

**OUUSD BOARD MEETING**  
**Oxbow High School Library**  
**July 16, 2019**

Present:

Board Members:

Newbury: Danielle Corti, Timm Judas

Bradford: Angela Colbeth, Melissa Gordon

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Jean Wheeler, Brian Emerson, Nicole Bell, Morgan Moore

Members of the Public: Skip Barrett, Bud Haas, Adam Lornitzo, Clayton Morlock (director of UVMBA), Richard Evans, and others

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair
  - A. Those present were welcomed, and the agenda was reviewed
  - B. Minutes for Approval
    1. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to approve the Board minutes of July 10, 2019. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
  - C. Contract for employee shared between two districts
    1. Tracy Puffer will be at BMU in the AM and will be at RBCTC in the afternoon. BMU will be the employer, with River Bend sharing the cost. The Board requested that the OUUSD Teachers' Union be consulted for their approval. The Board also asked for a report back after the school year starts. It was decided to table this matter and bring back in August.
- II. Public Comments
  - A. Skip Barrett noted that there is history of employees being shared between separate districts of Newbury, Oxbow, and Bradford
  - B. Skip Barrett: concern that the OUUSD Board of 4 members, meeting once a month, does not give the principals in the district the level of support they deserve.
  - C. Bud Haas: questioned if there is a policy on "tuition request"
  - D. Bud Haas: expressed concern about the Board keeping on schedule with the times on the agenda
  - E. Danielle Corti noted that if there are members of the public who wish to comment at other points in the meeting, that will try to be accommodated
- III. Award Tractor Bid
  - A. E-mail from Terry Cromack, Facilities Director. She recommended awarding the bid for the new tractor to Blackmount Equipment, who submitted the lowest bid and would offer service quickly. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to accept the bid from Blackmount Equipment in the amount of \$58,500. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- IV. UVMBA Mountain Bike Trail Approval for Low St. John Forest—Adam Lornitzo, Clayton Morlock, Richard Evans

- A. This would be a partnership with Upper Valley Mountain Bike Assn.
- B. Working to build some mountain bike trails in Low St. John Forest
- C. There would be approval from foresters and no major terrain modification. Suitable for beginners, with hope of expanding in the future to include intermediate and expert bike trails
- D. Grant from VT MBA to cover signage and to build pump track. Build trails on school property and maintain them. Have gone through Low Forest Committee.
- E. The Board asked for more time to review the proposed contract. The VSBIT lawyer has already reviewed it.
- F. Skip Barrett: noted that over the years, the Tech Center has done a lot of work in the Low St. John Forest.
- G. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Angela Colbeth to allow the Board Chair to sign the contract after the Board has read it and given comments. Feedback/comments to be received within a week. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

V. Name Changes for River Bend Accounts

- A. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to add Emilie Knisley, Brian Emerson, and Katherine Chobanian to the two River Bend accounts at WRSB and remove Keith Thompson and Robert St. Pierre from the accounts. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

VI. Policy

- A. The following policies had their first reading at a previous meeting
  - 1. A1 Board Member Conflict of Interest
  - 2. B1 Substitute Teachers
  - 3. B2 Volunteers and Work Study Students
  - 4. B3 Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace
  - 5. B4 Drug & Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees
  - 6. B5 Employee Harassment
  - 7. B6 HIPPA
  - 8. B7 Tobacco Prohibition
- B. Clarifying questions were asked and answered
- C. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve Policies A1 through B7. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- D. First read: C1 through C11
  - 1. C1 Student Records
  - 2. C2 Student Drugs & Alcohol
  - 3. C3 Transportation
  - 4. C4 Limited English Proficiency Students
  - 5. C5 Firearms
  - 6. C6 Home Study Students
  - 7. C7 Student Attendance
  - 8. C8 Pupil Privacy
  - 9. C9 Nutrition & Wellness
  - 10. C10 Prevention of Harassment, Hazing & Bullying Policy
  - 11. C10-P Model Procedures for Prevention of Harassment, Hazing & Bullying

12. C11 Student Freedom of Expression in School Sponsored Media

E. If there are questions, please submit them to the Board Chair before the next meeting

VII. Continued Board Reorganization

A. Appoint RBCTC Rep

1. Timm Judas volunteered to serve

B. Appoint Payables Check Signer and a Backup (for OUUSD and the three schools)

1. Angela Colbeth volunteered to serve, and Danielle Corti volunteered to be a backup

C. Appoint Committee for Review of Articles of Agreement

1. Bud Haas volunteered. Two representatives will be sought from each community (perhaps through ListServe) (It was suggested one community member with a child in the school and another community member who does not have a child in the school), and either Emilie Knisley or Bruce Williams,

2. It was suggested asking building administrators for recommendations

3. Danielle Corti and Melissa Gordon volunteered to serve

4. The suggestion was made to involve a couple students from the high school government class

5. A three-month commitment was suggested

6. Danielle Corti will write up a description to go on the List Serve and run it by Supt. Knisley

VIII. Possible Draft Work Plan

A. To Do List was shared

1. Review of Capital and Trust Accounts

2. Complete Transfer of Property

3. VSBA—adopt district policies, beginning with required, then recommended, include intra-district choice policy

4. Board Training

5. Committee to Review the Articles of Agreement

6. Review of Buildings: meet in each school, work toward a facilities plan for the new district

7. Negotiations

8. Financial Updates/Reporting

9. Set Board Goals

10. Begin Budget Process for FY 21, based on Board Goals

IX. Rose, Bud, Thorn Discussion

A. It was decided to wait until August

X. Principal's Report

A. Brian Emerson--RBCTC

1. CDL class is going great

2. River Bend found out that they are getting an additional grant of \$29,000. They will be buying a sawmill and 4 portable welders

B. Jean Wheeler--Oxbow

1. Staff Changes (leaving Oxbow)

a. Laura Gardner

- b. Emily Willems
- c. Anthony Stevens
- d. Laura Nelson
- e. Heidi Wright
- f. Betsy Pond
- g. Brian Johnson
- h. Katherine Chobanian

2. New hires

- a. Dan Thomas
- b. Andrew J. Fisher
- c. Zachary Lang
- d. Kristin Rimal
- e. Cassie Saikin
- f. Jennifer Williams

3. BEST Conference

4. Facilities Update

5. Technology Update

C. Morgan Moore—Newbury Elementary

1. Hiring (thus far)

- a. Sarah Rinehimer
- b. Lottie Page

2. BEST Institute

XI. Budget Meeting Review

A. Explanation of figures in Annual Report—approved an additional \$27,000

- 1. Extra funding will be used for need to upgrade virus filtering in school buildings (about \$15,000)
- 2. Also hoping to spend some money for mentoring of new staff
- 3. Will explain to voters how this extra funding was spent

XII. Next Meeting Agenda Items

- A. Suggest having Board Retreat to set goals—set retreat date and set goals for leadership and budget
- B. Maybe come into school and get tour from Facilities Director
- C. Questions over various ways of communication
- D. Hiring roles and responsibilities
- E. Monthly facilities report—maybe to be included in Principal’s report
- F. Contract from BMU
- G. Rose, Bud, Thorn
- H. Articles of Agreement Review
- I. Policies

XIII. Public Comment

A. Skip Barrett: glad to hear that, when hiring for a position, two candidates do not have to be submitted to the Board

- 1. Exit interviews would be important for staff members who are leaving

2. Summer School—research shows that students lose about 6 weeks every summer. Bradford Elementary didn't have a summer school this year. Mr. Barrett feels this is a crucial piece. What are we doing to extend the learning opportunities of our students?

B. Bud Haas: Does the tuition request have to be in Executive Session? Supt. Knisley said it was a question from a parent directed to the whole Board.

XIV. Executive Session: (Tuition Request)

A. On a motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas, the Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session at 8:48 PM

B. The Board exited Executive Session at 9:03 PM.

XV. Action

XVI. A. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Melissa Gordon to approve the Intra-District (SU) choice request, with the understanding that this is a 1-year agreement while policy is under development. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

XVII. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Melissa Gordon and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM.

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.**