

Wendy DiFruscio

From: Ann Lane [alane@orcsd.org]
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 1:06 PM
To: ann.lane@comcast.net
Subject: FW: Site visits?

From: Yusi Turell []
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 12:16 PM
To: ; Jocelyn O'Quinn; ; Ann Lane; Dennis Harrington; Dave Hawley;
; Alida Carter; Melisa Baker;
Subject: Re: Site visits?

Hi all,

I have learned that in fact the Board does not expect to present an offer based solely on the community visits - and will be discussing next steps on Thurs which could include site visits.

Shame on me for being reactive and not validating my sources.

I would hope that none of you forwarded my draft - and that, if you did, you please forward this correction. I think our committee showed that even people with different perspectives can listen to and work well with each other.

I apologize for this small part in fanning the flames, which our community does not need.

Yusi

On Jan 25, 2012 10:19 AM, "Yusi Turell" wrote:

Hi all,

I was shocked to hear (second hand, at the forum and also through the FORE newsletter below) that the Board does not plan to do site visits before making a decision. Unless I'm mistaken and/or the Board has lengthened its decision timeline, I plan to send a revised version of this quickly written letter to the Board later today. Please let me know if you would like me to add your signature (I'll share final version for approval), or feel free to send your own.

Jocelyn/Ann, please let me know if I've misunderstood your schedule and/or am bumping up against confidentiality issues - I tried hard to avoid this.

Yusi

Dear members of the ORCSD Board,

Exhibit #1

I am writing to protest against the decision of the Board to select a superintendent without site visits and additional due diligence. As a member of the superintendent selection committee, I know the committee reviewed application materials and interviewed candidates, but did not conduct due diligence beyond the recommendation letters included in the applications. Because of these limited data, our task was merely to recommend candidates for further due diligence and consideration. We believed each candidate had strengths that merited further consideration. Through our process, we also shared questions/concerns about each candidate that could not be resolved through our interviews – or solely through candidate visits to ORCSD.

The Board should commit the time and resources in the next 1-2 weeks to visit each candidate's community and speak with stakeholders about their effectiveness and leadership style. We need these additional data to make an informed decision on whether any of these three candidates are a strong fit for Oyster River's needs. We also should go through this process in order to satisfy all stakeholders. If we think one of these candidates could do an excellent job after further vetting, let's bring him on board quickly in permanent capacity and begin to move forward as a community. However, just as it would be negligent to delay an offer to an excellent candidate due to political reasons, it is equally negligent to extend an offer without site visits and adequate due diligence.

Regards,

Yusi Turell

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **FORENH** <info@forenh.org>
Date: Tue, Jan 24, 2012 at 10:38 PM
Subject: FORENH Newsletter
To: Yusi <yusiwang@gmail.com>

24 January 2012	
FORE News Roundup <u>Superintendent Search Update</u> Last Friday, the ORCSD Superintendent	Upcoming Events Superintendent Candidate Public Forums

Screening Committee announced the three finalists recommended for our District's permanent Superintendent position. After one and a half weeks of going through applications and one round of interviews, the Screening Committee narrowed a pool of 15 completed applicants down to Dr. John Bacon, Mr. Jay McIntyre and Dr. James Morse; Bios may be found [here](#).

In past searches, it has been customary to set up site visits to each candidate's school district. However, in a change from the posted [search calendar](#), which had included site visits and telephoning, the School Board has chosen not to take these important steps.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, January 24th and 25th, the candidates will visit ORCSD to meet our administrators, staff, parents and students. All community members are invited to attend the public forums:

- Tue., Jan. 24 at 5:15 pm at the High School Library with Mr. Jay McIntire
- Wed., Jan. 25 at 5:15 pm at the High School Library with Dr. James Morse
- Wed., Jan. 25 at 6:15 pm at the High School Library with Dr. John Bacon

We will have a chance to ask questions and provide feedback to the School Board on a feedback form. The School Board will conduct a public interview of each candidate after the forums. A final decision which was scheduled to be made on Feb 6th, is currently posted and scheduled to be made on Thursday, January 26th. It is critical to attend and providing input at these forums to ensure the School Board chooses a candidate that is the right fit for our community.

Public Budget Hearing Update

On January 17 the Oyster River School Board held a public hearing on the proposed budget. Click [here](#) for a copy of the budget presentation. Residents had an opportunity to pose questions on the budget and offer comments. Residents expressed appreciation for the time and effort involved in preparing the budget, and for keeping the taxpayers in mind. Other residents questioned the process that resulted in last minute, ad-hoc cuts that were not recommended by the superintendent. There were many comments against the proposed cuts, particularly the elimination of the assistant principal and .5 math teacher at the high school. The School Board did not answer individual questions, but board member O'Quinn provided some initial responses, and said all questions would be

25 Jan 5:15 & 6:15pm ORHS

School Board Interviews

25 Jan 6:15pm ORHS

School Board Meeting

26 Jan 6:30pm ORHS

School Board Meeting

01 Feb 7pm ORHS

ORCSD Deliberative Session

07 Feb 7pm ORHS

ORCSD Deliberative Session -

snowdate

08 Feb 7pm ORHS

Election Day

13 March

FORE: Friends of Oyster River

Education is a volunteer organization dedicated to sustaining and improving the excellence of Oyster River Cooperative School District schools. For more information, see our website at www.forenh.org.

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answered by the next evening and posted to the website: Click [here](#) for responses. A number of residents expressed frustration at the departure from the format of previous years' public hearings which allowed for more dialogue.

School Board Finalizes 2012-2013 Proposed Budget

At the January 18 School Board meeting, the board voted to approve a budget to be presented to the voters at the deliberative session. Superintendent Levesque initially proposed a budget to the board with a .6% increase over last year's budget, however the board made additional reductions totaling \$387,679. These proposed reductions include an assistant principal at the high school, a .5 math teacher at the high school, a district data manager, and funds to purchase 50 replacement computers in the district.

Community members will have the opportunity to amend the school board budget at the deliberative session on February 7 at 7:00 at the high school (snow date February 8). The final version of the budget will then appear on the ballot March 13.

Permanent High School Principal

Congratulations to Todd Allen who was approved as principal of ORHS at the School Board's meeting on January 18. The nomination was met with a resounding round of applause. Mr. Allen has been serving as principal on an interim basis since Laura Rogers' resignation in June 2011. Prior to that he served as ORMS assistant principal, and spent many years teaching social studies at ORMS. Good luck Mr. Allen!

School Board Member Ann Wright Resigns

School Board member Ann Wright announced her resignation from the Board effective January 24. Ann was recognized by fellow board members and by residents during public comments for her hard work, unique perspective, and her deep commitment to education and the children of the district. A new at-large board member will be elected in March to fill the remaining year of her term. The board will consider whether to appoint someone to fill her seat until the election. Several Community members suggested appointing Ann to serve until the election.

Ruling in the Right to Know Lawsuit

On January 17, the Strafford County Superior Court issued a notice of decision on Durham resident David Taylor's lawsuit against the Oyster River School Board and Henry Brackett, Chairman. The ruling upholds Mr. Taylor's assertion that the ORCSD school board violated the Right-To-Know (RTK) law on multiple occasions during the period of time when the former superintendent's contract was being bought out and the hiring of an interim superintendent. The judge granted Mr. Taylor's request for documents and redacted information under RSA 91:A. The court cited the following factors in awarding payment of Mr. Taylor's legal fees: He was denied access to documents after making reasonable requests for information; the lawsuit was necessary to make proceedings open to the public; and the board knew or should have known that they were violating the RTK laws. The court did not enjoin the board from making any future violations because the board has already indicated its willingness to comply. For a copy of the complete ruling click [here](#). To read the Foster's article click [here](#).

FORE Website Highlights

- [Mary Beaton, ORHS World Language Teacher awarded the Target Field Trip Grant](#)
- [Meet the Superintendent Candidates](#)
- [Voter and Absentee Ballot Information](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

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