

## OUUSD Board Meeting

May 18, 2020

Via Zoom

Present:

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

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams, Cate Beaton, Alison Kidder, Lori Blood, Kate Paxton, Morgan Moore, Jean Wheeler

Others: Bud Haas, Emily Shipman, Reta Cito, Judy Slack, Edith Fogarty, Robin Amber, Marvin Harrison, Monique Priestly, and other members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair
  - A. Those present were welcomed, and protocol for Zoom meetings was reviewed
  - B. The agenda was reviewed
  - C. Minutes of the last Board meeting were tabled
  - C. Contracts—None
  - D. Correspondence
    1. An email was received from Bud Haas as a follow up to the budget meeting
    2. Correspondence from Marvin Harrison
- II. Approval of Engineering Firm
  - A. Emily Shipman and Reta Ceto
    1. Four consultants presented proposals for pedestrian access to Low Forest, all of which were fairly similar
    2. The Committee has worked with VT Transportation.
    3. They feel the proposal from Dubois and King is the best choice.
      - a. It took into consideration the COVID-19 pandemic.
      - b. Scope and study for pedestrian access to Low Forest
      - c. Funds are available from a grant from the Agency of Transportation.
    4. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to approve Dubois and King to be contracted for the scope and study in the amount of \$29,321, and to allow the Board Chair to sign the contract. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- III. Public Comment
  - A. Bud Haas—Several questions. How much money has not been spent?
    1. Governor Scott said day camps are not only allowed, but needed. Is there any reason why Bradford-Newbury cannot run a summer day camp?
    2. Has the District gone out for new bids on propane?
    3. He suggested using the name Bradford-Newbury Board and to create a new policy for warning public meetings.
    4. He feels the OESU budget is way out of track, considering the current situation.

5. Will administrators take a salary cut, and will the Bradford-Newbury Board ask OESU Board to make the same request?

IV. Follow up on Behavior Management

A. Alison Kidder, Cate Beaton, and Principals of various schools in the SU have been meeting

B. The Goal is to start a 30,000 ft. view of behavior, based on best practices.

C. Cate Beaton: Shared Social Emotional & Behavioral Service Model

1. Systemic approach to address student support. Proactive supports for all students. A little extra for those who need a little support. More support for those students who need intensive support.

2. Instruction, Integration, Resource alignment

3. School Wide, Classroom, Student Specific

4. Integration of social emotional learning with other policies. Restorative practices.

5. Resource Alignment. Behavioral interventionist. Prevention K-2. School Counselor. Providing guidance curriculum. Coaching teachers. Social Emotional Behavioral Coach and/or Interventionist. School Social Worker.

6. Goal—to develop love of learning for every student and teaching explicitly social/emotional development.

7. The Board thanked Ms. Beaton for a very nice presentation. The Power Point will be posted on the web site.

D. Emilie Knisley: Currently, the position of Behavioral Specialist is shared between Bradford and Newbury

E. Edith Fogarty: Concerned that decrease of Social Worker position in Bradford will take away direct support to a number of families

F. Robin Amber: Question on exit ticket. Cate Beaton explained that there will be more conversations. R. Amber: will feedback be building specific? C. Beaton: will be anonymous, and Newbury and Bradford will be lumped together.

G. Kate Paxton: First step in educating everyone in the community. School specific feedback can be e-mailed to K. Paxton.

V. Financial Update

A. Lori Blood: Current status of OUUSD--\$275,000 remaining to spend on some of smaller items.

1. COVID Items have started to come in.

2. Reimbursement from such things as CARES money will probably not come through before first of year.

3. '20-'21 expenses have not been budgeted.

4. Audited surplus would be applied to '21-'22 budget.

B. Danielle Corti: money in after school program? L. Blood was asked to look into this.

1. Workers' Comp Insurance in all schools have gone up.

2. L. Blood: after school year is over, figures are reconciled. All expenses look OK at the moment.

3. Timm Judas: Ask for community guidance as to how they would like the budget to come out in the mail?

4. D. Corti: reminded that there is a very short window to get this information out to the public. Perhaps put out basic information and voters can seek out addition information.

5. Bud Haas: Reminder to Board that just because they come up with a budget, doesn't mean you've got to vote for it.

VI. Audit

A. Bradford, Oxbow, and Newbury Boards need to take a look at them.

B. Marvin Harrison: question regarding COVID expenses:

1. L. Blood: there is a plan to get the schools money to help with COVID expenses. We don't know for sure. Nothing will come through in writing. 2. T.

Judas: How do we plan a budget when we don't know when schools will open in the Fall?

3. E. Knisley: We can operate if school is open, remote, or combination or both. With remote learning, we are not using as much paper, but some. Teachers have needs for instructional materials to work with students. If we were remote for longer period of time, we might work with agencies like Montshire Museum, so we could provide for student needs in a different way.

C. Bruce Williams: transportation is weighing heavily on his mind. Food—happy that the state was able to achieve federal waivers. Costs for food for summer will be higher than they were during the school year. Think we can do it, however, need to solve the issues and keep process going.

1. B. Williams: The Board last week did not decide to get rid of Provision II. In the Fall, there is the potential that there will be enough students whose families are accessing community programs. If there is a large enough percentage, Universal Meals might be available. Still an uncertainty.

2. M. Gordon: What is a COVID expense?

1. L. Blood: have set up quite a few lines as COVID expenses. A lot has to do with programming. How can kids be served at home? Some salaries and benefits. Managing this at the school level. No dollar amount known yet. Rough estimate given to the state of \$200,000, but really don't know yet. Will have to dig into the details to get the figures.

2. D. Corti: It looked like Newbury ended up with a deficit. There was a reduction in Title money.

3. L. Blood: typically grants are money comes in, money goes out, and it's a wash. Usually a surplus or deficit doesn't get dealt with in the same year. It gets inserted into the next budget cycle.

VII. Tax Anticipation Note and Current Expense Note

A. Tax Anticipation: having enough money during July, August, and Sept. and be able to pay bills. If you don't have to borrow the money, there is no need to borrow the money.

B. Current Expense Note: to cover expenses that may pop up. If you don't need it, you don't use it.

C. L. Blood: \$1,600,00 is on the books right now. Probably would need to have about \$3 million available by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

D. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas to approve Tax Anticipation Note for '20-'21 school year and to authorize the Board Chair to sign. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

VIII. Budget Discussion and Amount to Warned

A. L. Blood reviewed Versions of the budget presented thus far.

1. B. Williams: looked at cost of fuel and savings realized with lower price

B. M. Gordon: Asked about budget committee meeting? What other increases are there other than staff salaries and benefits? What do we have control over?

1. E. Knisley: loss of some Title dollars and deciding to fund those positions locally. Decrease in number of equalized pupils. Need for literacy and math materials, tech support for Oxbow.

2. M. Gordon: feels budget is going to be under close eye. Ballots will be mailed out. If the budget does not get passed, there is a potential to RIF people, and that is the last thing we want to do in this time.

C. E. Knisley: what feedback have you heard from the community regarding universal meals?

1. D. Corti: The feedback she has heard is that there is a really good need for it.

2. T. Judas: if we include Provision II (universal meals), how much tax money does that entail? In money crunching, be sure to include fuel savings. 3. M. Harrison: still disappointed that the letter of April 28 has not been addressed.

E. Remember that with Australian Ballot, amendments cannot be made from the floor.

F. It was agreed by consensus to take a brief recess to give L. Blood time to put numbers together. Fuel will be reduced by \$20,000, the technology piece will remain in the budget, and Provision II (universal meals) will be included. After returning from the brief recess:

IX. Budget to be considered by the Board:

A. Total Expense \$17,265,781

B. Education Spending \$12,470,133

C. Per pupil spending \$18,460

D. 9.79% increase

E. Base Tax Rate 1.6785

F. Bradford 1.714adjusted by CLA)

G. Newbury 1.6516 (adjusted by CLA)

H. Cost to Bradford \$1,714.50 or \$4.69 per day

I. Cost to Newbury \$1,651.60 or \$4.52 per day

J. Bradford 8.82% increase per student

K. Newbury 6.07% increase per student

L. 5.84 % increase in expense

M. 2020 Total Expense \$16,312,935

X. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Timm Judas, to warn a budget of \$17,265,781, with a per pupil spending of \$18,460, and a 9.79 % increase in per pupil cost. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

A. Voting: Need to adopt a resolution endorsing Australian ballot for the 2020 annual meeting, mailing ballots to each voter, and mailing ballots back to avoid unnecessary contact. Polls are also open on voting day. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Melissa Gordon to adopt the resolution with those three provisions. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

B. E. Knisley will submit waiver of the "six Monday rule" to the Secretary of State's office to go over the process we have already observed. Warning will be signed by Docu-sign by the Board members.

C. Process for election: Elect Board members to the current seats, whose term is up. If the vote to add two more Board members is approved, the voters can also elect additional members from Newbury and Bradford. There is a Consent form for citizens, who wish to run for public office, to fill out and submit to Lucas Barrett, Clerk of the OUUSD. Board members were asked to help distribute this information to community members.

D. M. Gordon: when are ballots being mailed out? Names of those who are interested?

1. Ballots will be mailed 15 days ahead of budget vote. Ballots will be prepared with write in spots. No petition is required.

E. Monique Priestly: Might there be any bigger community zoom meeting?

1. D. Corti: Yes, and also Facebook Live meetings.

F. It was agreed by consensus to hold the budget vote on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ballots will be developed by Sherry Hoyt and the local Town Clerks.

1. E. Knisley: will have the Warning for Board members to look over, and they will sign it electronically.

2. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve the budget warning. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

3. M. Gordon: suggested having a Board letter sharing why the Board approved what they did in the budget, a Tax worksheet, and another budget summary.

a. T. Judas: include where details are posted on the website.

XI. Public Comment

A. T. Judas noted that we started this meeting with 40 people. He suggested having a Zoom format in all upcoming Board meetings.

XII. Items for next agenda

A. June 23<sup>rd</sup> informational meeting

B. Next meeting scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

C. Prep for Info meeting

D. Buildings and grounds issues

E. Part II of discussion of behavioral issues

F. Year-end wrap up on distance learning

XIII. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Melissa Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 8:29.

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.**