

OUUSD BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom

January 27, 2021

Present:

Board Members: Angela Colbeth, Danielle Corti, Carol Cottrell, Melissa Gordon, Timm Judas, Chelsey Perry

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams, Brian Emerson, Jean Wheeler, Marla Ianello, Morgan Moore, Cate Beaton

Others: Monique Priestly, Bud Haas, Marvin Harrison, Alex Nuti-de Biasi, and other members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair. Those present were welcomed, and the protocols for Zoom meetings were reviewed
- II. Board Business
 - A. Motion by Melissa Gordon, seconded by Chelsey Perry to approve the Board minutes of January 20, 2021. Motion voted on and carried with one abstention (Timm Judas)
 - B. Correspondence
 1. Email from Bud Haas reiterating what he said at the last Board meeting, encouraging that the Annual meeting be pushed back until May or whenever it can be held in person
 2. Correspondence from group of Newbury residents. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Melissa Gordon to charge the Board Chair and the Superintendent to respond to the correspondence from Marvin Harrison, et al. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
 - C. Committee Reports—received a report from the Strategic Planning committee, which will be discussed later in the meeting.
- III. Public Comment
 - A. Melissa Gordon informed the Board that she will not be seeking reelection, and she encouraged other community members to be thinking about running.
 - B. Bud Haas: The Board should make a decision on what kind of Annual meeting will be held. If Australian ballot will be used, the candidate names will be needed ahead of time.
 1. Mr. Haas hopes this Board will insist that the OESU budget will be equal to or less than the last budget.
 2. He asked about Article 3, and doesn't see a need for a committee meeting if others will agree to the changes he suggested.
- IV. Information
 - A. Principals' Reports
 1. Marla Ianello: She mentioned library, winter program, and behavior/intervention supports.

- a. The winter program was modified this year because there is no transportation.
- b. Library: the average publication date is 1998, so the librarian has been weeding the collection and purchasing new titles. The goal is to have 50/50 fiction/non-fiction spread.
- c. Social-emotional learning: An assessment of social/emotional strengths is given three times per year. This year the children, who need support, are needing more intensive support. BES has decided to build capacity within the staff and train paras in providing extra supports. They do a check in/check out with a number of students each day.

2. Jean Wheeler: Update on learning models. The goal to get as many students into school for as much time as possible while following health and safety guidelines. Currently under 10% are remote learners. They are continuing to maintain Wednesday for intervention time. They hope to continue to pull more students back four days per week.

- a. Mrs. Wheeler shared the process they went through to change the dress code policy. They have been working on a shared document between the Student Council and the Principal. They are sharing the draft with the Board, will present to the staff for feedback, then have a public forum.

- b. Melissa Gordon: asked about credit recovery during February and April break and asked if transportation will be provided. J. Wheeler: does not know the answer, but will check and report back.

3. Brian Emerson: Minutes of the RAB meeting were sent to Board members this afternoon. Highlights: two new members—Amanda Marshall and Victor Dube. Everyone has been kept safe during COVID.

- a. Riverbend enrollment has taken a nosedive, down about 15 students. AOE recognized that this was going on, and RBCTC will be getting about \$193K through a grant. Hopefully this will about offset the lack of revenue from fewer students. Next year's budget: trying to level fund, except have raises for staff in the contract.

4. Morgan Moore: Distance learning has been going well, supporting both students and teachers. All math teachers are enrolled in professional development with Fran Huntoon as trainer.

- a. Music lessons are exciting—new ukulele lessons.

- b. They have launched health classes for 5th and 6th graders.

- c. CFP funding is being used to boost classroom libraries.

- d. The students are loving winter activities. 40 students are going to Burke Mountain for lessons and skiing. All went to the top of the mountain today! This is Grant supported.

- e. Abbey Group and the kitchen staff at NES are making great meals, kits of food, etc.

f. John, the facilities manager, is working at Bradford, as well. He has been able to bring some things to both schools.

g. Highlights from teachers: A common thread is a shout out to students for the hard work they are doing. They are happy to be together.

Another common thread: the joy the students are feeling in the new literacy program. The growth in technology is celebrated. Ms. Moore gave an explanation of how the remote lessons are working, grouping Newbury and Bradford students together.

B. RBCTC Strategic Plan review and approve

1. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Melissa Gordon to approve the RBCTC Strategic Plan. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

2. Brian Emerson thanked Timm Judas for all the time he put in.

C. COVID -19 Update

1. Supt. Knisley reported that another allotment of funding is coming. We should be able to meet the needs with those dollars. Bruce Williams helped with the COVID testing today. A record number of adults participated today, in the mid-40 % range.

2. ESSER Funds: Could they be used for expenses with credit recovery over February vacation? E. Knisley said it would have to be approved by the State, but it fits the mold.

3. E. Knisley: We have seen cases within OUUSD, but we're OK right now. No school-based transmission.

a. Timm Judas: How many students need to do credit recapture?

Danielle Corti: maybe an overall number? Jean Wheeler: A few students who were dealing with anxiety about coming into school are thriving with distance learning. A few students who may struggle with organizational skills, etc. are struggling with distance learning.

V. Discussion

A. OESU Budget—Board recommendations for OESU representatives

1. Carol Cottrell: Make sure there are clear and consistent descriptions of the budget items, particularly those that have changed. By consensus, it was decided to designate a certain percentage of change and to ask for a description of the reason for those changes. Melissa Gordon: our communities will not likely accept a substantial increase in any of the line items of the OESU budget.

B. Strategic Planning Committee

1. Monique Priestly: will be sending out a survey next week. Will have some paper copies in local spots, and will give the option of calling and answering the survey by phone. Maybe hang up posters. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Melissa Gordon that the Board approve the survey and that it be dispersed. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

VI. C. Budget timeline and plan

1. Emilie Knisley shared an OUUSD budget development timeline for FY22. First draft February 10th, second draft February 24th, final draft recommended to the Board March 10th, Board adopts the Budgets & Warning March 10th. Post

Warning Timeline March 4-14, Publish/Advertise Warning March 4-14, Annual meeting April 13, Public Budget Vote April 13.

2. If we moved the meeting to May, unless constraints are lifted, we could only have 100 people. We do not want to turn away people, who came to vote.

a. Timm Judas: Drive-through voting? Danielle Corti: Logistically for both towns, it creates issues.

b. There was discussion on the date of the meeting. A straw poll indicated Board members want to keep it in April. They felt it was better not to ask the Town Clerks to do drive-through voting.

3. Danielle Corti: asked about the possibility of having the annual report booklet in digital copy. The company, who offers this, is not able to take on OUUSD this year, but will hold a spot for next year.

4. Angela Colbeth: asked if Supt. Knisley has met with the principals. E. Knisley: she will be meeting with them on Monday.

VII. Future Agenda Items

A. School and Community Engagement Committee: clear understanding of what this committee is and what it is expected to do and be. Building administrators will be asked for input. The Board will discuss the configuration at the first meeting in February

B. Formatting ground rules for meetings. This will be done tentatively in April or May after any new members are on board.

VIII. Public Comments

A. Marvin Harrison: Feels the financial committee maybe should meet before the February 10th Board meeting. They are now scheduled to meet on February 16th.

1. Several Board members felt the Board should see the budget draft before the finance committee meets and discusses it.

IX. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Melissa Gordon to adjourn at 7:08 PM. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Perkins, Sec.

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