett moved to approved the March 16th minutes with the above revision, 2nd by Krista Butts. Motion approved 7 – 0.**

Approval of the March 24th Minutes: Revision to add the agenda items to the minutes. **Henry Brackett moved to approve the March 24th minutes with the above revision, 2nd by Krista Butts. Motion approved 7 – 0.**

E. Approval of Manifests:

VM#38=\$44,347.03 – 3/17/11
VM#39=\$123,059.2 – 3/31/11
VM#40=\$77,845.42 – 3/31/11
PR#19=\$1,016,837.45 – 3/18/11
PR#20=\$851,607.79 – 4/1/11

IV REPORTS

A Superintendents Reports: Superintendent Colter spoke regarding the Wellness Committee and their initiative. He encouraged the students to be

involved and to offer suggestions on healthy meals. Students have a chance to be involved in this.

There was considerable flooding in the Mast Way parking lot this year and it still needs to be addressed.

There are plans to have the most recent two Board meetings available for streaming on the District website. Kathleen Young will make a DVD of the Board meetings upon request.

Superintendent Colter spoke of the Sustainability Committee. Paul Gasowski outlined the structure of the committee members. They are planning a meeting with Paul, Jocelyn O’Quinn and himself for the week of April 19th.

Strategic Oversight Planning Committee: They have asked the faculty and staff for a vision statement and feedback.

B. Business Administrator’s Report: Sue Caswell discussed the Mast Way phones. April 13th will be the cut over day. They are not anticipating any problems.

They are interviewing the two finalists for the Food Service Director today. She expects to have her nomination at the April 27th Board meeting.

There was a meeting today on the solar panel initiative. She will have more information and what the options are shortly.

Budget Adjustments – Impact of Proposed NH Budget Legislation: There was a meeting on March 28th with the state administrators on the budget. They are currently in a “crossover phase”. She will keep the Board updated as more information becomes available.

C. Student Senate: Student Representative Cody Jacobsen reported that eight students met with the two principal candidates. The spring sports are starting up at the high school. He also noted that the trips to Spain, France and Russia will be underway soon.

D. Curriculum/Instruction: - Science Curriculum Update: Jon Bromley spoke to the Board and gave a summary of work underway by K-12 teachers looking at the science curriculum. One of the things that they have focused on is lab report writing skills. They are reviewing the physical, earth, life and science process which are the four strands of the curriculum standards. He also noted that the science showcase at the high school will be held this spring.

E. Historical Data of ORMS to Academies: Listed below is the data from the past five years of students attending private high schools from the middle school:

2006: 5 students
2007: 4 students
2008: 8 students
2009: 6 students
2010: 9 students
2011: Undetermined (9 accepted – 19 students applied)

V School Board Committees: Ann Lane reported that the Wellness Committee met this week and is evaluating their policy. They welcome any input.

VI PUBLIC COMMENTS: Roger Spiedel of Durham spoke about the declining under age 18 population in the District versus the growing under age population in Dover. He feels that young families can't afford to live in the District because of the taxes. The Oyster River budget needs to be reduced.

JoAnn Portalupi of Lee spoke regarding Board process. At the 3/30 meeting the hiring policy was removed from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. It would have been more effective for the Chair to articulate and remove it once the agenda item came up.

JoAnn feels that individual Board members giving the administration direction should be a thoughtful discussion and by majority vote. It is important that the Board fully discuss and establish goals as well as to resist adding topics as the year progresses.

She also feels that it is really useful to have all Board members weigh in on the motions while they are on the table.

Lauren Selig of Durham spoke to the Board. She commended the Moharimet nurse for all her work and dedication to working with their family. She thanked Krista Butts for her information on the Principal Candidates Tea. This is the kind of reaching out that she is looking for. She would also like to see more specificity in the minutes.

BOARD COMMENTS: Superintendent Colter asked the Board what they would like to do regarding the bus purchases – whether they would like to have them purchased from this years' fund surplus. After a Board discussion, **Ann Wright moved to have the proposed buses purchased with this years' surplus funds, 2nd by Krista Butts. Jim Kach motioned to move the question. Jim's motion failed. The above motion passed 7 – 0.**

VII DISCUSSION ITEMS

A School Board Goals: The Board discussed having a separate workshop to work on goals. Ann Wright noted that many of the goals from last year are still in process.

Megan Turnbull moved to have the Board schedule a workshop to discuss Board goals, 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion approved 7 – 0.

B. Review of Budget Process/Advisory Budget Committee: The Board will meet next week to clarify the charge for the Advisory Budget Committee and review the proposed budget process calendar for FY13.

C. Superintendent Search Process: There was a Board consensus to look at the policies that are currently in place. The Policy Committee will research the policies and report back to the Board. It was also noted that there are several firms that provide a service that to help in the search.

VIII ACTION ITEMS

A Retirement Incentive: There was a dialogue on whether to accept or reject a proposal to offer a one-time only retirement incentive to teachers. This

proposal could realize a savings of \$225K which would go towards the possible \$632K funding needed.

Ann Wright moved to offer a retirement incentive to a limited number of teachers and administrators. This is a unilateral offer, not an invitation to the Teachers' Guild to negotiate a retirement incentive. This would only move forward if they have a letter stating that the Guild waives the right to negotiate this one-time only benefit, 2nd by Krista Butts.

Jocelyn O'Quinn and Jim Kach do not feel that there is enough data available and can't support this motion. Megan Turnbull thinks that other options such as capital improvement items should be looked at.

The motion fails 2-5 with Jocelyn O'Quinn, Jim Kach, Megan Turnbull, Ann Lane and Henry Brackett voting against the motion.

The Board talked with Business Administrator Sue Caswell about the possible need to further reduce the budget due to the retirement shortfall. She will not know the final outcome of this until June.

Possible Reductions to Budget for Retirement Shortfall:

Librarian at MS	\$ 58,000
Purchase Buses out of Current Fund Balance	\$160,000
HS Administrator	\$ 98,000
Foreign Language Position	\$ 36,000
HS Secretary	\$ 30,000
Paraprofessional	\$ 25,000

Henry Brackett moved to accept the above for possible reductions to the budget for the retirement shortfall. Henry Brackett later withdrew his motion.

These possible reductions will continue to be discussed further by the Board at a later meeting.

IX PUBLIC COMMENTS None

X CLOSING ACTIONS

A Agenda Planning: Manifests process, Athletic Department – spring sports, fields, and safety update

B Future Meeting Dates: 4/13, 4/17, 5/11

Upon roll call vote, Ann Lane moved to enter into nonpublic session, 2nd by Jim Kach. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary