

**OUUSD BOARD MEETING**  
**Oxbow High School Library**  
**June 10, 2019**

Present:

Board Members:

Newbury: Danielle Corti, Timm Judas

Bradford: Angela Colbeth, Melissa Gordon

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Jean Wheeler, Chance Lindsley

Members of the Public: Heidi Allen, Adam Lornitzo, Emily Shipman, and others

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:04 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 May 30, 2019. A question was asked regarding including comments from the Public in the Board minutes. By consensus, it was agreed to continue including them in the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously
- II. Public Comment—None
- III. Low Forest Committees
  - A. Emily Shipman shared a report on the Low St. John's Forest (see attachment)
    1. 130 acres bequeathed to Bradford Elementary School
      - A. About 80 acres are left after acreage that was lost when I-91 went through
    2. Proceeds from the land that was lost was put into an endowment, now worth about \$50,000
    3. The Board requested a budget from the Low St. John Forest Advisory Committee
    4. The Advisory Comm will also come to the Board with a more formal proposal regarding the outdoor classroom
    5. At this point, the Board felt that the Advisory Committee did not need its approval for Emily Shipman to serve as Chair of the Advisory Committee
    6. The policy states that there will be a representative from the OUUSD Board on the Advisory Committee
    7. The Forest Management Plan and Logging Contract will be shared with the Board. The funds from the logging contract will be kept separate from the Endowment Fund.
  - B. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas authorizing the Board Chair to write and sign a letter of support for a feasibility study for the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program for the sidewalks leading up to Low Forest.

1. No financial commitment at this time.
2. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.
3. Kevin Lawrence has made the offer to train staff members in the district to drive the CDL-B minibus, so money can be saved transporting students.

IV. Review/Prepare for the June 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Budget Vote—6:00 PM in the Oxbow Auditorium

- A. Scott Labun will be Moderator
- B. It is hoped that representation from the Newbury and Bradford Boards will be there to answer questions.
- C. Supt. Emilie Knisley, Asst. Supt. Bruce Williams, and Business Manager Lori Blood will be there
- D. Brian Emerson will bring budget details that the RAB Board put together
- E. A Conference call is planned for Friday with the Attorney, Board members, and OESU Administrators.
  1. There are concerns in the community about the debt that is on the books in Bradford.
- F. Newbury is on a dual track at this time.
- G. People may have a question about the Newbury Budget vote at the end of the month.
- H. Each local Board created budgets, which were used to create the proposed OUUSD budget
- I. Property, such as Low Forest, is a concern.
  1. It is very clear in the bequest what the land is to be used for.
- J. There is concern about what the tax increase will be (13.5% increase for Newbury over last year)
- K. Suggested having a visual, explaining implications of different scenarios
- L. Important to speak to questions in a neutral and fact-filled way
- M. Now Low Forest could be accessible to Newbury students
  1. All schools have a shared passion and shared vision for the environment
- N. Possibly hold Board meetings in different schools
- O. Danielle Corti put information on the List Serve about the meeting.
  1. A robo-call will go out

V. Public Comment

- A. Heidi Allen: Glad that it was brought up that voting down the budget does not get Act 46 to stop.
  1. Important to educate the community about the process
- B. There is a feeling by some that the lawsuit is personal.
- C. The public needs to know what will happen if they leave that room with no budget
- D. Adam Lornitzo: Thanked Danielle Corti for the opportunity to work with her for the past couple months.
- E. Possibility of a fact-based FAQ sheet to hand out so voters can be informed about the implications of their vote.
  1. Supt. Knisley will prepare it.
  2. Debt is calculated using equalized pupil count.

- a. Identification of the debt (a bond for improvements to the school).
- F. Child care will be available
- VI. Next OUUSD Board meeting was set for July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Oxbow High School Library
- VII. Executive Session (Tuition Waiver Request)
  - A. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to enter Executive Session at 7:02 PM. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
  - B. The Board exited Executive Session at 7:32 PM
- VIII. Action
  - A. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Melissa Gordon to approve the Intra-district Choice request, with the understanding that this is a 1-year agreement while a policy is under development. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.
- IX. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Melissa Gordon and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 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.**