

OESU BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom

June 15, 2021

Present:

Board Members:

BMU: Angeline Alley, Allison Ingerson, Judy Murray

OUUSD: Danielle Corti, Timm Judas, Chelsey Perry

Thetford: Megan Snider

Waits River: Jason Rogers

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams, Cate Beaton, Alison Kidder, Jason Mix, Nicole Bell, Robin Wozny, Linda Metcalf, Melanie Rhoads, Bobbi Beck

Others: Ted Pogacar and other members of the public

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Angeline Alley, Chair. Those present introduced themselves.
- II. ESSER Plan Presentation: Nicole Bell
 - A. This is a plan for use of federal funding through the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) and will run through 2024.
 1. ESSER 1: \$619,541; ESSER 2: \$2,959,749. ESSER 3: \$6,641,735.
 2. The process started with data review, which informed the needs assessment. Tonight's presentation is to seek community input. Top priorities are based on data review: Extended Learning, Instructional Coaching, Multi-Tiered System of Support, Universal Design for Learning, Data Literacy, Flexible Pathways, Staff Appreciation.
 3. The Needs Assessment and the Plan are available on the OESU website. A survey will go out to staff, students, and families, providing stakeholders with another opportunity to provide input.
 - B. Timm Judas: asked about financial impact. Nicole Bell: ESSER will fund this plan. Danielle Corti: It would be helpful to know the cost of different components to help decide what ones should be continued. Emilie Knisley: some of the money will be spent in ways that helps build systems.
 - C. D. Corti: Are there tools for evaluating different components? N. Bell: There is progress monitoring built in. Judy Murray: How long do people have for public comment? N. Bell: The survey will run for a month. The plan needs to be submitted the first week of August.
- III. Public Comment
 - A. Ted Pogacar read a statement from the Orange East Education Association, asking for a monthly accounting of the funds of what was spent and at what schools it was spent.
- IV. **OESU Business Meeting continued at 6:36 PM**

V. Board Business

A. Agenda Review: Delete Substitute Rates, as that was covered at a previous meeting.

B. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Judy Murray to approve the Board minutes of May 4, 2021. Motion voted on and approved with two abstentions (Danielle Corti and Chelsey Perry)

C. Board Orders: nothing significant this week

D. Contracts: none

E. Correspondence

1. Letter or resignation from Sherry Hoyt.

2. Motion by Danielle Corti, seconded by Judy Murray to accept with great sadness the resignation of Sherry Hoyt. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

VI. SU Goals: Emilie Knisley and others of the OESU Leadership Team

A. Purpose is to take a look at the goals that we set with the Board last fall and report back on the progress that was made on those goals.

B. For the past 15 months COVID has played a huge part. During this time, we have completely redesigned how we “did” school. Shout out to all who were involved in all the time spent contact tracing. Between July 1 and May 31, OESU served 346,636 meals, delivering many of those meals.

C. Board Goals for the Superintendent (Emilie Knisley). We have moved to electronic meetings and now record them. Paper-free meetings. Areas for future work: explore options for electronic meeting organization, increased website/social media functionality, continued streaming of meetings.

1. Quarterly Reporting of Budget to Actual. Transition of new business manager.

2. Community Relations: increased Board teamwork. Future work: active social media presence, active web presence

3. Operational Management and Leadership: Food Service, Transportation,

4. Instructional Leadership: creation of two full-day shared in-service days and three early release days for PD. Future work: sharing instructional practices across schools,

D. Human Resources (Melanie Rhoads):

1. Create Unity within the OESU Schools. Uniform job descriptions. We have moved to a single vendor for life and disability insurance. We are creating digital systems for ease of use and paper and cost reduction. A goal is to improve retention and track turnover. Another goal is to create a cohesive team withing Human Resources and align with other OESU Central Office departments.

E. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (Nicole Bell):

1. Increase academic proficiency and provide equitable learning opportunities. Build leadership capacity among teachers and increase participation in district decisions related to teaching and student learning. Effectively manage grants to strategically optimize funding to address student learning needs.

F. Technology Department: (Jason Mix)

1. Student Safety and Security. Assist central office departments' technology needs. Website redesign this summer. Unifying technology departments. Having bi-weekly tech meetings to resolve issues as a team. Hoping to unify the phone systems. Completing and Continuing projects: on-boarding and off-boarding staff, MDM, WiFi.

G. Student Services: (Alison Kidder)

1. Comprehensive Evaluations, collaboration with community organizations that support students and families,

2. Academic Proficiency: ensure students with disabilities have access to universal instruction and supports. Co-Teaching (training, embedded coaching, AOE approved plan). Support professional development of Special Educators, Related Services Providers, Support.

3. Safe & Healthy Schools: Support Multi-Tiered System of Supports.

Development of OESU Interdepartmental Team, which meets bi-monthly. High Quality Staffing: Professional Development, Leadership, Mentoring, Supervision/Evaluation.

H. Business Office: (Linda Metcalf)

1. Accurate accounting records, budgetary controls and oversight. Develop uniform systems and schedules for financial reporting and budgeting. Develop uniform systems and schedules for financial reporting and budgeting (3-5 year planning). Establish satisfaction metrics.

I. Multi-tiered Systems of Student Supports: (Cate Beaton)

1. Completion of MTSS Guidebook. Consistent process to supporting all students with documentation to be trained next year. Develop an instructional practices plan tied to Social Emotional Behavior and Classroom Management. OESU has seen a 70% decrease of in-district restraints. Development of classroom management plan.

J. Timm Judas: thanked all presenters. Kudos for weaving all the strands together. Judy Murray: This administrative team has brought the SU to a whole new level. Emilie Knisley: Gave a shout-out to Bruce Williams for being an integral part of this. This was B. Williams' last OESU meeting, and the Board expressed their thanks for all he has done

VII. Summer Schedule

A. No Board meetings will be scheduled for the summer, and the Board will meet on the third Tuesday of September.

VIII. Pre-K Enrollment Report

A. Submitted by Marla Ianello to keep the Board informed on the current state of PreK. If any Board members have questions, email them to Supt. Knisley, and she will compile them for the September meeting

IX. Busing Contract FY '23

A. The Manager of Butler Bus Company has proposed a roll-over of the contract for the next three years. The particulars of the contract are attractive enough that B. Williams gives it a ringing endorsement. For '22-'23, 0% increase, '23-'24 1.5% increase and '24-'25 1.5% increase. Gas price would stay the same for the three-year period. B. Williams

feels it is very unlikely that another bid would be competitive with this offer. They have made an amazing effort during COVID to make things work.

1. A. Alley: asked about extra-curricular busing. B. Williams: feels Butler does as good a job at training and retaining their drivers as any company out there.

2. T. Judas: is there anything that happened during COVID that raised the need for any tweaks of the contract? B. Williams: There were a number of efforts on Butler's part to accommodate our requests. The contract never was an issue.

3. D. Corti: Are we required to put it out to bid? B. Williams: they are well within the bounds of keeping it within state guidelines.

4. Motion by Timm Judas, seconded by Judy Murray to extend the busing contract for FY '22-'23, '23-'24, '24-'25 and to authorize the Board Chair to sign.

Motion voted on and approved unanimously

X. Agenda items for July Meeting—A. Alley and E. Knisley will work on the agenda for the September meeting.

XI. Public Comments

A. Ted Pogacar: Does the OESU Board Chair intend that the SU not make public the \$10 million expenditure by building, but only by expenditure? A. Alley: Only by topic and need.

1. Danielle Corti: feels that should be discussed as a Board. A. Alley: agreed that will be a Board discussion at a future meeting.

XII. Executive Session

A. Motion by Megan Snider, seconded by Timm Judas to enter Executive Session at 8:12 PM, pursuant to VSA 313, Sec.1, (a) contracts, after making a specific finding that premature general knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

B. The Board exited Executive Session at 8:29 PM. No action taken.

XIII. Motion by Megan Snider, seconded by Timm Judas to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 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.