

~Draft Minutes ~

OESU Board Meeting
Oxbow High School Library
Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Present

Newbury: Paul Jewett, Danielle Corti, Emmy Hausman
Oxbow: Adam Lornitzo, Kathy Damon, Pat Dwyer
Thetford: Shannon Darrah, Julie Acker
Blue Mountain: Judy Murray, Julie Oliver
Waits River: Kenneth Shaffer
Bradford: Kim Frydman, Lucas Barrett
Administrators: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams,
Others: Alison Kidder, Lori Blood, Nicole Bell, Sherry Hoyt, Ted Pogacar, Robin Wozny, OHS students

Call to order: D. Corti called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM

Agenda Review: No additions

Approve minutes: P. Jewett made a motion to approve the minutes from 12/4/2018. A. Lornitzo seconds. Motion passed with one abstention (K. Frydman). A. Lornitzo asks if attachments to minutes are being posted to the website. There had been previous discussion re: this subject. Answer is yes.

Contracts:

1. A teacher contract for Amanda Bugbee for a full time special education position for \$37,513.28 effective 1/17/2019 – 6/30/2019.
2. A contract amendment for Erin Pellegrino for a step change salary increase, also moving from .6 - .8. P. Jewett moved to accept both contracts and authorize the board chair to sign. Motion passed with all in favor.
3. Discussion re: Hiring special education director. The hiring committee has appointed Alison Kidder to the position. D. Corti asks if the board needs to approve the contract? E. Knisley states that historically the board does not need to approve this contract. It is approved by the superintendent and the superintendent informs the board. E. Knisley is asked if the position of assistant special education director has been posted? E. Knisley responds that the position is posted and there are ongoing discussions with A. Kidder and the special education team of potentially re-structuring the existing model to include team leaders in each building.

Board orders: K. Shaffer reports all in order. He asks if every school pays the same mileage rate? B. Williams states that the short answer is no. During the bidding process, the former assistant superintendent asked the bus company to break it down by town/per mile cost. He states that transportation will be an agenda item for the next meeting. B. Williams also states that the owner of the bus company would be willing to come to a meeting to answer questions.

Correspondence:

1. A letter from Nicole Bell has been sent to the board inviting 2 or more board members to be involved in the development of an SU wide multi-tiered system of supports for behavior and academics. N. Bell outlines the grants received and what would be asked of the volunteers. Interested parties should contact E. Knisley.

2. Vermont School Board Association has written to inform the board about changes in how dues are assessed. FY19 = \$11,453.00. FY20 = \$9,549.00. K. Damon asks if the board can receive an itemized list of services provided for this cost. L. Barrett responds that the information can be found on the VSBA website and lists some of the services: webinars, legislative updates, decreased cost of consulting fees, shared use of specialist in legislature.

Public comment: None

Budget: E. Knisley and L. Blood present the FY20 OESU assessments. This represents a partially merged budget with BMU, therefore there are more employees. Next year will be full merging of BMU and OESU. A. Lornitzo asks if there are duplicate positions at OESU and BMU? There is still a spec ed position at BMU. No HR person at BMU. Still a full-time accountant at BMU. An EEE position was added. Also, a new position of data management coordinator has been added. B. Williams and E. Knisley discuss how essential this position is with the creation of new systems and overhauling the old systems. L. Blood explains that the assessments this year are based on enrollment, not FTE. P. Jewett asks if it is possible to get a breakdown of the increase for each school? E. Hausman asks who oversees the arts enrichment program? E. Knisley states that it is a team of local art teachers. K. Damon asks why there is a 137% increase in the Oxbow budget assessment? B. Williams answers that one big cost is transportation costs that are now in the SU budget and not local budgets. There are also increases due to merging and centralizing special education. Discussion re: new systems being mandated by the state. E. Knisley is skeptical of the new finance system because of the history of problems with other state wide systems implementation. P. Jewett asks for a breakdown of what each new position will cost. K. Damon asks if a salary increase is included in the budget? E. Knisley answers that they built in 3% as a placeholder. She also explains that a 10% contingency has been built in because it is the first year with the mergers and new systems. Need to allow for problems and mistakes and then re-assess for next year. K. Damon asks if the proposed changes and systems will bring OESU into compliance. E. Knisley answers in the affirmative.

ACT 46 update: February 25, 2019 is the new date for the OUUSD organizational meeting. B. Williams states that the local budget process will parallel the new district process. OESU is working with principals to develop a local budget. This can then be applied and used in the creation of a new district budget if needed. The conversion to a new financial software combined with the new student management software has been and will be challenging. L. Barrett would like to publicly thank the superintendent and the OESU office for working with all these new demands and for doing a thankless job.

Technology update: B. Williams reports that after meeting with local tech staff from each school, they have talked of waiting to implement the wide area network that was discussed at a previous meeting. Discussion centered around too many new systems at once. Local tech staff have discussed options without the wide area network being implemented immediately. The state requirement re: student information systems has been put out to bid and the office will be looking at those this month.

Policy Committee update: The policy committee will be bringing 2-3 policies each month for the approval of the board. Policies will be emailed to board members prior to each meeting to read ahead of time so can ask questions and discuss. Said policies can then be approved at the following meeting. State required policies don't need changes and the policy committee does not recommend changes to those. B. Williams explains that the SU will adopt a policy and then the local boards will adopt. There should also be a system in place for an annual review of each policy. D. Corti asks about sending out a pre-board meeting package with relevant documents so the first reading of the documents can take place before the meeting. This will bring more efficiency to the meetings. B. Williams agrees.

Advisory Council Procedures Update: An update has been added to the procedures that the advisory council would be reviewed annually during board reorganization. L. Barrett made a motion to approve the changes to the advisory council procedure. E. Hausman seconds. Motion passed with all in favor.

7:24 pm J. Acker made a motion to adjourn. E. Hausman seconds. Motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Fredella -minutes clerk

Not official until approved.

DRAFT