

OUUSD BOARD MEETING

Newbury Elementary School and Via ZOOM

September 22, 2021

Board Members: Maegan Ballou, Carol Cottrell, Danielle Corti, Angela Colbeth, Chelsey Perry

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Randy Gawel, Loretta Cruz, Marla Ianello, Jean Wheeler, Robin Wozny,

Others: Tim Ross, Hannah Leland, Ted Pogacar

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair. Those present were welcomed, and ZOOM protocols were reviewed. It was noted that this is the first Board meeting that Carol Cottrell has attended in person!
- II. Board Business
 - A. The agenda was reviewed. The closing on the Checkerberry property was added.
 - B. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Maegan Ballou to approve the Informational meeting minutes of August 17, 2021 and the Board meeting minutes of August 25, 2021. Danielle Corti offered an addition to the August 17th minutes, Section III, i. John Renfrew didn't allow the students access to go on the property at one point. The school had asked him to do some clearing, and he wasn't interested in taking that project on. Motion voted on and approved as corrected.
 - C. Communications
 1. E-mail communications from Sukie Knight, which had been shared with the Board and were entered into the record.
 2. Susan Underwood reached out to the Board Chair and requested that, if there is a re-vote, that it be by Australian Ballot
 3. Letter of resignation from Jenni Belotserkovsky. Motion by Maegan Ballou, seconded by Angela Colbeth to accept the letter of resignation from J. Belotserkovsky. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
 4. Three letters of interest for the vacant OUUSD Board position: Angela Wheeler, Tim Ross, and Hannah Leland.
 - D. Contracts
 1. Three contracts for: Peter Gates, Kevin Anderson, and Tracie Novak. It was noted that the contract for T. Novak needs to be rewritten, and that will be taken care of.
 - E. Committee Reports
 1. Budget/Finance Committee met Monday. They are continuing to work with the management of the trust funds. They plan to have two services come to present to the committee and explain what they can provide. Skip Barrett came to the committee meeting. There is a 10-acre piece of land at the Bradford Elementary School that didn't get transferred to the town. This will be coming to the OUUSD agenda next meeting.
 2. Strategic Plan—coming in October
 3. School Community Engagement Committee:

- a. Chelsey Perry: A survey was distributed at the Bradford Elementary School open house, asking if any would like to serve. There were six responses from people who said they would like to serve.
- b. Carol Cottrell: Has taken the new NES principal on a tour of the town, including the back roads.

III. Public Comments—None

IV. Candidates for School Board

- A. Hannah Leland and Tim Ross were present, and each introduced him/herself and shared why they would like to serve on the Board.

V. Executive Session Sec. 313 a (3) The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee

- A. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Carol Cottrell to move into Executive Session at 5:51 PM. Motion voted on and approved unanimously
- B. The Board exited Executive Session at 6:05 PM
- C. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Carol Cottrell to appoint Tim Ross to the Board until the next District Meeting in April. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

VI. Supt. Report

- A. They did not have an OESU meeting last night because the internet wasn't available at RBCTC for a Zoom meeting, and there was no quorum.
- B. Contracts approved earlier in the meeting were for shared positions.
- C. The District is busy on the COVID-19 front with cases at NES, OHS, and BES. The plan is to start voluntary surveillance testing for staff and students on Tuesday. A lot have signed up. The State has extended the mask mandate through October. The SU received changes today regarding contract tracing. If a school can achieve 80% vaccination rate, it changes the contact tracing process. The only school for whom this is possible is Oxbow because of the age of the students. There may be COVID testing materials that staff and students can take home and administer

VII. Principals' Reports

- A. Marla Ianello: PreK, 3, and 4 had to shut down for COVID early in the school year. Hopefully they won't have to again, but if so, they will be able to refine communication with families. The students made corn salsa. They are trying to keep some of the familiar routines in place.
- B. Jean Wheeler: She is excited that there is a lot of support in the SU to help students, who have to quarantine at home. OHS has an advisory program in the middle of the day with the theme "We Are Oxbow". As the year goes on, hopefully all will understand how we are all one unit. She is hearing over and over from students that they would like more academic opportunities. OHS has 40 more students this year, who were not here last year. They are busting at the seams, with some teachers having 23 students in their class. It looks like this is a trend that will last a few years. Each grade level is doing a fund raiser. They did a pumpkin picking activity. Open house is tomorrow night. They are having their first dance this weekend.

- 1. Robin Wozny: During the first two days of school, 5 staff, who had gone to the BEST Institute, put together a re-engagement activity for students, helping them

to get to know each other and their teachers. Each class made a banner with a slogan, did some competitions, and did as much outdoors as possible. They started with an assembly and ended with an outdoor assembly, including ice cream. The students were excited to be back to school

C. Loretta Cruz: They are almost done with assessments. The drainage project is complete and withstood the first big downpour. The elevator is in need of repair. Ms. Cruz met with Claude Phipps and Connie Philleo, and they hope to start doing composting and improved protocols for recycling, which will save money. Several staff are going to Waits River for Ropes Course training. Loretta Cruz and Marla Ianello are attending a new principals' training once a month in Williston. Today, Peter King, sports writer, was at NES. He talked with students about how he became a writer and encouraged students that they can do great things. Open house was last night. Gr. 5-6 are going for Agriculture School at a local farm. Friends of Newbury Elementary School is doing the Farm Raiser as a fund raiser.

VIII. Committees

A. A Rep to RAB and a Rep to Low Forest Committee are needed. D. Corti is anticipating that each Board member will serve on two committees. At the next meeting, the Board will be firming these up. Angela Colbeth will serve on Low Forest Committee and School/Community Engagement. Maegan Ballou is willing to serve on the RAB Committee. Angela Colbeth will serve on the OESU Board.

IX. Action Items

A. Article III of the By-Laws

1. The amended article will be effective on passage. It needs to be voted on by the two communities by Australian ballot. There is a cost of about \$2,000-\$3,000 if ballots are not mailed to everyone. If they are mailed to everyone, the cost is \$8,000-\$9,000. The language has been vetted by an attorney and has gone to committee twice. Motion by Carol Cottrell, seconded by Angela Colbeth to accept the proposed version of the Article and to have it voted on at the Annual Meeting. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

B. Student Rep to Board

1. Ted Pogacar: The OHS Student Council has had a lot of business since school started. They will be bringing up the Student Rep request very soon

X. Policy First Read: CODE A20 Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution

- A. The language needs to be updated and refined
- B. Carol Cottrell and Timm Judas were on the Policy Committee. C. Cottrell will take a look at the policy as is and see what updates are needed

XI. Authorization to sign contracts

- A. Motion by Carol Cottrell, seconded by Chelsey Perry authorize the Board Chair to sign contracts for Peter Gates, Tracie Novack, and Kevin Anderson. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

XII. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Maegan Ballou to authorize the Superintendent and Board Chair to sign and execute all documents needed to complete the closure on the voter approved Checkerberry Property. Motion voted on and approved unanimously

XIII. The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2021 at 5:30 PM at RBCTC or via Zoom.

- XIV. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Chelsey Perry to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 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.