

OUUSD Board Meeting

June 10, 2020

Via Zoom

Present:

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

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

Others: Kathy Damon, Bud Haas, Marissa Illsley, Marvin Harrison, Amy Hayward, Cate Beaton, Robin Amber, Heather Long, Ann Shaw, and others

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair. Those present were welcomed, and the agenda was reviewed. Protocol for Zoom meetings were reviewed.
- II. Board Business
 - A. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve the Board minutes of May 5, 2020 and May 18, 2020. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
 - B. Correspondence
 1. Kate Paxton: Mike Losciavo, member of the Bradford community and manager of St. J Suburu, wanted to give back to Bradford Elementary School. As part of the Subaru "Share the Love" campaign, every Subaru purchased during the late fall resulted in a donation to a charity (BES). Ms. Paxton and Bruce Williams met with St. J Subaru. Mr. Losciavo hoped that the donation would contribute to the BES food program, feeding the students healthy meals. A check of approximately \$16,000 was received. Part of it was recently used to purchase an industrial food processor. With all the changes with COVID, the rest of the funds have not been earmarked. The Board thanked St. J. Subaru for their commitment to BES and for their generous donation. The donation was to OUUSD, and the donor can specify how the money is to allocated. Timm Judas asked the Administration to look into any legality issues and to draft a letter of thanks to St. J Subaru
 2. Correspondence from Emily Shipman re: Low Forest. Will be addressed later in meeting.
 3. A letter of resignation was received from paraeducator Julie Trask, saying that she is moving on. She has been a wonderful addition to Newbury Elementary School. Morgan Moore said Ms. Trask is pursuing her education, and they are very happy for her.
 4. Kate Paxton shared a letter from Wendy James, preschool/early childhood teacher resigning from her position. She will be staying in the district as EEE only
 5. Sarah Brownell, social worker, sent correspondence, resigning from her job.
 6. Chet Devarney, math interventionist and behavior coach, sent correspondence resigning from his position.

7. An exit interview with HR is an option for those employees leaving the district. Timm Judas asked that this, along with staff satisfaction survey results, be on a future agenda.

8. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth, to accept the resignations of staff as presented, with regret. Motion voted on and approved unanimously. They are appreciated and will be missed.

9. It was clarified that the social work position has been clearly advertised as a split position between two schools.

III. Public Comment

A. Marissa Illsley: has a stepson at Oxbow, who has experienced issues with internet and broadband. She mentioned a local group working to improve internet access and suggested working cooperatively with that group. She asked the Board to participate in whatever way they could.

B. Marvin Harrison: Had sent an email relative to interest in having a Zoom candidate forum. He thinks it should happen next week.

C. Bud Haas: supports the need for internet access. He asked about student transfers from one school to another. Mr. Haas helped out today with ballot prep in Bradford. If another budget vote is needed, he urged giving Clerks 3-4 weeks to prep for it. He is concerned for the budget. What about renaming of the District? He suggested leaving it for 3-4 years from now

D. Amy Hayward: Asked when survey results from teachers and staff were shared with the Board in the Fall? Perhaps some current Board members did not see that data.

E. Kathy Damon: supports having a candidate forum. Believes there are multiple candidates from Newbury. The JO plans to have an article next week with names of candidates and a little about them

IV. Principals' Reports:

A. Jean Wheeler: Difficult time, but there were good things that happened. Rose buds: strong relationships between teachers and students. Meal program was phenomenal. Large increase in creativity. Will make a video to share in the Fall. Higher focus on learning and less focus on teaching. Students, teachers, and parents started talking about learning intentions. Car parades to students' homes. Lots of support in the community. Thorns: not all students have internet. Spotty internet. Not all students stayed in the area. A lot of high school students went to work full time. Many teachers have young children at home. Finding a balance in communication was challenging. Big goal for fall—be sure each course has a strong technology piece. Lack of clear guidance and ever-changing guidelines from the State were challenging.

B. Kate Paxton: Rose Buds: Remote Learning. Caring teachers maintaining contact with kids. Challenge to flip on a dime part way through year. Sharing resources with others. Thorns: COVID restrictions. Mounting frustrations with restrictions and fears about what Fall will look like. How can we educate staff and community? Equity issues with internet, parents struggling with supporting their children. Cannot over-appreciate the staff, and asked the Board to support in doing that.

C. Morgan Moore: Shared graduation car parade. Lots of great costumes. Lots of excitement for students and families. Rose buds: 90% attendance throughout closure.

Able to stay in contact with every student. Relationships and engaging with students and families. Creativity of teachers. Thinking about what platforms work best, especially for younger students. Thorns: equity issues around internet. Counseling sessions remotely don't work for all students. In-service this week. Teachers sharing SMART goals from beginning of year. Rose buds: teachers have Professional Development summer plans. Farm to School Initiative on line. BEST Institute. Most open positions have been filled with new hires.

D. Brian Emerson: Asked that local businesses be supported, which will in turn help the Tech center.

1. Exploring options offering a program in cyber security. AOE offered a grant to start some of these programs. Looked at offering the program at Thetford and WHS. B. Emerson wrote the grant, which was approved. AOE would like to start a satellite program beginning in January. RAB voted unanimously to accept the proposal. This will not affect the bottom line for next year's budget. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Angela Colbeth to accept RAB's recommendation for accepting Innovation Time Grant for expansion of New Programming. Motion voted on and approved unanimously. It was suggested talking about the adult ed opportunity here.

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Emilie Knisley: Biggest positive—how dedicated staff have been. Challenges for principals—not being able to be with their staff and students. This has illustrated the need in the communities and at the state level for internet connection. Areas for improvement: staff development for on-line teaching and learning. Importance of one platform that families can access. Balance of work life and home life for teachers. What more can the Board do? Echoed the importance of appreciation. From the Governor's news conference today, it looks like we may be going back to school in the Fall. Timm Judas to Emilie Knisley: Kudos to you and the team. Do you think the team will work for the future? E. Knisley: A Leadership retreat is planned for next Friday with all schools in the district taking part.

B. Bruce Williams: We get guidance from all levels, but we don't seem to get any concrete guidance. VSBIT webinar has been very helpful in helping plan

VI. OESU Report—no report. Next meeting scheduled for June 24th

VII. Social Emotional Learning Report—Cate Beaton, Robin Amber, Heather Long, Ann Shaw

A. OESU Social Emotional Learning

1. Defined Social Emotional Learning

2. Student Implementation

3. In need of support

a. Job embedded coaching

4. Integration of various tiers of support

5. Data and research shows that there can be a negative cycle—a self-fulfilling prophecy

a. School to prison pipeline

b. Need to engage whole community in this and support each student with

Social and Emotional learning. Break the cycle as the community

supports the child

- 6. Integrate academic objectives and socio-emotional objectives
- 7. The Board thanked the Guidance Team for their presentation and for their work
- VIII. Financial Report—Lori Blood
 - A. Things still look OK for remainder of the month
 - B. Special Education reimbursement will come in later in the summer
 - C. Any surplus in this year’s budget will be available in the ’21-’22 fiscal year
 - D. Payables Process
 - 1. Could invoices be seen by payable receipts?
 - 2. L. Blood: All legwork is done at the school
 - 3. Maybe we can find a way to look at the payables electronically
 - 1. Danielle Corti and Lori Blood will look at things together and maybe find a way to add a little more detail
- IX. Tax Anticipation Note
 - A. Based on higher amount to cover expenses through the summer (about \$2,700.000), which was voted on at the last Board meeting
 - B. Current Expense Note—because the budget vote is set for June 30th
 - 1. Ms. Blood feels there will be a short fall in mid-July before the OUUSD can access the Tax Anticipation Note
 - 2. If the budget does not pass on June 30th, the district would need the Current Expense Note that extends longer
 - C. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve a Current Expense note in the amount of \$2,700.000 and to authorize the Board Chair to sign. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- X. Response to Letter from Voters
 - A. Suggested looking at letter again
 - 1. After discussion, it was agreed to address at the Informational Meeting
- XI. Mission, Vision, and Strategic Planning
 - A. Monique Priestley can use her experience to bring the community members together
 - 1. It was suggested waiting until we get new Board members
- XII. Buildings and Grounds
 - A. Waiting for the green light to begin addressing Newbury Elementary School drainage issues
 - B. Boltonville School—have received a real estate bite. In the meantime, the building was broken into.
- XIII. Preparation for Informational Meeting
 - A. Candidate Forum for Bradford and Newbury
 - 1. Discussed having one ahead of the Informational Meeting
 - 2. Hosted by community member(s)
 - B. Provide answers to letter from voters, but not have those be the whole focus
 - C. Summary of what this budget represents
 - D. Cost per pupil
 - E. Bruce Williams: suggested referencing the comments that each of the four Board members made when they voted for the budget
 - F. Big ideas and concepts

- G. Go over data that has been going out on List Serve
 - H. Danielle Corti will formulate the agenda, share it with Supt. Knisley, Asst. Supt. Williams, and Board members, and give everyone a part for which to be responsible
- XIV. Action Items
- A. Contract for Low St. John Forest
 - 1. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to extend the extension of the timber contract for Low St. John Forest and to authorize the Board Chair to sign. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- XV. Public Comment
- A. Melissa Gordon: hopes that the schools will put something out about Black Lives Matter and send out materials to help educate families in the community
 - B. Kate Paxton: put out a link with ways for kids to talk about racism and for parents to talk with their children around this topic.
 - C. Annette Shaw: Hopes that Humanities will focus on social justice as a theme
- XVI. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Angela Colbeth to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Minutes Clerk

The minutes are in draft format and are unofficial until formally adopted by the Board at a subsequent meeting.