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 24th and March 10th. An addition was made to the February 24th 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 6th. They will look at survey results. The survey closes on March 31st.

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 6th 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.