

OESU RETREAT

Via Zoom

January 19, 2021

Present:

Board Members:

BMU: Angeline Alley, Sara Dennis, Judy Murray, Allana Page

OUUSD: Danielle Corti, Angela Colbeth, Carol Cottrell, Chelsey Perry

Thetford Elementary: Julie Acker, Charley Buttrey, Donna Pluta, Megan Snider

Waits River: Stacy Emerson, Jason Rogers

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams, Alison Kidder, Cate Beaton, Nichole Bell, Linda Metcalf, Jason Mix, Morgan Moore, Jean Wheeler, Robin Wozny

Others: Susan Holson

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair. The agenda was reviewed.
- II. Susan Holson, Director of Education Services from the VSBA, was introduced for Board Training
 - A. Roles and Responsibilities
 1. Supervisory Union Board
 - a. The Board's job is governance. Policy is a huge aspect. Stressed the Importance of teamwork with the Administration and the importance of communicating well. Shared resources become a path to efficiency.
 - b. Supervisory-wide curriculum. Receiving and disbursing federal funds. Oversee professional development. Special Education Services. Human Resources.
 - c. The Supt. communicates with the principals.
 2. District Board
 - a. Trustees on behalf of the community to provide oversight of public education. High quality education, the public getting a good return on their investment, and the system operating efficiently, effectively, and legally. Not actually running the school district, but overseeing it. Develop and present a budget.
 3. Administration
 - B. Board: Sets clear goals. They assure that schools are well run—they do not run them. Responsible for vision, policy, resources, and accountability.
 - C. Supt.: Chief Executive Officer. Educational Leadership. Manages the system. Accountable to SU and District Boards
 - D. Principal: Instructional leader and day to day school operations. Accountable to the Supt.

E. Effective and Ethical Operations for School Boards. Need to recognize Board decisions, even if it is not your choice. Members have no legal powers outside of the Board. Confidentiality is huge—it speaks to trust. Avoid actual or perceived conflict of interest. Establish board protocols at annual reorganizational meeting. Establish Board spokesperson.

1. Facilitate Community Conversation. Give the public a reasonable opportunity to appear and express views on any matter. The Board can then decide whether to have this on the agenda at a future meeting. Successful Boards: Respectful listening, good communication with community, well-structured meetings, clear roles and responsibilities, board members come prepared to all meetings. Suggest that they designate the Board Chair as the link to the administration. The Board speaks with one voice.

2. Email and Social Media: It's OK to schedule meetings or distribute materials via email.

a. Not OK: group emails involving a quorum, group/collective editing of a document, participation in a Facebook group by a quorum if the body's business is discussed.

b. Do not text, email, blog, tweet, or post anything you wouldn't want to see on the front page of a newspaper.

c. Be sure not to have a quorum of the Board participating in an online "discussion".

d. Use school district email instead of your personal email.

e. Cautions were given about open meeting violations.

F. Ms. Holson was thanked for her excellent and helpful presentation

III. Special Education/Student Services

A. Alison Kidder, Director of Student Services:

1. Vision for Student Services: meet the academic, physical, social, behavioral, and emotional needs of each student.

2. Distributed Leadership in the SU Office, across the SU, and within the schools.

3. Shared data showing number of students on IEP's, broken down by town (2019-2020 data)

4. Continuum of Supports and Services

5. Student Services Administrative Goals '20-'22

6. OESU Student Services 3-5 Year Planning

A. OESU Evaluation Team

i. Planning to hire a School Psychologist and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst

B. Alternative Programs

C. Co-Teaching & Universal Design for Learning

IV. Act 173 and Finance

A. Moving from a reimbursement model to a block grant

B. Importance of Continuum of Services

C. Weighting Study

1. Have determined that previous weights are not equitable. The Legislature will have to decide what to do with the weighting study from Tammy Colby. This could potentially bring more funding to areas that are higher in poverty.

V. Technology

A. Jason Mix: Safe Remote Teaching and Learning

1. All but one school in the SU is now E-991 compliant. Will unify all the schools' phone systems soon. Working on shared sign-ins. Have received a grant to upgrade the OESU website.

VI. COVID-19

A. Nicole Bell: OESU received CARE'S Act funding from two sources: Coronavirus Relief Fund: \$523,137.88

1. ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund): \$614,732.14. Amount remaining as of 1/14/21 = \$27,696.37. Have received word that another allocation is coming, which will go through 2023.

B. CRF Expenditures incurred by schools last spring, complying with CDC guidelines: personal equipment, devices and technology needs, furniture needed for social distancing, long-term substitutes, air quality study, remote learning teachers, instructional materials, replacement costs for devices, chargers, and other instructional materials, ZOOM and e-Sign subscriptions

VII. Recovery Planning

A. The Governor says that we need to reopen schools by April. Offer remote learning long term? Advocating for COVID vaccinating, and the SU is working with LRHC on this. All SU's in the state will be required to go through a structured recovery planning process. Statewide focus on literacy outcomes, afterschool programs, and universal instruction. SU Level Coordination of Services for Recovery directed by AOE. Time to intentionally reconnect as a system.

VIII. Motion by Charlie Buttrey, seconded by Danielle Corti to adjourn at 8:27 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.