

## OUUSD BOARD MEETING

“The Inn” at RBCTC

January 15, 2020

Present:

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

Administration: Bruce Williams, Jean Wheeler, Robin Wozny, Morgan Moore, Kate Paxton, Keith Merrick

Others: Bud Haas, Emily Shipman, Judy Slack, Other Members of the Public

- 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
  - B. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve the Board minutes of December 18, 2019. Date correction (2019 instead of 2020). Policies were not approved and are on the agenda to be approved tonight. Motion voted on and approved as edited with one abstention (Timm Judas)
  - C. Contracts—none
  - D. Communications
    1. Brian Emerson received communication from Blackmount Equipment with terms for purchase of a tractor to use with the RBCTC Ag Program. The purchase would require \$3500 down and an additional \$5,383.99 to be put under the Diversified Ag’s equipment line. Four yearly payments would be made, for a total purchase price of \$25,288.00. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to allow RBCTC to purchase the tractor for the Diversified Ag class. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
    2. Danielle Corti received information on December 20, 2019 and then a corrected letter on January 7, 2020 regarding Common Level of Appraisal for Newbury. Common Level of Appraisal for Newbury was listed 101.63% or 1.0163
    3. The School Board has been asked to participate in the Bradford Steering Committee. Bruce Williams is willing to be the point person for the administration.
    4. Communication from Sharon Harkay indicating her intention to retire at the end of this school year. She has been at Oxbow for 20 years. The Board accepts her retirement letter with regret.
    5. Principal Jean Wheeler has received 9 emails from community members in support of Coach Emerson. The emails were shared with Board members.
    6. A gift was received from the Byrne Foundation for the softball team for \$5000
- II. Public Comment
  - A. Bud Haas: Questioned how you can change the minutes regarding a vote. It was clarified that a vote never happened.
    1. Asked what the financial implications are for change in substitute pay.
    2. Clarified points in the Facilities report.

3. Considers a trust fund capital as an endowment. Feels the work at Low St. John's forest ought to be paid for by taxpayers rather than draw money from the trust capital.

4. Asked for information on current pay scales and what projected pay scales would be if schools change to a private food service provider.

B. Amy Rosa: Shared concerns from parents over last 365 days.

1. Multiple parents feel there is lack of transparency over the scenario involving Barry Emerson. Would have liked more information to head off community gossip and talking with children.

2. Asked if the youth are consistently a part of the Board meetings?

C. Another community member: Feels it's very hurtful to Barry, his family, and the community to say "no comment".

### III. Reports

A. Jean Wheeler: There are students' accounts which have a balance that is large enough and needs to be looked at. These are accounts from classes dating from 2009-2019.

1. Mrs. Wheeler will be contacting them to see what the plan is for that money.

2. A gift has been received for \$5000 from the Byrne Foundation for the softball team for their trip this spring. Bruce Williams suggested that we accept the gift with gratitude, and he will write a note of thanks to the Byrne Foundation. Some policies regarding gift acceptance, etc. will be brought to the next meeting.

3. Hot lunch update—Oxbow currently has over \$7,300 of student hot lunch debt

B. Kate Paxton: Bradford Elementary is currently reviewing and choosing a new math program.

1. ALICE training is ongoing.

2. It is hoped that professional staff will dive into the new STAR data on Monday.

3. BES had a substitute school nurse in the fall and is now trying to fill that gap until the regular nurse returns. There are quite a few students with urgent medical needs in the building, so they are looking for more nurse subs to fill in.

4. Farm to school program is being revitalized and has received a grant to serve our schools in OESU. Will coordinate with the outdoor program.

5. New hire-- math interventionist/behavior coach. Hoping to add another math/literacy interventionist next fall.

6. Community member: asked if an in-service to help students with anxiety or who had experienced trauma might be included? Kate said yes.

C. Morgan Moore: NES is participating in the math curriculum search across the district.

1. Discussing Teachers' College reading program.

2. Continuing Restorative Practices

3. Winter sports program is off to an exciting start. Students can choose to go to Burke Mountain to ski, go ice skating, while other students are at school doing a snowshoe program.

4. Received school safety grant to update cameras and school security.
  5. Continuing ALICE training.
  6. Looking for a night custodian.
- D. Facilities report from Oxbow was shared
1. Brought in an asbestos expert, and now all schools in the district will be updated.
  2. Board members expressed appreciation for the sign at the end of the driveway
- IV. Board Election Process and Signing of Warning
- A. Hope to have a warrant ready for the Board to approve in time for April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. If approved by voters, new Board members can be elected at that Board meeting.
- V. Budget
- A. Are putting together a first draft. Asst. Supt. Williams complimented Keith Merrick and the principals in OUUSD for their work thus far
- B. Presented Draft Proposed budget
1. Each principal highlighted areas for which they are advocating
  2. A more detailed report will be sent to Board members
- C. Set February 5<sup>th</sup> for a budget review meeting.
1. A budget committee comprised of Danielle Corti and Angela Colbeth will meet before then.
- D. Sub Pay Rates
1. A list of proposed rates was reviewed
  2. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to approve the sub rates as proposed. After discussion, the motion was voted on and approved
    - a. Discussion points included:
      - i. The nurse sub hourly rate may need to be increased
      - ii. How much has been spent on subs currently?
      - iii. How much do paras make per hour?
      - iv. Should we consider hiring a full-time sub?
- VI. Low St. John's Forest Budget & Plan Approval
- A. Emily Shipman: The committee would like to use funds from Low-St. John Fund
1. The fund is not an endowment with restrictive language
  2. Ms. Shipman asked if \$15,000 could be used toward an outdoor classroom. The plan is to build a 3-sided structure, using timber from Low Forest, which would cost about \$25,000. The balance needed for the structure would be coming from other sources. The plan is to cut and mill the timber there on the property.
  3. Judy Slack and other community members spoke of the benefit of the structure, spending time outdoors, and outdoor education
  4. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to authorize the Low Forest Committee to use up to \$15,000 from the Low-St John Fund to build an outdoor classroom. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- VII. Property Transfer—covered at a previous meeting
- VIII. Policies

A. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to approve the following policies: Motion voted on and approved unanimously

1. C20 Student Conduct & Discipline
2. C21 Search & Seizure of Students by School Personnel
3. C22 Student Activities
4. C23 Student Clubs & Activities (Secondary)
5. C25 Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students
6. C27 Student Self-Expression & Student Distribution of Literature
7. D21 Educational Support Team
8. C34 Restraint & Seclusion

IX. Food Service

A. Legal Requirements as a District

1. Newbury and Oxbow are currently served by an independent food service vendor. BES has an in-house vendor. There is no legal requirement that schools have the same food service. If a school were to consider going to a private vendor, it would have to go out to bid. There would also be a labor relations issue. The union would have to agree. Asst. Supt. Williams encouraged the Board to hold steady for the coming year.

B. Universal Meals

1. Some Board members would like to see what cost for universal meals would look like in the budget. Bruce Williams will bring a budget draft with those figures to the next meeting.

X. Strategic Plan

- A. Bruce Williams said there are a number of districts within the SU that are interested in working on a strategic plan. He has contacted a facilitator, who will talk with Danielle Corti and Melissa Gordon to see if she might be a good fit.

XI. Items for Next Month's Agenda February 19<sup>th</sup>

- A. Set tuition
- B. Budget
- C. Overnight Student Trips
- D. Tuition waiver request for student in OESU, but not in Bradford (Executive Session)
- E. Policies
- F. Intra-district transfer

XII. A Board meeting is planned for February 5<sup>th</sup>, which will be devoted to budget only

XIII. Public Comment

- A. Members of the community discussed areas of concern with the Board and the policies that might cover those concerns

XIV. Executive Session

- A. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to enter Executive Session at 9:47 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
- B. The Board exited Executive Session at 10:19 PM
- C. Action—none taken

- XV. Executive Session
  - A. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to enter Executive Session at 10:20 PM to discuss negotiations, the premature dissemination of which may place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
  - B. The Board exited Executive Session at 10:28 PM
- XVI. C. Action—No action was taken as the Board feels that not all options have been explored
- XVII. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to adjourn at 10:29 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.**