

OUUSD BOARD MEETING
Bradford Elementary School Cafeteria
November 20, 2019

Present:

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

Administration: Kate Paxton, Brian Emerson, Morgan Moore, Robin Wozny

Others: Heidi Allen, Skip Barrett, Alex Nuti-de Biasi, Bud Haas, Amy Hayward, Ted Pogacar

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair
 - A. Those present were welcomed, and the agenda was reviewed
 1. Under Board Business, Oxbow's presentation was taken off the agenda, also intra-district choice discussion and first read of policies was postponed
 - B. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve the Board minutes of October 16, 2019. Motion voted on and approved with one abstention (Timm Judas)
 - C. Other
 1. New Corporation Bylaws Approval
 - A. The district used to operate a 501 (c) (3), which was designed 40 years ago when River Bend was building houses. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Melissa Gordon to nullify the Oxbow Vocational Corporation 501 (c) (3) and to rename it River Bend Scholarship Corporation. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- II. Public Comments
 - A. Skip Barrett: frustration that administrators were not present at the one meeting a month. The Board needs to know what is going on so they can support the administrators. He also asked where the Trust Funds are at the present time. Bugbee Landing Trust Funds were going to be transferred to the town.
 1. It was clarified that the administrators, who were not here tonight, were not here because of illness
 - B. Bud Haas: encouraged the four Board members to use the Principals who are here, because they have to run the schools. Appreciated Kate Paxton's report, which was sent out with the agenda. He asked her to clarify her use of "we" in her report. He is concerned that the shared Behavior Interventionist has now been moved exclusively to Newbury.
- III. Principal's Report/Facilities Report
 - A. Kate Paxton: The Behavior Interventionist position is federally funded and not a part of the local budget. Clarified "we" in her report as including herself, staff, interview committee, and in some cases, OESU, and teacher representatives from all the schools. They are seeing improved behavior on the bus. The Facilities team is working hard to get ready for winter. Protocol around fire drills has begun to change to correlate with

ALICE. Ms. Paxton has been working with Scott Blood, and she is going to go for an ALICE training in February. She is communicating with parents regarding changes.

1. Timm Judas: hopes that whatever is improving bus culture will be passed along to other schools in the district

B. Morgan Moore: Student count was included in her report as being 115 students currently at Newbury Elementary. They are starting a winter sports program with 4 choices: snow shoeing at school, skiing or snowboarding at Burke Mtn., cross country skiing near Burke, or ice skating at Fenton Chester Arena. They have continued with ALICE drills. A letter has been sent home to parents, updating them on the drills they have been doing. An updated key sign-out process has been implemented. Safety grants have been applied for. They are building behavior plans and intervention programs.

1. A suggestion was made to invite parents in to school to do the drill with their child.

2. Stressed the importance of coordinating throughout the district

C. Brian Emerson: reporting from the meeting last night, SREB feels River Bend is “authentic”. SREB has replaced NEASC as an accreditation option for River Bend. The SREB visiting team felt RBCTC was student centered, the students were happy, and the staff was happy. Mr. Emerson noted that the RBCTC staff is the second lowest paid in the state.

1. The SREB team reported that RBCTC needs to work on proficiencies and standards. This will be one of the priorities in the next strategic plan, which is a five-year plan.

2. RBCTC also needs to try to work on a way to have a better schedule for RBCTC students (arrival times, etc.), coordinating with all the sending schools.

3. Vaping training will be going on this Friday for the staff.

4. Timm Judas: appreciated that any negative comments from SREB were worded carefully, and that RBCTC owned them.

IV. Negotiations Update

A. First round of negotiations has been completed with previously non-unionized members at Newbury and a few at Bradford. All employees are now on the merged agreement

B. A new round of negotiations will be beginning soon

V. Policy

A. The Board agreed to hold off on adopting policies until next meeting

VI. Communications

A. A communication was received from Emily Shipman, representing the Low Forest Committee, regarding a State of VT Standard Grant Agreement

1. Matching funds will be required, which will be coming out of the Low Forest budget

2. The committee will need to maintain access to the forest

D. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Allison Colbeth to accept the Standard Grant Agreement between the State of VT and OUUSD for Project #stpbp19 and to have the Board Chair sign. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

- VII. Budget Timeline
 - A. E-mail had been received from Lori Blood
 - 1. First draft of the budget has been scheduled for December 18th, second draft scheduled for January 16th, and projected Board approval February 12th
 - 2. There was discussion, that will be taken up with OESU, regarding schools who are at the very beginning of preparing a budget draft
- VIII. Public Engagement
 - A. Talked about trying to get the community involved in talking about vision and the mission statement. Suggestions included:
 - 1. Public Forums
 - 2. Getting info out to the communities about exciting things happening in our schools.
 - 3. Suggestion of Arts Festival at one or more of schools to showcase student work and a chance for the Board to talk with community members
 - 4. Have a strategic plan for the whole new district
 - a. The Board feels this needs to be a priority for OUUSD, maybe hire a facilitator
- IX. Items for Next Month's Agenda
 - A. Policies
 - B. Property Transfer
 - C. Budget Rough Draft
 - D. Intra-District Choice Discussion
 - E. Interscholastic Sports Policy C24
 - F. Articles of Agreement Committee
 - G. Negotiations
 - H. Possibly Jean Wheeler's report on Oxbow
- X. Articles of Agreement Committee Update
 - A. Went well and was collaborative
 - B. Board needs to lay out a timeline
 - C. Articles 4 and 11 were sent to the Attorney to proof and to come up with verbiage. A copy will be received by December 2nd for the committee to review
- XI. Public Comment
 - A. April 14th vote is the same week as Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - B. Bud Haas: suggested asking the Supt. to put together a school calendar
 - C. Heidi Allen: commended RBCTC, saying her stepson is having an excellent experience there this year
- XII. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Melissa Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 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.