

## **OUUSD SCHOOL BOARD SHARING OF COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT HIGHLIGHT**

### **Oxbow High School and on Zoom**

**December 8, 2021**

Present:

Board Members: Carol Cottrell

Administration: Emilie Knisley

Others: Monique Priestly and other members of the community

The meeting was opened at 5:30 PM by Monique Priestly with the purpose of sharing the Community Survey Report Highlights. The Community Relations Committee created this survey to learn what the stakeholders had as concerns about our schools. From these results will be developed a strategic plan, with the first to be developed for the first three years and then to continue to create a new one each three years. Survey results were received from a great representation from various demographic groups from 447 respondents representing 854 individuals. The survey was available to the public from February 2021 through April 2021. Survey results have already been shared with OESU administration, as well as each school administration and staff in the district. The survey results and the complete report are on the website. Points that stood out: Leadership, Communication & Public Relations, Community Engagement. The OUUSD Community Relations Committee will be working on a district-wide vision and plan. They will be presenting the draft of the strategic plan to the Board so they can offer input and suggestions, with the goal of making it be a clear working document. After being approved by the Board, the plan will be implemented. It is hoped that the Plan will be in place for the 2022-2023 school year. A timeline will be set up. The Board will then circle back around to see what the progress has been and what still needs to be worked on. If the public has other questions, it was suggested that emailing those to Supt. Knisley would be a good option. A copy of the slides and the recording, as well as the report, will be on the OESU website.

### **OUUSD BOARD MEETING**

Present:

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

Administration: Emilie Knisley, Marla Ianello, Jean Wheeler

Others: Skip Barrett, Amy Hayward, Ted Pogacar, Xander Pearl, Michael Wright, representatives from Student Council, members from National Honor Society, and other members of the public

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM by Danielle Corti, Chair. Those present were welcomed, and the protocols of Zoom meetings were reviewed. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

I. Board Business

A. Motion by Maegan Ballou, seconded by Angela Colbeth to approve the Board minutes of November 10, 2021. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

B. Correspondence

1. A few emails were received from parents with questions about COVID Testing.

2. Letter of resignation was received from Michael Prosalik, with December 17, 2021 being his last day of teaching. Motion by Angela Colbeth, seconded by Carol Cottrell to accept the resignation with deep regret. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously. C. Cottrell: will there be an exit interview for Mr. Prosalik? Yes, it is intended that that will happen.

C. NH STEM Grant Renewal: This has been in use for five years or more. Motion by Chelsey Perry, seconded by Angela Colbeth to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Dual enrollment document. Motion voted on and approved unanimously.

D. Committee Reports:

1. Strategic Plan: C. Cottrell: Their next meeting is set for December 17<sup>th</sup>, when they will begin the process of writing the strategic plan.

2. Budget: D. Corti and T. Ross: The committee met and went over the budget which shows a surplus of about \$600,000.00. They went over scholarship funds and how they can best be used to serve the students in the district. They are coming up with items that the budget committee needs to thinking about. An update on the audit shows that we are significantly in a better place than last year.

II. Public Comment

A. Skip Barrett: This has been a very trying year for the administrators keeping up with the day-to-day management in their building. Please remember all that the principals are already coping with.

B. Carol Cottrell: She asked that the Board pause to remember Lisa Kelly, a former Oxbow teacher, who passed away this past week. A moment of silence was observed in her memory and in appreciation.

C. Amy Hayward: Will the letters from parents be posted? D. Corti: She will check with those who wrote them. There were some student names mentioned, so the Chair was hesitant to post them.

III. Information

A. Student Reports:

1. Xander Pearl: Students are thinking about ways to help with climate control. They have had the idea of putting electric car charging stations in the school parking lot. Perhaps start with 1-2. E. Knisley: because it would mean a change in buildings and grounds, the concept needs to come to the Board. A straw poll of Board members showed that they were interested in getting more information.

2. Michael Wright: the Student Council has a vision that if this school and neighboring schools had charging stations, it would be an influence on what staff or students get for their next car. D. Corti: told students that when they have more information, to please reach out to the Board and come back. E. Knisley: Thetford Elementary is looking into getting charging stations, so it would be good for the Student Council to talk with them.

B. Principal Reports

1. Marla Ianello: BES has a couple new staff. She highlighted different projects that various classes are working on. Social-emotional wellness efforts are ongoing. The plow truck was named and visited the school. Outdoor Winter activities are starting soon. Art Teacher Al Morrow received a \$1000 grant.
2. Brian Emerson: A RAB meeting was held in November. The last month has been a tough month for COVID. The majority of the students are still coming, which is great news. Budget showed that there was not the significant deficit that he had worried there would be. Things are looking similar this year. Enrollment rebounded from last year. RBCTC would like to set up a revolving fund for equipment. The RAB meeting included a Program update from Laura Shrewsbury, who does Teacher Education. All five high schools seem to have their ups and downs with COVID.
3. Jean Wheeler: Shared about the Veteran's Day assembly. Several students participated in the Athletic Leadership Conference. Thanksgiving Baskets were put together for 10 families. ESSER funding has been approved for an additional counselor at Oxbow and for extra academic support.
4. Loretta Cruz: Kelley Houde was honored as teacher of year. Courtney Musty has joined their staff. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders finished Ag School and are beginning Forest School. Student Council has been reinstated. They want to do a holiday food drive and a hat and coat drive. NES has been hit hard with COVID this week.

#### C. Superintendent's Report

1. Facilities Committee: hoping to get it going in January. Need to address issues that are popping up. Hoping maybe ESSER money might be available for facilities' needs, particularly ventilation
2. OESU Website roll out: It is almost ready to go.
3. The Board previously approved a new designer for the annual report. That process is underway and should be ready for budget season this year.
4. Financial Update: three components: the Yield, Equalized pupil counts, and Common level of appraisal. Information has been received on the Yield, but not the other two. \$11,317 Yield last year. Two estimates for this year: \$13,846 and \$12,937. That is good news because it's 14% higher than this year.
5. ESSER I and II Funds
  - a. Funds are received as they are spent, not up front. There are restrictions as how the funds can be spent, and expenses must be directly related to COVID.
  - b. ESSER I: Performance Period of 3/13/2020 to 9/30 2022. \$619,541 Grant Award. Supt. Knisley shared how ESSER 1 was being allocated.
  - c. ESSER II: Performance Period 3/13/2020 to 9/30/2023. Grant Award of \$2,959,749. A summary of how ESSER II is being allocated was shared.
  - d. ESSER III is still awaiting Federal Approval of Vermont's State Plan.
  - e. There was a discussion of grant funded positions that may or may not be able to be continued when the grant money goes away.

D. COVID-19 Update: Schools are still participating in surveillance testing. We are about to send out a letter to families saying we will be piloting two programs at Newbury: Test to Stay and PCR Response system. The challenge is staffing. Trying to get folks who have the ability to do that is the challenge. If we can start this at Newbury, we can work out some of the bugs and expand to other schools when there is staff to take this on. Volunteers are being sought.

E. The Board expressed Kudos to everyone in the process and for all the work they are doing.

IV. Public Comment

A. Ted Pogacar: thanks for sharing information on ESSER funds

B. Amy Hayward: asked if schools are consistent in their practice of students who need to quarantine. E. Knisley: yes, as long as staffing is available

C. Skip Barrett: thanked the Board for staff appreciation. He asked clarifying questions about ESSER Funds. He is glad to see there is funding for extended learning and outdoor learning. He said this was one of the most engaging meetings he had been to recently and complimented the Board on the discussion of all subjects.

V. Motion by Chelsey Perry, seconded by Maegan Ballou to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 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.**