

OUUSD BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom

April 28, 2021

Present:

Board Members: Maegan Ballou, Angela Colbeth, Danielle Corti, Carol Cottrell, Timm Judas

Administration: Bruce Williams, Jean Wheeler, Robin Wozny, Brian Emerson, Cate Beaton, Morgan Moore

Others: Ted Pogacar, Abigail Carson, Molly Sargent, Kailey Drake, and other members of the public

- I. Assistant Supt. Bruce Williams opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and called for nominations for Board Chair.
 - A. Nomination by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Timm Judas for Danielle Corti to serve as Board Chair. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.
- II. Danielle Corti, Board Chair, then called the meeting to order. She welcomed those present and reviewed the protocols for Zoom meetings.
 - A. The agenda was reviewed. Letters of resignation were added to the agenda
- III. Board Reorganization
 - A. Nomination by Danielle Corti, seconded by Timm Judas for Angela Colbeth to serve as Board Vice Chair. Nomination voted on and approved unanimously
 - B. Nomination by Carol Cottrell, seconded by Angela Colbeth for Timm Judas to serve as Board Secretary/Clerk. Nomination voted on and approved unanimously. Angela Colbeth will serve as back-up Clerk.
 - C. The Chair suggested that other positions remain status-quo and revisit them at the May Board meeting.
- IV. Board Business
 - A. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve the Board minutes of March 24, 2021. Motion voted on and approved with one abstention (Maegan Ballou)
 - B. Correspondence
 1. Bruce Williams: Shared a notification received from the Child Nutrition Office this afternoon, that the summer food program will be continued through school year '21-'22.
 2. Letters of Resignation
 - A. A letter of resignation was read from NES Music/Art teacher Jackie Verley. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Angela Colbeth to accept her resignation with regret. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
 - B. A letter of resignation was read from NES reading interventionist Jeff Goodell, who has taught in the district for 22 years. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Carol Cottrell to accept his resignation with profound regrets. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

C. Letter of resignation from Lisa Dimiata. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Timm Judas to accept the resignation with regrets. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

i. Cate Beaton: Read a letter she had written to the Board regarding the resignation of Lisa Dimiata, saying we will miss her expertise and strength.

D. Letter of resignation from NES school nurse Jenna Parsons. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Angela Colbeth to accept the resignation with regrets. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

IV. Committee Reports—will hold until next meeting

V. Public Comments--None

VI. Information

A. Student Council Presentation on OHS Dress Code

1. Abigail Carson, Co-President of Student Council, shared the rationale for making the changes.

2. Molly Sargent explained wanting to make the dress code more inclusive. She explained how they had involved the student body. Timm Judas: What does respectful look like? M. Sargent: dress that doesn't offend religion or show body parts that should be covered. Dress in a way that is safe to you and others. There was discussion on the meaning of "safe". Kailey Drake spoke about times when students are asked to dress in particular ways for presentations, game days, etc.

3. Danielle Corti thanked the students and asked them to come back to the Board again after the proposed dress code has gone out to parents, etc.

B. Principal Reports

1. Morgan Moore: Professional Development: NES Staff is participating in a book club with BES reading Lost at School. The final day of All Learners Network was today. Kim Goody, instructional coach, is leading K-6 Lang Arts PLC. Andrea Dennis, Kim Goody, and Morgan Moore are planning Math PLC. Kelly Houde is coaching "Finding Our Stride". Many teachers are involved in Farm to School projects. There are raised beds for planting. 3rd graders are working with A. Dennis and K. Goody growing peppers to create their own salsa. A 4th grade student won the VREC Student Art Contest. All the 4th graders created art for the contest.

2. Jean Wheeler: They have completed the first edition of the "Purple Press". They are using Wednesday afternoons for staff meetings, working to redesign ways to define and develop in-person intervention for about 12-15 students at each grade level on Wednesday mornings. Planning end of year gatherings and activities has begun. They are planning a prom this spring and graduation on June 18th, following health safety protocols. Spring athletics are off to a good start. Timm Judas: What about the yearbook? J. Wheeler: Hannah Calley coordinates the yearbook.

3. Brian Emerson: A RAB meeting was held last night. He praised the efforts of Susie Tann and the whole OESU for coming through the recent COVID flare-up safely. He is hoping and praying to maintain the hybrid schedule for the rest of the year. He has learned that RBCTC is ahead of the past two years in recruitment efforts. From a financial standpoint, it looks as if there is going to be more money coming in to help. The Diversified Agriculture Teacher is requesting to plant about 20 trees on the school grounds. He is hoping RBCTC can have its own sugar maple trees on campus in the years ahead for the Diversified Agriculture Sugaring operation. Danielle Corti shared the map of the proposed location for planting the trees. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Carol Cottrell for tentative approval for the plantings, provided approval is given by Jean Wheeler and Terry Cromack, Facilities Director. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

- C. COVID Update: all schools are open. One of the goals is to achieve the greatest number of in-person student days as possible. Nurses are busy, but it is going well. All nurses reported positively today. The Board asked if there were a percentage of staff members, who have been vaccinated? B. Williams will try to get that information.
- D. Principal Search Committee: Carol Cottrell reported that there were 12 candidates, and the committee chose 5 to interview, which will be held next Wednesday. She asked what the central office is planning to do as far as an exit interview for the people, who are leaving, to ask why they are going. She feels the interview should be face to face, and we should ask the tough questions. B. Williams: the hiring process is reported to be going well by Principals. Timm Judas: suggested contacting Plymouth University regarding nursing students who are graduating
- E. Discussion:
 - 1. Bugbee Landing Trust Fund transfer. Bruce Williams has been in touch, and things will be moving forward.
 - 2. Newbury Property for Outdoor Classroom update: Morgan Moore: inquired about the purchase price. The price is firm, and there is interest from others. The owner is interested in selling it to the school. M. Moore noted how heavily it is used and how beneficial it is to the school. It was suggested that there be a tour for the Board and the teachers so they could point out how this location is used for outdoor learning. The Board, by consensus, authorized D. Corti to set up a tour.
- F. 3. School/Community Engagement Committee: no update tonight

VII. Action Items

- A. Timm Judas: suggested that a Capital Improvement Reserve Fund be added to future items.
- B. Carol Cottrell: suggested putting off the Strategic Plan survey information until after the May 4th meeting. She suggested sharing the information gathered before writing the Strategic Plan. Danielle Corti: had heard from Monique Priestley that she anticipated the need for an Executive Session with the Board to discuss survey comments and results.
- C. Timm Judas: why are we not using the surplus funds to offset taxes? D. Corti: we are getting information from an attorney. A possibility is to set up a Capital Reserve Fund.

VII. Public Comment—none

VIII. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Timm Judas to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 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.