

Oyster River Cooperative School District

REGULAR MEETING

May 25, 2011 **Oyster River High School C-124** **6:30 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Brackett, Ann Wright,
Jim Kach, Krista Butts, Megan
Turnbull, and Ann Lane
Student Rep: Cody Jacobsen
Jocelyn O'Quinn was not present

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

There were 42 visitors present

Krista Butts moved to enter into public session at 7:00 p.m., 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion approved 6- 0.

III PRELIMINARY ACTION ITEMS

A District Announcements: Jay Richard Principal of the Middle School announced that the Living History Day has been rescheduled for tomorrow. He mentioned that eighth grade teacher Mark Nicholas is in the initial phases of planning an annual eighth grade Washington, DC field trip beginning next year. He will keep the Board updated. There is a meeting on June 9th at 6:00 p.m. to allow the public to have a discussion and have any questions answered on the SPED model. Jay also added that the teachers will be soliciting feedback from parents. He would like to hear about what they can do better.

Danielle Bolduc noted that they have over 200 students registered for the summer camps. They have added a couple of camps to the schedule as well.

Board Announcements: None

B. Board Correspondence: The Board has received a good amount of correspondence since the last meeting. Among them are several letters regarding various aspects of the principal search, more than 20 letters of

interest from community members interested in serving on the Principal Search Committee, IEP meetings and how they are run, community members interested in getting more information on the meeting between the Guild and the Board leadership, public comments and what is being said, and correspondence from a student working on a journalism paper.

C. Board Commendations: Krista Butts commended the five district teachers who are planning to participate in the three day breast cancer walk in July. She also commended the ORMS Jazz Band for a fantastic flash mob at the Rockingham Mall.

Megan Turnbull of Durham congratulated Danielle Bolduc and Mike McCann for receiving their advanced degrees from UNH. She also commended the new members of the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society and National French Honor Society.

Ann Wright commended Danielle Walczak who was named Parade Magazine 35th Annual All American High School Women's Basketball Team.

D. Approval of 5/11 Minutes: Revisions: Page 2 change "bottle" to "bottled" "Schroder" to "Schroeder", page 3 change "Lauren" to "Loren" "Viatta" to "Vennatta", page 6 change "Engalicheau" to "Engalichev" "Lucy" to "Luci", page 8 change "18939" to "189:39" and "194C4" to "194-C:4". **Krista Butts moved to approve the May 11th minutes with the above revisions, 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion approved 6 – 0.**

The approval of the 4/13 minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

E. Approval of Manifests:

VM#46=\$657,355.08 – 5/20/11

VM#47=\$106,660.69 – 5/24/11

VM#48=\$8,754.00 – 5/25/11

PR#23=\$834,264.73 – 5/13/11

IV REPORTS

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Colter mentioned that he is concerned about the late School Board meetings and making decisions at a late hour. This could also possibly detour potential School Board members from

getting involved, as well as school employees that are here very late. He is asking the Board what can be done to make the meetings more efficient, productive and expedient.

The Wellness Committee is working on a detailed policy. This will give direction to promote both physical and mental wellness. They will be meeting again on May 31st. They should have a draft for the Policy Committee by the end of the school year.

The Leadership Team met and discussed their plan for the summer. They will repair and do maintenance on all the computers, and capital improvements work over the summer. Any summer Moharimet programs will be moved to Mast Way for the summer.

B. Business Administrator's Report: Sue Caswell announced that they are waiting for the state budget decision on June 2. She also met with Randy Loring and had a facilities discussion.

C. Student Senate Report: Pranav Nanda, who was sitting in for Cody Jacobsen, reported that student senate elections have been conducted for next year.

D. Curriculum/Instruction: None

V SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES:

Henry Brackett reported that the Principal Search Committee met with NESDEC. They have picked a slate of community members for the committee. They will be nominated later this evening.

Megan Turnbull reported that the Communications Committee met on May 17th. They are finalizing the June edition of the School Board Newsletter and discussed using alerts now. They will be distributing some papers copies as well as putting it on the town web sites. They are creating a School Board calendar of committees. They are also putting together an e-newsletter which will give more information on School Board activities. Their next meeting is 6/14 at 1:00 p.m.

Jim Kach reported that the Operations Committee met on May 16th. He discussed the garage where the buses currently park and the possibility of putting a modular on site to serve as offices. The district pays \$450 per month which would increase to \$1800 per month for the building and buses if such a motion were to pass.

The Operations Committee also discussed the possible purchase of a generator which would be located where the servers are housed. There was also a conversation about offsite information backup. These two items will be discussed later this evening.

VI PUBLIC COMMENTS:

David Taylor of Durham mentioned Policy GCC and GCC-R. The responsibility of the Search Party lies with the Superintendent. Regulations must follow policies. He also discussed the Board's roles in hiring. The hiring procedures refined the Board's level of involvement. He also urged the Board to follow these procedures.

Lou Mroz of Madbury commended Superintendent Colter and Danielle Bolduc for joining them on their field trip yesterday to Chicora. It was a pleasure. He is very concerned about where the District is headed. He urged the Board to think about the best interest of the students.

Lorna Jacobsen of Madbury spoke on behalf of Blair Labella, Diane Eddy, Robbi Woodburn, Tim Gehling, Nancy Hoff, Wynne Moody and Jeff Jacobsen. Over thirty students were recognized for their academic excellence and inducted into the National Honor Society. Our teachers are highly qualified and have been recognized on local, state, and national levels. We are concerned that our school district is losing good leaders. We want our superintendents, the administrative team, teachers and other staff at all our schools to know that the community supports you.

Debra Alberts of Durham is a strong supporter of the Principal and the Superintendent. Oyster River is a strong school system. She read an open letter to the Board. She is very concerned at the long term effect with the Boards relationship with the Superintendent in the Principal Search. She does not feel that the Board should override the Superintendent's expertise. She is

also worried about the deviation of the policies and urged the Board to follow policies.

Judy Kucera of Durham read a letter submitted by the faculty and staff . They need a clear vision in the hiring of a new principal. They are concerned about the process of the search and feel that the hiring procedures should be followed. The criteria of what they are looking for in a principal needs to be established.

David Holly, a teacher at the high school, was a member of the Steering Planning Committee for the Strategic Planning Process. He discussed and shared their vision for the students. These values are a great measure and should be considered in hiring the Principal.

Ronnie Pekins of Durham spoke to the Board regarding the Principal Search Process.

Denise Day of Durham also discussed the search process. She encouraged the Board to listen to the Superintendent. She is concerned about the mini-committees in this process.

JoAnn Portalupi of Lee noted that since the state is likely to be downshifting costs to the Districts the next budget year is going to have to be done carefully. This administration has done a great job controlling the budget while adding a summer enrichment program and enhancing the world language program. Every decision made needs to be done in a positive climate.

Yvonne Grove of Durham urged the Board to follow the policies and allow the Superintendent to do his job.

John Collins of Lee commended and thanked the Superintendent for all of his hard work and leadership. He also commended Ann Wright for her transparency. He feels that the public should be more informed and better committed to transparency. He would like to know the details of the meeting between the Board and the Guild Leadership.

Nancy Kach of Madbury feels that all the Board members are being transparent and are being as clear as can be. She applauded the teachers at the high

school, residents who speak at meetings although she wishes they were kinder and gentler, and the Board for listening and putting in all the hours.

Sarah Farwell of Lee did not request to be on the Search Committee and would like her name removed from the list. She is concerned about the culture and direct impact on the kids.

Marte Gooze of Durham feels that the community needs to come together to look to the future. They need to work together as a group and find the best principal out there.

Seth Fiermonti of Durham feels that it is time to move on. He applauded the efforts for all that is going on in the District in wellness.

BOARD COMMENTS: Henry Brackett discussed the request of the senior class for the Board not to hand out their diplomas at the graduation ceremony. Henry Brackett stated that he will be handing out the diplomas at the ceremony. He will be meeting with the Principal and some students on this tomorrow. He feels that the students do not run the school.

Ann Wright told Henry Brackett that he is reacting as an individual and this is a Board discussion.

VII DISCUSSION ITEMS

A Relocation of Transportation Offices: Sue Caswell discussed the proposed relocation of transportation offices with the Board. The transportation office is currently located at the SAU office. This situation is not ideal for drivers or the Director of Transportation and Dispatcher. A modular unit would be newly constructed and include two offices, a conference room for training, bathrooms and a kitchen for the drivers. The estimated time to prepare and install this unit is 10-15 weeks. The District currently pays \$450 per month for the use of the parking space, \$100 a month for two portable toilets and an electricity bill for the bus plug in. The increase in rent for the parking and building would be \$1,800 per month and a five year lease agreement is being requested. The FY12 budget includes \$15,000 to support the rental expense.

Ann Wright moved to authorize the Superintendent to approve the purchase and building of the modular home, 2nd by Henry Brackett. Motion approved 6-0.

B. NESDEC: Superintendent Colter spoke and believes that going forward with a search right now is wrong minded. This is not the ideal time. The ideal time is January. The salary range for this position that we currently have is not competitive outside of Northern New England. If the pay scale for this is change, it affects all the administrators pay structure. It takes time to analyze this data. He is guessing the salary is off by \$10 – \$20K. He does not know if this can be accomplished in a couple of weeks. The length of the contract for only one year is also in question. Superintendent Colter is concerned that the applicant pool will be small because of the time of year. He is proposing to bring forward a one year interim principal. This would allow the Board more time to find a suitable candidate. He would start by looking internally and could have someone on Board within a month.

Henry Brackett noted that the salary and contract terms were not fully discussed during the first principal search. He would like to see a permanent principal and move forward with a search.

The Board discussed with the Superintendent that the staff was opposed to an interim principal in the previous search. Megan Turnbull is concerned about a successful search. She feels that an interim principal could be a good solution. She is worried about the teachers and students reactions to this.

Ann Wright moved to authorize the Superintendent to select an interim Principal for the upcoming school year, 2nd by Krista Butts. Motion did not pass and was voted 3-3 with Jim Kach, Ann Lane and Henry Brackett opposing.

Megan Turnbull would like to see the policies and regulations updated and start the search on October 1st. Henry Brackett would like to see the search move forward and if it does not work out then bring in an interim principal.

Krista Butts authorized the Superintendent to search for an interim principal and authorize the Board to advertise for the position at the same time, 2nd by Ann Lane. The motion and the 2nd were withdrawn.

Jim Kach moved to amend the motion to approve the contract with NESDEC, 2nd by Ann Lane. Motion to approve the amendment passed 5-1 with Ann Wright opposing.

Henry Brackett moved to be authorized to sign the NESDEC contract, 2nd by Ann Lane. Motion approved 5-1 with Ann Wright opposing.

The above motion passed 4-2 with Megan Turnbull and Ann Wright opposing.

The Board took a ten minute recess while the contract was signed.

VIII ACTION ITEMS

A Expenditure of Fund Balance – Generator: Sue Caswell discussed the summary of bids for an emergency generator with the Board. There were three bids submitted. Sue Caswell recommended going with the lowest bid from Power Point LLC for \$34,700.

Krista Butts moved to approve the bid to Power Point LLC for \$34,700 for the emergency generator, 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion approved 6 – 0.

Facilities Study: **Krista Butts moved to expend \$35K for the facilities study from the Facilities Trust School Building Maintenance Fund, 2nd by Henry Brackett. Motion approved 6 – 0.**

OPEB Assessment Management Letter: **Henry Brackett moved to have the actuaries perform the work, 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion approved 6 – 0.**

Mast Way Parking Lot: **Ann Lane moved to authorize \$6700 for the Mast Way Parking Lot Bidding Package to be created including blueprints, etc. 2nd by Jim Kach. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

Phone Upgrades: **Ann Wright moved to have the phone upgrade work done with unfunded reserve balance, 2nd by Henry Brackett. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

B. Policies: Krista Butts moved to approve to recommend for adoption the following policies:

ABD: Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free Schools

DFA: Investment

EB: Safety Program

EBBC: Emergency Care and First Aid

EBBD: Indoor Air Quality

EEAEA: Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing – School Bus Drivers

EHB: Data/Records Retention

JG/JFC: Discipline/Student Conduct

JI: Award for Achievement

JICD: Student Conduct, Discipline and Due Process

JFCJ: Dangerous Weapons in School

JFCJ-R: Dangerous Weapons in School

JICI: Weapons on School Property

JGAA: Restraint

JKAA/JKAA-R: Use of Restraints

JLC: Student Health Services:

JLCE: Emergency Care and First Aid

JLD: School Guidance and Counseling Program

JLDBA: Behavior Management and Intervention

JLF: Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

JHG: Reporting Child Abuse

JLI: Safety Program

KB: School Board Records

KBC: News Media

KBCA/KBCA-R: School News Releases

KED: Facilities or Services – Grievance Procedure

2nd by Megan Turnbull. Motion approved 6-0 with minor revisions.

Krista Butts moved to approve to recommend for adoption Policy KA, 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion approved 6 – 0.

Krista Butts moved to approve to recommend for adoption Policy KDA, 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion approved 6 – 0.

C. Appointment of Parents/Citizens to Search Committee:

Henry Brackett nominated: Majorie Wolfson, Julie Reece, Martha Gooze, Jen Sayre-McKiernan, Lorna Jacobsen, Lisa Roeder, Luci Gardner, Seth Fiermonti, Tom Newkirk, Ruth Wharton-McDonald with Ute Luxem as the alternate 2nd by Jim Kach. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Henry Brackett nominated Jill Eddy and Pranav Nanda to serve on the student search committee, 2nd by Krista Butts. Motion passed 6 – 0.

The Board also thanked the additional community members who offered their service to the Board.

D. Change of Date for June School Board Meetings and Set Date for Workshop on School Board Goals/Budget Goals: Krista Butts moved to have the June School Board meetings on June 1 and 15 and the School Board Budget Goals Workshop on June 8, 2nd by Jim Kach. Motion approved 6 – 0.

IX PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Marte Gooze thanked the Board for putting her on the Search Committee. She suggested talking to the teachers about a possibility of an interim principal.

Stephanie Adams of Lee spoke about the graduating seniors. She is appalled that the Board is not honoring their request. This is a one-time event for them.

David Taylor agrees with Stephanie Adams. The Board has not taken a position and he feels that they should respect the student's decision.

Jennifer Rief of Durham suggested that the Board set a date for the next Strategic Planning Session. The Board could include the strategic plan in their goals.

JoAnn Portalupi of Lee referenced the graduation ceremony. She understands where the students are coming from. She suggested that perhaps Laura Rogers hand out the diplomas and the Board be present. She hopes that the Board is reflecting on this.

X CLOSING ACTIONS

A Agenda Planning – Setting/Review of Future Agenda Item List: School Board’s role in graduation, exit interviews of senior class, District incentive for Hy Batchelder, June 15th 2nd read policies, 7/20 1st read of policies, August 2nd reading of policies

B Future Meeting Dates:

June 1, June 15

Board Goals Workshop: June 8

Jim Kach moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 p.m., 2nd by Henry Brackett. Motion approved 6 – 0.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary