

**Oyster River Cooperative School District**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**May 11, 2011**                      **Oyster River High School C-124**                      **6:30 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:                      Henry Brackett, Jocelyn O’Quinn,  
Ann Wright, Jim Kach, Krista  
Butts, Megan Turnbull, and Ann  
Lane (via phone at 7:20 p.m.)  
Student Rep: Cody Jacobsen

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:                      Superintendent Colter, Meredith  
Nadeau, Danielle Bolduc, Kris Gallo,  
Jay Richard, and Laura Rogers

There were 40 visitors present

**Krista Butts moved to enter into public session, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Kach. Motion approved 6 – 0.**

**III PRELIMINARY ACTIONS**

**A District Announcements:** The high school drama club will be performing “Once on this Island” this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the high school.

Jay Richard announced that the new bleachers have been installed at the middle school. The Middle School Jazz Band leaves for their trip tomorrow. He also noted that the Civil Reenactment will be on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the school.

Laura Rogers mentioned that the high school year end activities are all posted online. The Senior Art Show will be Friday night from 5 – 7 p.m. and 10 – 1 on Saturday. Career Day will be held on Friday. She also noted that the announcement board that has been installed out in front of the building. This was purchased with fundraising efforts by the PTO.

Meredith Nadeau announced the Day of the Artist at Moharimet and the Mast Way Art Show.

**Board Announcements:** Ann Wright announced the May Fair at Mast Way. Krista Butts noted that the Mast Way music concert is next Wednesday.

**B. Correspondence:** The Board has received correspondence regarding: strategic planning, the 4/27 meeting, the Board should not be a rubber stamp, more transparency from the Board, bullying law, RSA, best practices expert, use existing search committee, petition against the Board's nomination, letters of interest for search committee members, policy concerns, and composition of the search committee.

**C. Commendations:** Ann Wright commended Laura Smith and the Title I staff for organizing a very successful onsite visit from the State of NH Education Department.

Megan Turnbull commended the Moharimet Teachers and staff for the Day of the Artist. The children spent the day with all forms of art and myriad of expressions. This was a great experience for the students.

Krista Butts commended the Boys and Literacy night that was sponsored by the Mast Way PTO. She also thanked the PTOs in the District for all they have done this year.

**D. Approval of Minutes: March 30<sup>th</sup>: Ann Wright moved to approve the minutes of March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Henry Brackett. Motion approved 6 – 0.**  
**April 6<sup>th</sup>: Jocelyn O'Quinn moved to approve the April 6<sup>th</sup> minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Henry Brackett. Motion approved 6 – 0.**  
**April 13<sup>th</sup>: Ann Wright moved to approve the April 13<sup>th</sup> minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Henry Brackett.** After a Board discussion, **the motion was withdrawn.** These meeting minutes will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.  
**April 27<sup>th</sup>: Ann Wright moved to approve the April 27<sup>th</sup> minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jocelyn O'Quinn. Motion approved 6 – 0.**

**E. Approval of Manifests:**

VM#44=\$104,468.81 – 5/11/11

VM#45=\$122,594.77 – 5/11/11

PR#22=\$982,271.21 – 4/29/11

PR#22A=\$192.55 – 4/29/11

## **IV REPORTS**

**A Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Colter discussed the idea of restructuring the Board meetings. The first meeting of the month would be a

business meeting and the second meeting of the month would be a work shop. This would allow the Board to interact and build more understanding of community views.

There was a presentation today at the middle school which highlighted the bottle water industry and the waste of plastic water bottles. This was an excellent presentation. Devin Schroder and everyone involved needs to be commended.

Sue Caswell will be talking to the Board about relocating the transportation office to where the bus drivers are located.

Superintendent Colter has received a phone call from a community member regarding a recent town market study and was concerned that the school district was identified as 10<sup>th</sup> in the state. The rating was based on one criteria only. He then asked what would the criteria be for a great school and how would we measure it? Some examples could be: graduation rate, teachers, class size, reading at grade level, taking advanced classes, etc.

**C. Student Senate:** Cody Jacobsen announced that the selection for the student senate and class officers for next year is ongoing. He also announced that career day and class meeting are this Friday.

**D. Curriculum/Instruction: Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):** Meredith Nadeau discussed AYP with the Board. Oyster River Middle School and High School are among the 70% of schools that did not make AYP this year in reading and math. Mast Way did not make AYP in reading. Mast Way and ORHS join ORMS as Schools in Need of Improvement based on their second year of not making AYP. This year, as multiple schools within the district did not make AYP, Oyster River was designated as a district in need of improvement.

To make AYP, a school or district must meet established performance targets in reading and math as well as meet state targets for student participation, attendance and high school graduation. A school's index score is the average of all student test scores on the NECAP. Whole school scores in both reading and math at all grade levels exceeded state performance targets.

As this is the second year that Mast Way, the middle school and high schools did not achieve AYP, they become “Schools in Need of Improvement” or SINIs. The district, because it now has schools across 3-8 and grade 11 that are SINI’s becomes a “District in Need of Improvement” or DINI. The schools and District will need to develop and share improvement plans with the NH Department of Education based on the specific requirements set forth by the state.

Our District and school administrators have been developing plans to respond to the identified needs of these subgroups and to continue to improve overall schools performance. Tonight’s report relating to the special education model is an example of this work.

Meredith Nadeau also noted that the District has to offer “School Choice”. Parents who wish to send kids to Moharimet instead of Mast Way would possibly be able to. There will be a letter sent to parents with the details.

#### **V SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES:**

Ann Wright mentioned that the Academic Affairs Committee is fine tuning their mission. Ann Lane added that they have been discussing implementing exit interviews. This could provide information that could be used in the future.

Krista Butts noted that the Policy Committee met on Monday and there is a slate of 34 policies coming to the Board for a first read. Their mission statement is already determined in an existing policy.

Jocelyn O’Quinn noted that the Sustainability Committee had a brainstorming meeting last week.

The Operations Committee met and discussed several bids. They are recommending some policy changes that have to do with risk management and disposal of fixed assets.

The Communication Committee has met and they are finalizing their draft of purpose and ways to improve communications. They will be implementing a “School Board Corner” online to help community members stay informed.

Megan Turnbull announced that the DVDs of meetings will continue to be available at the town libraries.

Ann Lane noted that the Wellness Committee met. They are working on the wellness policy and are looking for input before it is finalized.

Henry Brackett announced that the Core 'Committee has met twice putting together a search committee. This will be discussed later this evening.

## **VI PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Roger Spiedel of Durham spoke about the taxes and the loss of students in the District. He urged the Board to lower the budget.

Lauren Selig of Durham commended Roger Spiedel for his commitment to the District and for consistently coming and speaking at Board meetings. She commended the Moharimet Day of an Artist. It was an incredible opportunity to participate in the school. The energy and enthusiasm was great!

She commented on the Mast Way "Boys and Literacy" and encouraged the District to continue these measures. Lauren would like to see the District work with UNH on literacy.

Renee Viatta of Durham feels that the School Board should consider redistricting again. Oyster River has quality teachers. She also noted that Tracy Schrader, the school nurse, does a great job. She spoke of the SPED staffing model at the middle school and is a member of the "fast team". She is in full support of this team and this model.

Stephanie Adams of Lee spoke about the Strategic Plan Committee. She is not in favor of hiring a consultant and would like to see the Superintendent choose all the Search Committee members.

Dave Nichols of Durham was a member of the previous Principal Search Committee. He also detailed the Search Committee process.

Mike Lane of Durham commended the Board for looking at a hiring consultant. The private industry uses them every day. The policy and procedures need to be followed.

Kay Morgan of Durham spoke about the policy procedure, when it is okay to opt out and when it is not. She referred to GCC and GCC-R and the hiring procedures. She feels that they are about to embark on a search that is not faithful to the policy regulations.

Constantine Engalicheau of Madbury feels that the students and the last meeting showed too much entitlement. He thanked the School Board for all their work.

David Taylor of Durham urged the Board to have all discussions on the principal search plan done in public at regular board meetings. They should be as inclusive as they can be and represent the community and all the stakeholders. The candidate needs to be decided in executive session.

JoAnn Portalupi of Lee discussed the Teachers Guild meeting with the leadership. She would like details of this meeting disclosed if there have been any incidences by the School Board. The public has the right to know. She is waiting to hear the specifics on the Principal Search Committee.

John Collins of Lee is disappointed at some remarks that were made at the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. He feels that students are owed an apology for being so disrespected. He spoke regarding Policy GCC. Policies are there for a reason and to guide you.

Jonathan Bromley of Durham noted that the polarization in the community is troubling. He feels that we need to regroup and move forward. We need to listen to the professionals in the District.

Lucy Gardner of Durham was told that that number 10 ranking of the School District in the State was a mistake and it is really number 14. She feels that the students showed disrespect at the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and they need to understand the process. Lucy added that the students showed entitlement.

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Megan Turnbull noted that there is a tab on the website that makes minutes of subcommittee meetings available. She announced that at the NHSBA training they learned about School Board roles and responsibilities, right to know laws, and policies. There was a lot of good information. Having key performance indicators for our District is important and this gives us a chance to look at and measure how we are doing.

Jim Kach mentioned exit interview for students. It would be interesting to look at them and analyze them. He would also like to be able to track students after high school as well. It would help to make assessments.

Krista Butts thanked Meredith Nadeau for doing a great job in the last couple of meetings filling in for the Superintendent. She also noted that if the School Board adopts a regulation it is then a policy.

Cody Jacobsen does not feel that the students have been disrespectful at the last Board meeting.

## **VII DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A Special Education Staffing Model at the Middle School and High School:**

Meredith Nadeau, Jay Richard and Ray Salantano detailed the Special Education Staffing Model for the Board.

#### Learning Centers:

Staffed from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm  
1 for 5/6 grades and 1 for 7/8 grades  
1 special educator per learning center  
Paraprofessional support

#### In Class Support and Team Planning:

1 special educator per team  
Case management students on team  
Modify with regular educators' support  
Co-teach with regular educators  
Full member of each team

#### Director Instruction:

3-4 special educators to provide direct individualized instruction in reading, writing, and math  
Draft goals for IEP's

#### Extended Resource Room:

1 for 5/6 and one for 7/8  
Designed for students with extensive needs

Focus on therapeutic and independent living skills

The Board thanked them for detailing this new Special Education Staffing Model at the Middle and High School.

**B. High School Principal Search Update:** Krista Butts announced that the Core Committee has had two meetings to date. They have received two bids, one from NESDEC and NHSBA, to serve as a hiring consultant. They discussed the Core Committee recommendations. Henry Brackett is recommending that the Board follows the policy and regulations for this search committee.

Ann Wright referred to RSA 18939, 18915 and 194C4 and feels that they need to be followed through this process.

The Board had an in depth conversation on the interpretation of the policy and regulations.

It was suggested that there be a building committee, community committee and an administrators committee to meet in small groups. The original recommendations was that there be 4 teachers and 1 SPED on the building committee, 2 community members 1 student on the community committee and 1 principal, 1 district administrator, 2 Board members and the Superintendent on the Administrators Committee.

Superintendent Colter referred to the hiring procedures which were passed in 2006. He feels that there should only be one committee.

It was suggested that a scoring tool be used in the interview phase of the search.

Krista Butts noted that the Policy Committee members feel that it is unfair to revise a policy while trying to use the policy. Henry Brackett suggested that the Policy Committee rewrite the Policy and have a 1<sup>st</sup> read at the special Board meeting next Wednesday.

**Krista Butts moved to create a building committee which would have 4 teachers and 1 SPED, a community committee of 5 community members**



**and 1 student, an Administrators Committee with 1 building principal and 1 District professional, and the Core committee with two school board members and the Superintendent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jocelyn O'Quinn.**

**The motion failed 3-4 with Ann Lane, Jocelyn O'Quinn, Megan Turnbull and Henry Brackett voting against the motion.**

**Krista Butts moved to recommend to the Superintendent that at least 6 teachers, 1 SPED, 5 community members, 2 students, 1 building principal, 1 district professional, at least 1 School Board member, and the Superintendent be comprised of this Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann Wright.**

**Krista Butts moved to amend her motion to have 6 community members and 2 School Board members on this committee. There was no second to this motion.**

**The above motion does not pass 2-5 with Ann Lane, Henry Brackett, Megan Turnbull, Jim Kach and Jocelyn O'Quinn voting against this motion.**

**Ann Lane moved to follow GCC and GCC-R in this Search Committee Process, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jocelyn O'Quinn. Motion passed 5 – 2 with Krista Butts and Ann Wright voting against this motion.**

**Megan Turnbull moved to dissolve the Core Committee in lieu of following the GCC Policy and nominate a representative of the Board to serve on this process, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann Lane.**

**Megan Turnbull moved to amend the motion to add GCC-R policy to the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Krista Butts. The amendment of the motion passed 6 -1 with Ann Wright opposing.**

**The above motion passed 6 – 1 with Ann Wright opposing.**

**Megan Turnbull moved to nominate Ann Lane, Krista Butts, and Henry Brackett to serve as the Board representatives. There was no second to this motion.**

**Henry Brackett moved to nominate Ann Wright, Ann Lane, and Henry Brackett to serve as the Board's representatives working with the Superintendent, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Krista Butts. Motion passed 6 – 1 with Ann Wright voting against the motion.**

**Krista Butt moved to hire NESDEC as the consultation firm for the search process, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Henry Brackett. Motion passed 5 – 2 with Krista Butts and Ann Wright opposing this motion.**

### **VIII DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A 2011-12 Master Schedule of School Board Meetings – Draft: Megan Turnbull moved to approve the draft 2011-12 draft school board meeting schedule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann Wright. Motion passed 5-1-1 with Jim Kach abstaining and Henry Brackett voting against the motion.**

**B. Contract for Services – Principal Search:** This item has been tabled until the next meeting.

### **IX PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lauren Selig of Durham suggested that each group conducts their interviews on the same day and have the candidates rotate through the groups.

JoAnn Portalupi of Lee noted that the Core Committee never discussed separate committees during their meetings. The Board voted to follow policy – when will the community get a clear picture of what the committee will look like. Since the policy mentions an assistant principal, they should have a designee to fill the spot for the committee.

John Collins of Lee attended both Core meetings and there was no discussion about forming four different committees. He was very concerned that it was presented differently tonight.

Stephanie Adams of Lee has been watching this process and does not give her confidence that the Board can pick a principal for the school.

Jonathan Bromley of Durham urged that Board to review the Strategic Plan before they pick a principal.

Jennifer Rief of Durham noted that the Core Committee minutes do not match what was discussed at this meeting. The Board needs to talk about what they want in a principal.

**X CLOSING ACTIONS**

**A Agenda Planning:** School Board Goals meeting, Key performance indicators, 1<sup>st</sup> reading of policies

**B. Future Meeting Dates:** 5/25/11, 6/8/11 – Regular meetings

**Krista Butts moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Kach. Motion passed 7 – 0.**

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson  
Recording Secretary