

## OUUSD BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom

March 24, 2021

Present:

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

Administration: Bruce Williams, Linda Metcalf, Marla Ianello, Brian Emerson, Morgan Moore

Others: Marvin Harrison, and other members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair. Those present were welcomed, and the protocols of Zoom meetings were reviewed.
- II. Board Business
  - A. The agenda was reviewed. An addition was made to add the ability to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a contract with the new Bradford Elementary School principal.
  - B. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Chelsey Perry to approve the Board minutes of February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>. An addition was made to the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting that a change of name for OUUSD would only be changing the nickname, not the legal name. Motion voted on and approved with the correction.
  - C. Correspondence--None
  - D. Committee Reports
    1. Strategic Plan: the next meeting will be April 6<sup>th</sup>. They will look at survey results. The survey closes on March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- III. Public Comment—None
- IV. Information:
  - A. Financial Update
    1. We have heard from the State that we will be getting a check in the mail this week, but it hasn't arrived yet. Linda Metcalf will be calling them tomorrow
  - B. COVID-19 Update—Bruce Williams
    1. This morning the decision was made that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at BES will be going remote for that grade only on Thursday and Friday. There will be some, who are quarantining for a longer period of time. They are following a very careful protocol through the Dept. of Health. Contact tracing is underway and continuing into tomorrow.
      - A. They will be looking at the SBAC testing and implications with students being remote for a couple days.
      - B. Marla Ianello: BES was commended by the Dept. of Health on the safety protocols and practices that were in place.
      - C. We are aware that there are outbreaks happening in VT, especially in the northeastern part of the state. A situation is currently being evaluated at WRVS. B. Williams is expecting this may be a phenomenon to deal with in the next couple of weeks, considering the situation in VT.

C. PreK report—M. Ianello

1. Publicly funded PreK
2. Background of Act 166: the Act pertaining to Publicly Funded PreK Education
  - a. Portable entitlement for ages 3-4 within VT
  - b. 10 hours per week for 35 weeks
3. Agency of Education Response
4. Agency of Human Services
  - a. Education License and a license to operate a facility are both needed
5. PreK Program Responsibility
  - a. 10 hours per week for 35 weeks
  - b. Licensed teacher oversees and uses VT Early Learning Standards
  - c. Assess children twice a year using a state approved assessment tool (a play-based assessment)
6. School Responsibility
  - a. Contract with a private program and pay state determined tuition rate if family requests
7. System Development
  - a. Outreach and Communication
  - b. Access
  - c. Capacity
  - d. Quality
    - i. Now getting about 75% of 3- and 4-year-olds attending PreK across all schools in the OESU
    - ii. In OESU, there are 4 PreK programs that implement early MTSS standards with fidelity (3 private programs and one school-based program).
    - iii. Majority of PreK children across OESU are at or above average in all academic domains
  - e. Survey in 2020
    - i. Most communities have stable access
  - f. Bradford has a public PreK, and Newbury has a private PreK on site
  - g. Children are getting access to high quality programs

D. Danielle Corti: Is there equitable access? M. Ianello: Both towns are getting access. Should Bradford have the children for a longer day? She feels both communities are doing a good job meeting the need. D. Corti: Spatial issue in the building in Bradford? M. Ianello: We wouldn't have a problem making the day longer or having the children come more frequently. T. Judas: Do either of the schools do a morning and afternoon? M. Ianello: with state approval, we could do more of the day. Newbury has PreK morning and extended care the rest of the day. T. Judas: What about the PreK program in RBCTC? M. Ianello: They have PreK morning and extended care for afternoon. 10 hours are paid by the school, and extended hours are paid by the parent. M. Ianello: Are we wanting to increase hours or expand enrollment? T. Judas: Is there enough space so both Newbury and Bradford can expand? M. Ianello: In Bradford, there is enough space to expand. D. Corti: Our next steps are to figure out if anything needs to

be addressed and communicate with parents about more availability. M. Ianello: We can survey people and have face-to-face conversations with families. We should do this ahead of any state applications. Marvin Harrison: Is \$3500 the tuition the school pays for each child at private programs? M. Ianello: Yes. It is portable to any program in VT. The reimbursement from the state pretty much covers that tuition.

- V. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Angela Colbeth to authorize the Supt. to negotiate the contract with the new BES principal. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- VI. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 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.**