

**OUUSD BOARD MEETING**  
**“The Inn” at River Bend Career and Technical Center**  
**September 16, 2019**

Present:

Board Members: Angela Colbeth, Danielle Corti, Melissa Gordon, Timm Judas

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams, Jean Wheeler, Brian Emerson, Kate Paxton, Morgan Moore

Others: Skip Barrett, Bud Haas, Paul Jewett, Ted Pogacar, Janet Whalen, and other members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 4:08 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair
  - A. Those present were welcomed, and the agenda was reviewed
- II. Communications
  - A. A letter addressed to the Newbury School Board was received in March from Watch Them Grow Preschool Program Board of Directors asking for a rent-free facility for their program, starting July 2019. This request will put on the next agenda.
- III. Board Business
  - A. Board Minutes from August 21, 2019 meeting
    1. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2019 Board meeting. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
  - B. Contracts—none
  - C. Transfer of Property—formalizing the documents. There was a suggestion that at the meeting in November or December to approve the audit of the former district, that the voters be asked to formally approve the transfer of property documents and file them with the Town Clerks. This will include the old Head Start Building in Boltonville and any other property owned by Newbury Elementary School. Efforts are being made to sell the old Head Start Building. They have been working to resolve the mold problem in the building.
- IV. Public Comment
  - A. Bud Haas—questioned why no action was taken after last meeting’s Executive Session.
    1. Asked about the public preschool in Bradford Elementary School and the private preschool in Newbury Elementary School. He believes that Newbury ought to have a public preschool, as well.
    2. Now that the Head Start Building is owned by Bradford as well as Newbury, Mr. Haas believes that Bradford taxpayers also ought to be informed that they have an asset that they might not know about. Danielle Corti and Emilie Knisley responded that this had been in the paper.
  - B. Ted Pogacar—not sure why all contracts are not now read and recorded in the minutes. He feels it is less transparent for the public. It was also helpful to the Union to

have that information. Supt. Knisley responded that this is no longer legally required to be done, and that contracts are all public record. Brian Emerson noted that it's a time saving matter.

V. Reports

A. Principals

1. Projection for student enrollment: Jean Wheeler believes that enrollment numbers at Oxbow are going to come up in the near future. Several of the classrooms are now quite crowded. Recruitment fairs are coming up.
2. Amber Cook is filling in at Bradford After School Program a few days a week, and they have been patching things together day by day. They are exploring every option and hoping to find stability.
3. Oil and gas prices were locked in before the current situation in the world.
4. There are good numbers on the fall sports teams

VI. Policy

A. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to adopt the following policies with changes that were discussed. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

1. CO1 Interscholastic Sports
2. D1 Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements
3. D3 Responsible Computer Internet & Network
4. D4 Title One Comparability
5. D5 Animal Dissection
6. D6 Class Size Policy
7. E1 Title 1 Parental Involvement Compacts
8. F1 Travel Reimbursement

B. First Read:

1. A20 Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution
  - a. It was agreed to hold meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM, rotating between schools
2. A21 Public Participation at Board Meetings
  - a. A suggestion was made to have a sign-up sheet for members of the public who wish to comment
3. A22 Notice of Non-Discrimination
  - a. There is a designated person who can be contacted
4. A23 Community Engagement and Vision
  - a. Noted the importance of community involvement. Community forums? Strategic Plan? Decided to table for now.
5. A24 Board/Superintendent Relations—Will table for now
6. B20 Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment & Background Checks
  - a. It was noted that individual employees pay for their own background checks
7. B21 Professional Development
  - a. Making sure there is sufficient funding in the budget to support the goals of Professional Development. This was tabled.

- 8. B22 Complaints about Personnel & Instructional Materials
  - a. No suggested changes
- 9. HB1 Low Forest Advisory Committee & HB1-PU Use of Facilities
  - a. Discussion as to who coordinates the advisory committee. Decided that it would be the Bradford Elementary principal. One member of OUUSD Board from Oxbow and one member of the Facilities Committee will serve.
- C. Rescind:
  - 1. B6 Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act Compliance.
    - A. Because we have FERPA, this is not needed.
    - B. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to rescind Policy B6. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- VII. Low Forest Update
  - A. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve up to \$5,500 from the Low Forest Account as matching funds for the grant for the Low Forest Project and to authorize the Board Chair to write and sign a letter in support of this. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- VIII. Inter-District Policy
  - A. Supt. Knisley suggested that this be tabled until next meeting to give the Board members time to read policies from other districts.
- IX. Financial Update/Tax Rate
  - A. Supt. Knisley has not seen information on what taxpayers are getting for their tax bills. Baseline figures that we were being fed were the best snapshot from the State Government, but they weren't perfect. 1.5756 is Bradford's tax rate. 1.556 is Newbury's tax rate. We need to find out what the State's correction process is. Mrs. Knisley asked for a copy of a tax bill—one from each town.
    - 1. Question as to how River Bend students are calculated. Those students are reported in their home district. The equalized pupil count is fed to us by the State Agency of Education. Concern was shared by members of the public who were present.
- X. OESU Update
  - A. Superintendent's evaluation plan
  - B. Self-assessment by Board members
  - C. Supt. Knisley presented the plan for the district, which she had also presented on the first day for the staff.
  - D. Office space for the SU
  - E. It was requested that Sherry Hoyt e-mail the OESU agenda to all the Board members from all Boards in the district
- XI. Public Comment
  - A. Bud Haas—"Do you expect that you are going to take any action at the retreat following this meeting?" Those present thought they probably would not.
- XII. Executive Session—personnel matter

- A. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to enter Executive Session at 5:58 PM to consider a personnel matter, the premature dissemination of which may place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Motion voted on and approved unanimously. Accompanying the Board was Supt. Emilie Knisley.
- B. The Board exited Executive Session at 6:07 PM
- C. Action—no action will be taken

XIII. Following dinner, the Board moved into their annual Retreat.

XIV. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Melissa Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 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.**