

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH SCHOOL BOARD
OOB TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
September 10, 2008 – 7:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Chair Kay Dutton, Chairperson; Laura Bolduc, Vice Chair; Board Members: Debbie Evans, Patricia Clark, and Dennis Robillard; John R. Turcotte, Superintendent; Administrators: Richard Descoteaux, Business Manager; Donna Ford, Special Education Director; Michael Pulsifer, Jameson Elementary Principal; Lloyd Crocker, Loranger Middle School Principal; Richard DiFusco, High School Principal; James McDermott, Student Counsel Representative; Jay Kelley, Maintenance/Transportation Supervisor; John Nye, Teacher's Union; and guests.

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Monthly Meeting of March 12, 2008 was called to order at 7:07 pm by Chair, Kay Dutton.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Cheri Provencher was recognized and thanked for her thirty-three years of dedicated service to the Old Orchard Beach school department.

D. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 3, 2008, Budget Workshop Review, 6:00 PM

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to table approval of the minutes of the September 3, 2008 Budget Workshop Review. Deb Evans (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

2. August 25, 2008, Budget Workshop Review, 5:00 PM

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2008 Budget Workshop review. Deb Evans (seconded). The vote was unanimous

3. August 13, 2008, Regular Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM

Kay Dutton stated that Page 2 Letter C the vote should be four yes and one abstain.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of August 13, 2008 as corrected. Deb Evans (seconded). The vote was unanimous

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

G. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

H. RSU #56 PRESENTATION

Saco Superintendent, Michael Lafortune, provided an overview of the work the committee had accomplished to date. Specific issues addressed by the RPC included: make up of the school board; length of term and ways voting would take place; potential school closings; scenarios in case one of the towns voted against the plan; financial plans, including cost savings; reorganization of administrative offices; tuition contracts; insurance; timelines for setting the plan to action; energy savings for things like transportation; and penalties and deadlines.

Laura Bolduc asked why the terms for Old Orchard Beach's members could not be staggered so that Old Orchard Beach would not have, potentially, a whole new Board every two years.

Mr. Lafortune stated that the Board terms had not be set and that it could still be addressed.

Laura Bolduc asked if the work had been done on cost savings.

Mr. Lafortune said that it was not done.

Laura Bolduc asked what Augusta's view of a Special Education Center would be like, expressing hope that it would not be like the Oxford Model, which she knows is not ideal, and in fact, set Special Education back thirty years.

Mr. Lafortune stated the RPC had discussed the possibility of regionalizing Special Education services, but no definitive work had been done.

Laura Bolduc stated hope that the Commissioner was paying attention to the Portland School District, which illustrates the point that "bigger is not always better."

Dennis Robillard asked how the RSU will handle any preexisting debt.

Mr. Lafortune stated that all preexisting debt will remain the responsibility of the indebted communities.

Dave Galli, Saco School Board member and Chairman of the RPC provided a history of the consolidation committee. He stated that the committee had spent a great deal of time discussing the benefits to the school systems including things like the opportunity for Saco students to participate in Old Orchard Beach's nationally recognized band or providing advanced foreign language opportunities to Old Orchard Beach students at Thornton Academy. He stated the belief that combining services such as transportation and food service would save money for all three communities. He stated with only 3500 total students, the RSU would not come close to being as "big" as the Portland City District.

Millie Tuttle, Dayton School Board, reported that Dayton had a good relationship with Saco and was looking forward to consolidating with Old Orchard Beach. She stated understanding of how difficult it was to give up local control, but felt that it would be a very positive experience for the children.

Peter Flaherty, Citizen Representative from Old Orchard Beach, stated that as a teaching veteran he could see how the consolidation would be good for the students, and that if they could work out the financial issues, it would be good for all of the communities, as well.

Ron Morton, Saco City Council, stated that he wanted to address the issue of each town feeling as if it would be bearing the financial brunt. He stated that during the process, the committee's primary concern was what was best for the students.

Mr. Lafortune stated that while everyone seems to be asking how much will it cost now, the real question is can the communities sustain what is currently in place. With increasing costs and decreasing State and Federal assistance, combining services, and therefore, costs, across the communities will help to maintain programs.

Mr. Turcotte thanked the committee members for their continued work.

I. RESIGNATIONS

1. Angela Bell, Culinary Arts Teacher from OOB High School

Mr. Difusco reported that interviewing had started and that they were working to fill the position. He felt they had some good candidates.

J. APPOINTMENTS

1. Karen Alterisio, High School Secretary to the Principal
2. Volunteers
 - a. Jason Webber, Football, Certified Coach
 - b. Steve Labbe, Football, Certified Coach
 - c. Ken Blow, Football
 - d. Matt Moon, Soccer
 - e. Dave Goyet, Golf

Dennis Robillard thanked all of the volunteers for their time.

K. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None.

Mr. Turcotte requested to have a meeting to discuss salary adjustments, course requirements, etc., which he believes falls under the policy committee.

L. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

Jameson Elementary: Nothing to add.

Patricia Clark pointed out that, despite talks of declining enrollment, there were 75 kindergartners this year. She stated that it was tough with eighteen to nineteen children per class, but that they were having a good time.

Loranger Middle School: Nothing to add.

Old Orchard Beach High School:

Mr. Difusco stated that the Safe Harbor numbers shown in the school's annual progress report referred to students who received reduced or free lunch and was not related to any Special Education program.

He added that Old Orchard Beach has been working with UNE and that UNE is putting together a survey, which is not, yet, complete, listing the top 10 ways the program could benefit both schools.

Laura Bolduc congratulated the students who traveled to Madison for their sportsmanship.

Special Education: Nothing to add.

Laura expressed hope that all would go well with the No child Left Behind changes.

M. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Turcotte stated that at the last meeting Mr. Descoteaux was unable to attend, but that he will be asked to provide regular updates.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to accept financial reports for the month ending July 31, 2008 until audit. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to table the financial reports for the month ending August 31, 2008 until reviewed. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous

N. POLICIES

Mr. Turcotte stated that a meeting needed to be scheduled regarding the agenda. He stated that with this meeting's agenda, he had tried to establish core agenda items and that he is trying to get his office accustomed to items that will always appear on the agenda. He stated that the agenda could also be used as minutes.

Laura Bolduc stated that there is already a policy regarding the agenda format, but that one of the first issues for the policy committee to address might be revising the format. She stated that the policy committee was made up of administrators from the middle school and the high school, a student representative, a community member, and two board members. She said that the Chairman of the Board was the Chair of the Policy committee. In the past, committee meetings were usually about an hour, and that over the years, Old Orchard Beach had created a great policy manual.

Mr. Turcotte stated he would put group together and pick a date for a policy revision committee.

O. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Turcotte stated there was nothing in this section at this time, but in reorganizing the agenda, he felt that this item might be a helpful tool to be added.

Laura Bolduc stated there is a policy regarding adding agenda items.

Laura Bolduc stated that she had requested previously to have scheduling a workshop with legal counsel to discuss the Board Members' responsibilities and limitations added to the agenda. She stated that it might be beneficial to have such a meeting scheduled for November – sometime between Election Day and the next Board meeting so that it can be attended by both the current Board members and the incoming members. She stated that the November meeting is on the 12th. She emphasized the importance of Board members knowing their roles and legal aspects.

Mr. Turcotte asked if the public should be invited.

Patricia Clark stated the public should be invited.

Laura Bolduc suggested it might be better viewed as a workshop/training opportunity with legal counsel.

Mr. Turcotte stated he would arrange the scheduling of the meeting.

Deb Evans stated she would like to hear from some of the high school students regarding the RSU to find out what their opinion is.

Laura Bolduc suggested providing some "education" to the students.

Mr. Turcotte stated he would be willing to do a workshop with the Student Counsel.

Dennis Robillard asked if the Student Representative had been given a chance to speak.

Mr. Turcotte stated that he just realized that the Student Representative was new.

James McDermott introduced himself stating he is a junior at the high school, and that this is his first Board meeting as student representative. He reported that he was selected by the Student Counsel to represent the students on the School Board. He stated he was "happy to be here" and hoped he could help out.

Mr. Turcotte asked Mr. McDermott if he had an interest in government.

Mr. McDermott stated "some."

Mr. Robillard reminded Mr. McDermott that the student representative typically provides a written report to the Board.

Laura stated in addition to the one page report, the student representative has, historically, participated in all issues, and that the Board does want the student perspective.

Mr. McDermott provided a verbal report regarding Homecoming week, which, this year, was the week of September 22nd through 27th. The theme for homecoming was "Cruising the Caribbean." Activities for the week were to include outside activities on Wednesday, decorating on Thursday, a pep rally and bonfire on Friday followed by the game at 8:00 pm, and the homecoming dance on Saturday in the high school gym from 7:00 pm to midnight.

Mr. Robillard requested to have discussion of a new phone system added to the next agenda.

Mr. Turcotte stated that they would be looking into locking in fuel prices this week. Gasoline was quoted, but not heating oil. He said he would send an email, but already believed the quote was high.

P. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Regular Monthly School Board Meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 8th, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Town Council Chambers.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to adjourn at 8:27 pm. Laura Bolduc (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

I, Wendy Brown, Secretary to the School Board, do certify the foregoing document consisting of six (6) pages is a true copy of the original minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the School Board, which was held on September 10, 2008