

OUUSD Board Meeting
Newbury Elementary School and Via Zoom
June 23, 2021

Present:

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

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Brian Emerson, Cate Beaton, Marla Ianello, Robin Wozny

Others: Members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair. She welcomed people both in person and in a Zoom format.
- II. Board Business
 - A. The agenda was reviewed. A discussion of a truck purchase for RBCTC will be considered under Brian Emerson's report
 - B. Motion by Chelsey Perry, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve the Board minutes of June 8, 2021. Motion voted on and approved with one abstention (Timm Judas)
 - C. Correspondence
 1. Letter from Kim Goody resigning from Newbury Elementary School. She will be taking the job of lead OESU instructional coach. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Angela Colbeth to accept the resignation with deep, deep, deep regret and gratitude. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.
 - D. Committee Reports
 1. Budget/Finance: met on June 14th and reviewed trust funds. The Committee recommends that we move toward a more formal professional management of those funds. A sub-committee of the Finance Committee will review the management of these funds monthly. Oxbow has some scholarship funds that have been managed well by a group of local volunteers. The recommendation is that these funds also be managed by a professional and that the group of local volunteers review the management of these funds annually. D. Corti noted that it is recommended that the same person within the auditing firm only serve as the person auditing the district's account for up to five years, and that another person in the firm take over at that point. The Finance Committee recommended that Linda Metcalf check to see how long the current person auditing the District's account has been serving in that capacity.
 2. Strategic Planning: at a later date, the plan will be shared with the public
- III. Public Comment—None
- IV. Information
 - A. Principal Reports
 1. Brian Emerson: Applied for grant money to help with truck purchase, but did not get it. AOE paid for RBCTC to lease a vehicle when the old truck broke down in April. Three bids have been secured. RBCTC needs a pickup that can move some of the equipment off campus to job sites. E. Knisley: The bid law in VT had

been a threshold of \$15K for needing Board approval, but now it has been changed. Now the Board only needs to approve a bid over \$40,000. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Chelsey Perry to approve the bid from Wells River Chevrolet for a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 Crew Cab in the amount of \$28,385.00 and to authorize the Superintendent to sign any contracts. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

a. B. Emerson: RBCTC had to go through Covid Recovery Plan. The plan must have RAB approval and be submitted with minutes attached. T.

Judas: in light of Burlington High School, has RBCTC been tested for PCB's? B. Emerson: Yes, they came in and looked through anything. E.

Knisley: all schools in VT will have to be tested in the next year or two.

2. Marla Ianello: Her written report has merged May and June together. Dinner Dash: joint effort between Unified Arts, PreK, and Farm to School. It provided meals to all students and some siblings, using local foods.

a. Kristen Liu, by winning an on-line trivia game, earned a visit from Smokey D's Food Truck, which came to provide lunch at the staff end of year gathering.

3. Robin Wozny: The Oxbow Prom was small, but elegant. The tent looked lovely and worked out well for end of year activities. Quite a few staff members attended.

B. OESU Update:

1. E. Knisley: OESU department heads gave a recap of their goals and the progress they had made. That PowerPoint is on the OESU website. The SU will set goals in the fall for next year. T. Judas: a lot of the things identified in the survey, many of those points are already being addressed. There was beautiful synergy between departments. D. Corti: The presentation is a great place to which to point community members, who want to know what the SU does. Public info about the ESSER funds is also on the website. This is a lot of money to make improvements to our schools. The video is also on the website.

C. COVID-19 update: E. Knisley: We made it to the end of the year. Many thanks to all the students, teachers, families. Right now we are looking at the fall. Looking to guidance from DOE. We anticipate it will be a pretty typical return to school in the fall. T. Judas: asked about the Delta variant. E. Knisley: There is a good possibility there will be a vaccine for ages 2-11 by fall.

D. Bugbee Landing & Facilities Committee Recommendations

1. E. Knisley: There was question about the deed for the Bugbee landing. This was reviewed by our attorney, and the deed had been transferred to the Town of Bradford. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Angela Colbeth to authorize the Superintendent and Board Chair to transfer Bugbee Landing funds from OUUSD to the Town of Bradford, in the amount of \$6,757.30, for care and upkeep of that piece of property. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

2. Recommendations from Facilities Committee: The Chair will check with Bruce Williams and have this available for the August Board meeting. The Legislature has asked that each district develop a Facilities Improvement Plan. E. Knisley:

feels we should be setting some priorities for facilities and capital improvement projects. D. Corti would like to get this together for September or October

V. Discussion

A. Update on Newbury Property for Outdoor Classroom

1. D. Corti: a buyer's agent was hired and was able to come to an agreement for a purchase price of \$68,000. The person was hugely helpful. A deeded right of way into the property has been verified. We will have the ability to warn a meeting for July 27th at 6:00 PM at Oxbow. Scott Labun is available to serve as moderator, and Bud Haas will be able to attend as Clerk.

2. Warning: Shall the voters of OUUSD authorize the District to purchase 10.2 acres of unimproved land on Checkerberry Lane in Newbury for \$68,000? Shall the purchase price be paid with unallocated surplus FY2020 surplus funds? Also, to elect a moderator to serve until the April 2022 annual meeting. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Chelsey Perry to warn the meeting as presented to elect a Moderator and to purchase the property in Newbury in the amount of \$68,000. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

B. School/Community Committee Reports: Angela Colbeth (Oxbow), Chelsey Perry (BES), Carol Cottrell (NES), Timm Judas (RBCTC). The Board member will be designated the Chair of their committee. They will have the first few meetings and then come back to the Board. The committee will develop the charge for each individual school. Angela Colbeth: (Suggestions from Jean Wheeler) The Role of the committee should be an advisory committee—make realistic suggestions and help carry them out. J. Wheeler: wants to try to avoid recycling the same people. She didn't like the idea of combining or supporting existing committees. She believes there are a lot community members who want to be involved at the decision-making level, but not in doing the work. D. Corti: the goal is to have something to report at the Board meeting in August.

C. Facilities Committee: D. Corti will touch base with Bruce Williams again, but would like to have a Board member who would be interested in serving on that committee. Angela Colbeth will think about serving.

D. Abby Group Contract

1. Newbury and Oxbow use the Abby Group as their food service. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Timm Judas to authorize the Supt. and Chair to sign the Abby Group contract for NES and OHS. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

VI. Public Comment:

A. D. Corti: was able to go to each graduation except RBCTC. It was a wonderful in-person event and was so meaningful to the students and their families. Each was so individual, but some of the themes were the same. She thanked everyone for all the work and for making it through.

VII. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded Timm Judas to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 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.