

OESU BOARD MINUTES

Via Zoom

September 1, 2020

Present:

Board Members:

BMU: Angeline Alley, Allison Ingerson, Judy Murray

OUUSD: Angela Colbeth, Danielle Corti, Melissa Gordon

Thetford: Donna Pluta, Megan Snider

Waits River: Sara Nolin

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams, Robin Wozny, Alison Kidder, Morgan Moore, Skip Barrett, Jean Wheeler, Melanie Elliott

Others: Members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair. Those present introduced themselves, and were welcomed
- II. Board Business
 - A. The agenda was reviewed. The HR update was moved to be next to the CBA's. The meeting will be adjourned at 7:00 PM for an Executive Session. There will be no Curriculum Report tonight.
 - B. Motion by Danielle Corti, seconded by Melissa Gordon to approve the Board minutes of July 16, 2020. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
 - C. Board Orders—None
 - D. Contracts--None
 - E. Correspondence--None
- III. Curriculum Directors Report—Tabled
- IV. Ratification of CBAs
 - A. Teachers—Thetford teachers are currently at impasse. Megan Snider reported that the differences to be agreed upon include differences around the length of the school day and length of the school year.
 1. By consensus, the Board decided to wait until October to ratify the contract for teachers under the OESU contract.
 - B. Staff merged agreement. Motion by Judy Murray, seconded by Danielle Corti to ratify the negotiated agreement for the Educational Support Professionals of the Orange East Supervisory Union for 2020-2023. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- V. HR Update: COVID Leaves
 - A. Melanie Elliott: biggest concern is for staff members who have children who are students in another district, who have closed their schools. These have to be handled on a one-to-one basis.

1. Another concern is travel plans and staff members who might have to quarantine after returning.
2. The SU has developed a COVID Q & A. Many questions and concerns have been coming up.
3. Principals are being creative about coming up with plans.
4. Supt. Knisley feels we are at a staffing level right that is not in a critical place at any school yet. The situation may become more critical as we come into fall and winter.

B. Melanie Elliott: The SU has put in place a plan whereby they are not crossing subs across too many buildings, but still trying to have the subs we need.

1. There is still a critical need for subs.

C. Financial info—It would be helpful if Boards do not ask for financial information every month, but stagger them.

1. It was decided that a financial report would be given to Thetford and OUUSD in October, to BMU and Waits River in November, and to OESU quarterly.

VI. Policy first read

- A. Electronic Communication Between Staff and Students (Required)
- B. Delegation of Authority During State of Emergency Due to COVID-19 (Recommended)
- C. Modes of Instruction During State of Emergency Due to COVID-19 (Recommended)

VII. Update of Plans for School Opening

A. Emilie Knisley: Several applications will be submitted to the Federal Govt. for financial assistance. We have also been asked to submit applications to FEMA. We are working with the VT Supt. Assn. to see what money the Boards need.

1. There are a lot of nuts and bolts to consider with employees regarding leaves, ADA, remote work, etc.
2. Building Principals have been working night and day on logistical matters. Students will be returning Tuesday.
3. Newbury Elementary School was closed for a couple days because someone who tested positive was in the school. The person had not been in contact with anyone.

- a. Supt. Knisley said working with the VT Dept of Health went well. The SU learned a lot about how to deal with COVID cases if/when they crop up. The process to work through is dictated by the Dept. of Health.

B. Bruce Williams: A lot of training has been done with bus monitors.

1. Trainings have also been held with bus drivers.
2. Logistical issues have been worked through around food, supplies, PPE.
3. There is a spirit of cooperation between the schools. NES received help from BMU and Bradford with the case in Newbury.
4. The SU is moving in the direction of being fully prepared on Tuesday. We realize there will be glitches. We need to communicate with families in the communities to be patient during the first weeks of school with buses taking a little longer on their routes. Butler Bus has been terrific. Krista Davis has done a huge amount of work regarding seating arrangements, changing bus routes as needed, etc. The need for flexibility was stressed.

C. Upbeat Survey will be given again this year to survey how things are going, but it has not been determined yet when that will be.

1. Danielle Corti: asked about the survey regarding wifi connectivity for families?

Emilie Knisley: the data has been collected, but we need to decide when this can be discussed.

D. Alison Kidder: Encouraged teams to involve school nurses and Susie Tann when handling health and safety issues.

VIII. Agenda Items for October Meeting

A. An SU Retreat instead of having individual retreats to discuss special education, technology, COVID issues

B. Board member training scheduled

IX. Public Comments—None

X. Executive Session—Grievance

XI. A. Motion by Megan Snider, seconded by Angela Colbeth to enter Executive Session at 7:01 PM pursuant to VSA Sec. 313 a. (1) (d) to discuss Grievance, after making a specific finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

B. The Board exited Executive Session at 8:20 PM.

XII. Action

A. Motion by Megan Snider, seconded by Angela Colbeth to affirm the administration's decision regarding the grievance hearing with special educator X and special educator Y. Motion voted on and passed 9-0, with 1 abstention (Angeline Alley)

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 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.