

OESU BOARD MEETING
Oxbow High School Library
December 4, 2018

Present:

Newbury: Danielle Corti, Emily Hausman, Paul Jewett

Oxbow: Kathy Damon, Pat Dwyer, Adam Lornitzo

Thetford: Julie Acker, Shannon Darrah

Blue Mountain: Angeline Alley, Judy Murray, Julie Oliver

Waits River: Kenneth Shaffer

Bradford: Lucas Barrett, Emily Shipman

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams, Sandra Stanley, Alison Kidder, Lori Blood

Others: Sherry Hoyt, William Ellithorpe, Ted Pogacar

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:08 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair
- II. The Chair welcomed those present, and the agenda was reviewed
- III. Board Business
 - A. Motion by Adam Lornitzo, seconded by Lucas Barrett to approve Board minutes of November 6, 2018. Motion voted on and approved with 3 abstentions (Angeline Alley, Judy Murray, Julie Oliver)
 - B. Board Orders—all looks good
 - C. Contracts—None
 - D. Correspondence—None
- IV. Public Comments
 - A. Volunteer is needed from OESU Board to serve on the hiring committee for Director of Student Support Services
 1. Emily Shipman volunteered to serve
- V. SPED Overview—Dr. Sandra Stanley
 - A. Sandra Stanley, Director of Student Support Services—framed the upcoming transition
 1. All students enter as General Education students
 2. We have had twenty-eight years of state-level regulation, so that all students can have extra support if they need it
 3. There are Policies regarding the requirement of having educational support systems for students
 4. Multi-tiered System Supports—became effective in 2014
 5. All schools in OESU have policies in place
 - A. Close to 1,900 students in OESU
 6. Historically about 40% (759 students before including Blue Mountain) need extra support

7. Out of those 40%, 22% (400 students) need special education (doesn't include numbers from Blue Mountain yet)
8. Pre-referral: Step 1 in the special education process: Reviewed by the EST
9. Process of Special Education prescribed by law
10. There is a national shortage of special education specialists (special educators, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists, etc.), and even more so in rural areas. OESU has had unfilled positions for the past 5 years.
 - A. Current OESU students attend 30 different programs (including EEE) in various parts of the state. All are costly.
11. OESU is not in compliance with Act 153. The State Board is requiring that the district come into compliance
12. Equity across the SU must be the priority. Stressed the importance of Interdependency across the OESU.
13. Must have strong MTSS to be able to cut costs
14. Must have conversations around "what works for all of us".
15. Funding system is changing, and everyone must be pulling their own weight
16. The OESU doesn't currently have the data base that we need to collect, compare, and track data and make comparisons across the buildings
17. Important to have the flexibility for students to move between schools in the OESU, if they have a need that can better be met at another school
18. ***Portions of Dr. Stanley's presentation will be an attachment to these minutes***

VI. Technology Update—Bruce Williams

- A. Have been actively analyzing the proposal from Education Networks of America
- B. Want to be able to work much more collaboratively within the OESU system so that teaching and learning information is being shared seamlessly
- C. Want a "systems solution"
- D. Will finish analysis of ENA Proposal by end of December

VII. OESU Draft Budget—Emilie Knisley and Lori Blood

- A. Building a budget to put ourselves in compliance with mandates of Act 153
 1. Centralization of Special Ed and centralization of transportation
 - A. Hoping for a waiver from the State for the length of time that the contract between BMU and SA 23 in NH is in effect
 2. Centralize EEE and Pre-School
 3. Probably one of the most complex SU budget in the State of VT
- B. Reviewed a draft of the budget for Special Ed. using last year's equalized pupils
- C. Lori Blood also reviewed 2017-2018 Fund Balance Report
 1. Showed the audited breakdown at SU for Spec Ed.

VIII. Minimum Wage Recommendation

- A. To comply with the State's minimum wage requirement, a daily sub rate of \$80.63 must go into effect January 1st. Motion by Emmy Hausman, seconded by Emily Shipman that the sub rate be \$80.63 per day starting January 1st, to be in compliance with the

State Minimum wage requirement. Motion voted on and approved with one opposed (Lucas Barrett) and one abstention (Adam Lornitzo)

- IX. Act 46--“Where We Are”
 - A. State Board of Ed issued final plan and Articles of Agreement specific to each merged district.
 - 1. They are on the AOE website.
 - 2. The Secretary and the State of VT issued an order on the mergers and changes, and they are being sent to SU’s and Clerks of each effected District.
 - a. Includes dates and timelines.
 - B. First meeting of the Transitional Board will be warned by the State of VT. Has to be done by January 29, 2019 at the latest. OESU is waiting to hear from the State as to when they’re warning it for. The earliest would be January 21st.
- X. Advisory Council Procedure
 - A. That piece has been found and was distributed. It is for informational purposes only.
 - B. Concerns had been raised about the purpose of this council and how meetings should be run.
 - C. This document, passed June 13, 2017, will answer these questions.
 - D. It was suggested that #3 under “Purpose of Council” should be voted on each year at the point in time a committee is put together.
 - 1. “To act as a bona fide committee when charged by the OESU Board. These charges will be reviewed at the Board reorganization.” This will be reviewed by the Policy Committee.
- XI. Date for next meeting—Wednesday January 16, 2019 at 5:30 PM
- XII. Executive Session
 - A. Motion by Emmy Hausman, seconded by Paul Jewett to enter Executive Session at 8:10 PM pursuant to Title I, Sec. 313 (a) (1) Teacher/Para Negotiations. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
 - B. Voted to exit Executive Session at 8:32 PM
- XIII. Action—None taken
- XIV. Motion by Paul Jewett, seconded by Emmy Hausman to adjourn at 8:32 PM. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk

The minutes are in draft format and are unofficial until formally approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting.