

Oyster River Cooperative School District

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 20, 2011

Oyster River High School C-124

7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

Interim Superintendent Leon
Levesque, Sue Caswell, Danielle
Bolduc, Jay Richard, Kris Gallo, and
Todd Allen

There were eighty visitors present

Upon roll call vote, Ann Lane moved to enter into public session at 7:00 p.m., 2nd by Jim Kach. Motion approved 7 – 0.

Ann Wright introduced Leon Levesque as the Interim Superintendent for the District. He thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

Upon roll call vote, Krista Butts made a motion to move VIII B to above IV followed by public comments, 2nd by Megan Turnbull. Motion approved 7 – 0.

III PRELIMINARY ACTIONS

A Announcements – District: Todd Allen, Principal of the High School, welcomed any member of the community to email him or stop by with any questions or concerns. He has an open door policy.

Jay Richard, Principal of the Middle School, introduced the new Middle School Assistant Principal Bill Sullivan.

Kris Gallo, Principal of Mast Way, announced that on July 28th at 7:00 p.m., there will be a presentation with Danielle Bolduc regarding the school in need of improvement plan. They would like parent's feedback.

Danielle Bolduc reported that the summer camps are going really well. There are 290 campers this summer. She thanked all the teachers for coming forward to work on these.

B. Correspondence: Ann Wright summarized the public correspondence that was received prior to this meeting including several right to know requests to the School Board, and a request to the Board from a reporter to comment on an article.

C. Commendations: Krista Butts commended Wendy at the SAU office for all her work on the policies. Ann Wright commended the custodial staff for doing a great job getting ready for the school year. The committees working on the SINI and DINI were also commended.

D. Approval of Minutes: 6/15, 6/20, 6/30, 7/5, 7/13: Upon roll call vote, Krista Butts moved to approve the above minutes, 2nd by Jim Kach. Motion approved 6-0-1 with Jocelyn O'Quinn abstaining.

Upon roll call vote Krista Butt moved to approve the minutes of June 28 and July 1. Krista amended her motion to include the minutes of July 6th, 2nd by Megan Turnbull. Motion approved 5-0-2 with Jocelyn O'Quinn and Ann Wright abstaining.

E. Approval of Manifests:

VM#54 – 6/23/11 - \$113,163.84

VM#55 – 6/23/11 - \$269.22

VM#56 - 6/30/11 - \$163,066.64

VM#57 – 7/7/11 - \$121,846.72

VM#58 – 7/13/11 - \$114,442.18

VM#59 – 7/14/11 - \$3,015.47

VM#60 – 7/20/11 - \$80,978.57

VM#61 – 7/20/11 - \$113,743.00

VM#1 - 7/18/11 - \$107,363.74

VM#2 – 7/20/11 - \$47,103.01

PR#26 – 6/28/11 - \$3,153,743.13

PR#26A – 6/24/11 - \$62,093.61

PR#26B - 6/24/11- \$625,620.61

PR#1 – 7/8/11 - \$125,258.33

PR#2 -7/12/11 - \$867.89

VIIIB Authorization to Increase Meal Charges: Andrea Tran, Director of Food Service, spoke to the Board. A new provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, and Section 205 requires an increase in our lunch prices for the 2011-12 school year. It is titled the “Equity in School Lunch Pricing” provision.

The USDA research has indicated that average prices charged for paid lunches in some school districts are less than the cost of producing those lunches. This results in Federal funds intended for free and reduced price lunches being used to help subsidize paid lunches.

For Oyster River, Andrea followed the USDA specific instructions on how to calculate our average price for paid lunches and it came out to \$2.43 per paid meal. This is too low to be compliant with the new provision. The new prices that she is proposing would give the District a new average price for a paid lunch of \$2.53 and would make us compliant with the new rules.

	<u>2010-2011 Year</u>	<u>2011-2012 Year</u>
Elementary Schools		
Lunch	\$2.25	\$2.30
Breakfast	\$1.25	\$1.25
Middle School		
Type A Lunch	\$2.35	\$2.40
Type B Lunch	\$2.50	\$2.60
Breakfast	\$1.25	\$1.25
High School		
Type A Lunch	\$2.50	\$2.60
Type B Lunch	\$2.75	\$3.00
Breakfast	\$1.25	\$1.25
Adult Lunch		
Type A	\$3.50	\$3.50
Type B	\$3.75	\$3.75

Milk	\$0.45	\$0.45
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Krista Butts moved to authorize the above increase to meal charges, 2nd by Jim Kach. Motion approved 6-0-1 with Henry Brackett abstaining.

VI A PUBLIC COMMENTS:

William Hall of Durham welcomed the new Superintendent and the Principal. He referenced an accident that was in front of the school involving a high school student in which no action was taken. He also mentioned the skateboard accident on Coe Drive which resulted in loss of life. There should not be any skateboarding on Coe Drive and it should be enforced.

Neil Wyman feels that exit interviews should start with parents sending their children to private schools.

Brenda Warden of Lee has never attended a School Board meeting before. She is outraged and disgusted with Jim Kach and offended by his views. She feels that if he does not resign then he must be asked to by the Board. She also suggested that all public accounts by Board members by closed once elected.

Makayla Weaver of Durham is the VP of the Gay Straight Alliance at the High School. She feels that the school should be a safe place for all. Jim Kach's comments are racist, homophobic and sexist. They are not funny and he should resign.

Debbie Mueller of Durham read a letter regarding Jim Kach and called for his immediate resignation to the School Board. She feels he cannot continue to serve in the community.

Luci Gardner of Durham feels that Jim Kach has a perfect right to tweet. To call Jim Kach anti-semitic is not right. These are political jokes that have been retweeted.

Roger Spiedel of Durham welcomed the Superintendent to Oyster River. He feels that Howard Colter failed as a leader of the School District. Oyster River ranks 18th in the state NECAPs. One of the elementary schools ranked 60th in the state. The percentage of students going to four year schools has not

increased despite costs going up. He feels that now is the time to get back on track.

Paula Salvio of Durham feels that Jim Kach's remarks are vulgar. We teach our children not to make such jokes. If we condone this then we are endorsing his remarks.

David Taylor Jr. of Durham noted that if he had made those same jokes he would certainly have been fired from his job at Rite-Aid.

Mike McClerkin, a resident of the District, feels that this is a political vendetta. He thinks that Jim Kach is being targeted and urged him not to resign.

David Taylor of Durham filed a formal complaint on June 16th because he feels that Jim Kach has violated the non-public policy. He asked for this to be put on a future agenda and has had no response. Please place this on the agenda. Jim Kach is violating non-public laws. He also mentioned that because Henry Brackett is on the telephone, all votes this evening need to be by roll call vote.

Jackie Eastwood of Durham thinks that Jim Kach is doing a good job and does not want him to resign.

Julie Kasnowsky of Durham feels that there is no way that Jim Kach can work with teachers in a positive way. The community is calling for his resignation.

Denise Day of Durham feels that there is a lesson to be learned today. People need to dig deeper prior to elections.

Tim Harrigan of Durham is a member of the State Legislature. He voted for Jim Kach and feels like he was the best candidate. He encouraged him not to resign and to go ahead and do his job.

Peter Talliman of Durham moved to this area pretty recently. He thinks that public figures have an obligation to protect its citizens. As a citizen, he has a right to free speech but it is in the best interest of the Board and the community that Jim Kach resigns.

P. Nanda, a student at the high school, read the student conduct and the consequences from the policy. He feels that the Board members should be held to the same standards as the students. This news has spread and is affecting the reputation of the District. He also read a letter from a gay senior describing how offended he is. He is asking Jim Kach to resign.

Ruth McDonald of Durham agrees that Jim Kach has done nothing illegal but he is not a role model or leader. She is concerned about his ability to work with women. The District cannot afford to be sidetracked by this. She is asking for his resignation.

Peter Swet of Durham mentioned that this is his first Board meeting. He has been a Principal in this state for forty years. He is appalled by Jim Kach's actions. It is very inappropriate. He urged him to step forward and take responsibility for his actions.

Ruth Sample of Lee spoke and mentioned that she is the one who brought Jim Kach's tweets to light. It isn't clear that all of his tweets are legal but they do violate the standards that the Board sets for itself.

Keith Mistretta of Durham mentioned the declining school district and the rising costs of education in this community. They have lost 246 students in the District and yet they hired additional teachers. There is an 11.6 to 1 student to teacher ratio. He feels that the Board should be able to do a better job with the new Superintendent.

Nancy Kach of Madbury spoke in defense of Jim Kach. People have been judging based on something they have read. They have not taken the time to study it. They have personally heard from many residents in support of him. Jim is accepting of everyone.

BOARD COMMENTS: Jocelyn O'Quinn mentioned that her son was recently diagnosed with lyme disease. She reminded parents to look for symptoms.

Jim Kach apologized to anyone who was offended by his twitter account. He mentioned that most of these comments were posted prior to his election.

Ann Wright mentioned that the Board has been dealing with a lot of issues since April. We need to work as a team and work better.

IV REPORTS

A Superintendent's Reports: Interim Superintendent Leon Levesque thanked everyone for allowing him this opportunity. His goal is to be available to parents. He wants to share what he is hearing with the Board. He wants to hold public forums at each of the schools. He would also like to publish a monthly Superintendent report on the website to communicate initiatives.

Interim Superintendent Levesque's goal is to also set up a schedule and visit every classroom. There is wonderful talent in this District. He is also requesting a work session during August to outline priorities. A survey will be done on a variety of topics and some items will be put up for discussion at meetings.

He also added that the School Board needs a policy regarding the use of emails. He is requesting that they act on such a policy as a first reading this evening.

B. Business Administrators Report and Budget Update: Sue Caswell announced that the audit will be next week. There is a \$1.3m current budget balance. There are a number of purchases that are not included in this. She will have a more accurate balance figure to report next week.

C. Curriculum Instruction – District Initiatives Update: Danielle Bolduc reported that in August there will be an overview of the SINI and DINI plans with the District's initiative. The plans are due in the beginning of August and they will be creating a draft.

D. Student Senate Report: Student Representative Cody Jacobsen reported that fall sports are starting the week of August 15th. He is requesting a topic list that the Board would like him to report on in the upcoming year.

V SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES: Jocelyn O'Quinn reported that the Operations Committee met last week and discussed budget and encumbered funds practices with Sue Caswell. They are meeting again on July 27th.

She also reported that the Sustainability Committee is continuing to meet over the summer.

Krista Butts reported that the Policy Committee is meeting on August 3 and August 17. They are hoping to revise the entire manual at that time.

Ann Wright announced that the Wellness Committee will be circulating a draft of their policy.

VII DISCUSSION ITEMS

A Schedule Board Retreat: Ann Wright will circulate an online calendar to determine a good date/time that works for everyone.

VIII ACTION ITEMS

A Policies:

Krista Butts moved to adopt DID, JLD, JLC, KC and JLI. After Board discussion, Krista withdrew her motion. **Krista Butts moved to adopt Policies DID and JLI 2nd by Jocelyn O'Quinn. Upon roll call vote, the motion approved 7 – 0.**

Krista Butts moved to approve Policy JICD with removal of JI reference, 2nd by Jocelyn O'Quinn. Upon roll call vote, motion approved 7 – 0.

Krista Butts moved to adopt Policy JLC, 2nd by Ann Wright. Krista Butts withdrew her motion. Ann Lane moved to amend the motion to table the policy until it has been circulated to school nurses and the food service director, 2nd by Henry Brackett. Upon roll call vote the motion was approved 7 – 0.

Krista Butts moved to approve Policy JLI, 2nd by Jocelyn O'Quinn. Krista Butts moved to withdraw her motion as it has been already approved above. Jocelyn O'Quinn withdrew her 2nd.

Krista Butts moved to approve Policy KA, 2nd by Megan Turnbull. Upon roll call vote, the motion passes 7 – 0.

Krista Butts moved to recommend for adoption Policy BHEA & R, 2nd by Jim Kach. Upon roll call vote the motion passes 6-1-0 with Henry Brackett abstaining.

C. Approval of Primex: Sue Caswell is recommending that the District enroll in this Contribution Assurance Program for the Workers' Compensation Program for three years.

Krista Butts moved to authorize Sue Caswell to enroll in the Primex program for three years, 2nd by Ann Lane. Upon roll call vote, the motion was approved 7 – 0.

IX PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jennifer Rief of Durham is struggling with the Policy work that has been taking place over the past couple of months. The first reading does include a lot of discussions. When so many policies are coming in front of the Board it is worrisome how much work is going into these policies. She feels that these policies are being rushed.

The intent of Policy KAI is how the Board communicates with the community and town offices and how it develops its relationships. Krista Butts noted that this information is now in Policy KDA and will be coming to the Board in August as a first read.

John Collins encouraged Jim Kach to do the right thing. He feels since Jim Kach is on the Policy Committee that they will be tainted moving forward. The Board is lacking in credibility, transparency, and accountability. He feels that the public needs to know why Howard Colter was bought out and the Principal nomination failed. There won't be any trust until they have answers.

Tori Jenneson of Durham urged the Board to do their homework and come prepared. She proposes that no policy be passed until it goes through a third read. She also feels that Jim Kach has some work to do.

David Childs of Madbury does not think that the Board should be supporting the Revolution Energy proposals.

Dean Rubine of Lee reported that his wife was motivated by the lack of transparency of the Board. He is proud of the community for taking the issue seriously.

Grant Chanoline of Durham has seen a lot of discussion between the Board and the community and not seen anything happen as a result. He does not feel that the Board has a checks and balances besides the vote.

Joan Mistretta of Durham noted that Board members put in a lot of hours. They support the Board and want to work with the Board and move ahead with education.

JoAnn Portalupi of Lee welcomed the interim Superintendent to the District. We need to listen to opinions and she is concerned that people are coming to the podium and stating facts that are not accurate. The data is available. Please be mindful of what we share.

Harry Mueller of Durham thinks that the Board needs to develop a social media policy moving forward.

X CLOSING ACTIONS

A Agenda Planning Setting/Review of Future Agenda Item List: Long Range Projections Committee Report, DINI and SINI Report

B. Future Meeting Dates: 7/27/11 Special Workshop Meeting with Advisory Budget Committee
8/17 and 9/7 Regular Board Meetings.

Jocelyn O'Quinn moved to let the record show that any motions which did not previously include "upon roll call vote" were revoted to include appropriate wording, 2nd by Ann Lane. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 6 – 0.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary