

Oyster River Cooperative School District

BOARD MEETING

July 5, 2011 **Oyster River High School C-124** **2:30 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Brackett, Ann Wright,
Jim Kach, Megan Turnbull, Ann
Lane, Jocelyn O'Quinn
Present via Telephone: Krista Butts

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Meredith Nadeau, Sue Caswell, and
Todd Allen

There were 32 visitors present.

Upon roll call vote, Jim Kach moved to enter into nonpublic session, 2nd by Ann Wright. Motion passed 7 – 0 under RSA 91A:3- II (b).

The purpose of this meeting is to interview two interim Superintendent candidates. Henry Brackett announced that due to posting regulations of meetings, the Board's nominations and voting will be tomorrow, July 6th at 2:00 p.m.

Michelle Langa's background includes Superintendent for SAU 61 from 2006 to 2010 and also assistant Superintendent in SAU 50 from 1999 to 2004. She began her career as a high school SPED teacher.

Michelle feels that the role of the interim Superintendent should support ongoing movement within the District related to goals and initiatives, to support the community and staff.

Her leadership style is facilitative and she has mentored new principals, administrators, as well as teachers.

Michelle was asked how she would support and move forward the following district initiatives: implement data driven decision making, promoting community communications, and raising proficiency of all students. She responded that she feels curriculum mapping is very important. Michelle also

detailed how communication is very important in the community and with employees.

Her approach to developing a budget is using a zero based budget. It helps to focus on needs versus wants.

When asked about her approach to policy management, she responded that she is well versed in policy development and revision. She has attended many workshops on policy and feels that the simpler the policy the better for the District.

When asked what is the role of an interim in the development and implementation of the strategic plan, Michelle feels that a plan needs to be developed. She could help to organize focus groups which would help to start and develop ideas. She has developed and implemented a five year strategic plan in the past.

Michelle mentioned and gave examples of transitions that she has been a part of in the past.

Michelle asked the Board what personal characters that they are looking for in an interim Superintendent. They listed collegial, a good communicator, involved in day to day initiatives, as well as a motivator for the District.

The Board thanked Michelle for her interview.

Leon Levesque's background includes the Superintendent for Hallowell, Maine from 1993 to 1998 and the Superintendent of Lewiston, Maine schools from 1998 to 2010. He has worked in a school district that is made up of several towns.

Leon was asked what the role of an interim Superintendent should be. Initiatives would still be maintained and provide a positive environment for the permanent Superintendent.

He was asked what his leadership style is. He responded that he strongly feels building leadership from within is important. He has hired many

administrators over the years. He is a good fiscal agent and operations manager.

Leon was asked how he would support and move forward the following district initiatives: implement data driven decision making, promoting community communications, and raising proficiency of all students. He has operated with a system that looks at data vertically and horizontally. He has used curriculum mapping, and would continue to use the web, newsletters, hold open sessions with parents, be visible and available in the community and look at twenty-first century skills.

Leon's approach to developing a budget is to estimate what is needed for sustainability. The District needs to work with what they can afford.

His approach to policy management is that it needs to be done correctly and able to be understood by the community. The policies need to be kept on a three year cycle.

Leon was asked what the role is of an interim Superintendent in the development and implementation of the strategic plan. Leon would involve key stake holders, community, staff and administration. He would use a future search model. Values on education, mission and vision statements would have to emerge and be established. You want to continually strive to be better and develop goals and benchmarks.

Leon mentioned that has has had a lot of experience managing change by building trust, community and working together. Building and maintaining good relationships with staff and keep everything moving in a positive direction would help lay the foundation for the permanent Superintendent.

Leon asked and discussed with the Board if the interim Superintendent is successful, what differences will the school District have next June. The Board responded that the interim Superintendent would bring a calming force to the community, be in a good position to have a top notch permanent Superintendent hired, and have a plan in place for the DINI cohorts.

The Board thanked Leon for his interview.

The Board took a ten minute recess.

Krista Butts moved to enter into nonpublic session upon roll call vote, 2nd by Ann Lane. Motion approved 7 – 0.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary