

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH SCHOOL BOARD
OOB TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 9, 2008 – 7:00 PM
6:30 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION: Negotiation updates**

ATTENDANCE: Chair Kay Dutton, Laura Bolduc, Debbie Evans, Dennis Robillard, Patricia Clark, Supt. Eric Matthews; Administrators: Donna Ford, Patricia Hayden, Michael Pulsifer, Lloyd Crocker, Richard DiFusco, Ellen Bell (Student Council Representative); Dean Plante, John Nye and guests.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER The Regular Monthly Meeting of April 9, 2008 was called to order at 7:20 pm by Chair, Kay Dutton following the executive session that ended at 7:15.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Negotiation updates

4. EMERGENT ITEMS - Presentation to Peggy Berry

Laura Bolduc thanked Peggy for her twenty-two years of service as a bus driver for the Old Orchard Beach School Department. Laura stated that her service was appreciated. Peggy was presented with a plaque which read: *Margaret "Peggy" Berry Thank you for your twenty-two years of faithful service to the children of Old Orchard Beach.* Eric Matthews stated she would be missed and to enjoy retirement. Peggy thanked the Board for the plaque and thanked everyone for coming.

5. MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2008

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to accept the March 12, 2008 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes as presented. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

6. ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS

Jameson Elementary School – Nothing to add.

Loranger Middle School – Nothing to add.

Old Orchard Beach High School – Nothing to add.

Curriculum Coordinator – Nothing to add.

Student Representative – Nothing to add.

7. CITIZEN FORUM

Earle Towle, Treasurer of the American Legion in Old Orchard Beach, presented the Board with a check for \$1500, \$500 of which was to be distributed to each of the three school libraries, in honor of April: Children and Youth Month.

Nikki MacDonald, eighth grade Language Arts teacher, informed the Board that Rebecca Whitman had won the \$100 first prize for the Family Essay contest and Brittany Small won second place.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Consolidation Update

Eric Matthews stated that they had requested and been granted an extension until June 13th to submit our completed consolidation plan. The hope is to get the referendum on the ballot for the summer. He stated that the next meeting will be open to the public. Kay Dutton stated that the

next meeting will be at the high school and requested to use the technology room. Mr. DiFusco stated that he would check the Adult Education schedule.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Junior Achievement Project – Pathways

Josh thanked the School Board, and Dennis Robillard in particular, for all of the help given to the Jr. Achievement Program. He stated that he had been serving as the CEO for the program and in addition to many other skills, including teamwork, he had learned leadership and organizational skills.

Dennis Robillard stated he has had a very positive experience working with the kids. He asked Josh what the Alternative Education program meant to him. Josh stated he probably wouldn't be in school if it weren't for Alternative Education.

Chelsea stated that the students had made seventy-five trellises, which they were offering for sale and asked that any one who was interested call the school.

Dennis Robillard stated he was very impressed by the students. He stated that they developed the product, decided on the name, chose the slogan "the playground for your plants", and designed the logo.

Patricia Clark stated that a flyer was sent home in her daughter's backpack.

Laura Bolduc asked where the production facility was. Josh and Chelsea said the trellises were made at the school.

Dennis Robillard asked what they had planned to do with the money. Josh stated that 15% was going to charity, and that they were looking at camps for troubled kids. The rest was being used for an end-of-the-year dinner for the students, and to help the family of a previous student.

B. 2008-2009 School Calendar

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to table the 2008-2009 School Calendar for further information and for discussion. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

C. Safe Routes to School Grant

Mary Ann Conroy stated that the construction of the road improvements along E.E. Cummings Boulevard was scheduled to begin in July. The plan is to rebuild the road, add bike lanes, and move the fence back in an effort to make the area more obviously a school zone, especially with regard to town trucks on the road.

Kay Dutton asked if the ballpark area will be affected. Mary Ann Conroy responded no.

Patricia Clark stated that the speed zones were not set by the town, but rather by the State. The State mandated speed limit in a school zone is 25 mph, but the current posted speed limit in that area is 30 mph. Mary Ann Conroy replied that the posted speed limit will be changed to 25 mph and 15 mph when flashing. The object of the plan is to rebuild the road to make it more obviously a school zone.

Laura Bolduc asked how wide the road will be. Mary Ann Conroy stated there will be two 11 foot lanes with an 8 foot wide parking area on one side. Laura Bolduc expressed concern that the road will not be wide enough. Mary Ann Conroy explained that the road will conform to the DOT standard. Laura Bolduc reiterated her concern with regard to long-term safety with the road being narrowed.

Patricia Clark asked if it would be possible to make the road a foot wider. Mary Ann Conroy stated 11 ft is plenty of space, if the trucks slow down. She added that trucks are being encouraged to take Smithwheel Road rather than E.E. Cummings

Laura Bolduc expressed concerns regarding inconveniencing residents who just purchased housing in that area. Mary Ann Conroy stated that the residents will be able to enjoy the walking and bath paths. In addition, water and sewer lines will be placed to allow for future bathroom facilities at the football field.

D. Third Grade Parent-Teacher Conferences

Mr. Matthews stated that Mr. Pulsifer could not be at the Board meeting, but that he had included a packet that outlined his proposal for connecting the buildings. His plan is to model the third grade parent-teacher conferences at Jameson after Loranger's conferences so that parents can become accustomed to meeting in that way. Mr. Pulsifer was requesting to change the current third grade parent-teacher format and Mr. Matthews supported this idea.

Patricia Clark asked if teachers have time to assess the students that early in the year.

Mike Flaherty, team leader for 3rd grade, stated that 3rd grade falls into the same Maine Learning Results span as 4th and 5th grade. He added that there are many changes for the third grade students that parents may not know about, and that meeting with the parents earlier will give them the opportunity to discuss these items sooner.

Laura Bolduc asked how long the meeting would need to be. Mike Flaherty replied the meetings would be about twenty minutes. Patricia Clark asked if twenty minutes was enough time. Mike Flaherty stated yes, most of the time.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to change parent-teacher conferences per Mr. Pulsifer's request. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

E. Kindergarten Registration

Mr. Matthews stated that based on the birth-rate information provided by Mr. Pulsifer that the estimated kindergarten enrollment would be about ninety-three children.

F. Appointment of Probationary Teachers

Mr. Matthews recommended tabling the item and suggested a special meeting on Wednesday, April 16th to allow time for the issue to be better advertised.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to schedule a special meeting and review of policy GCOA. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

A citizen asked how he could have input regarding the issue if the item was to be discussed at another time. Mr. Matthews stated he could come to the meeting. Patricia Clark added the purpose of the special meeting is to allow time to advertise.

G. Resignation of Special Education Teacher – J. Floyd

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to accept the resignation with regret. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

**H. First Reading of Policies:
(1) EEA Transportation**

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to accept the changes to and the first reading of the EEA Transportation policy. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

(2) IJNDB-R Acceptable Use of Computers, Networks and Electronic Communication

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the changes to and first reading of IJNDB-R Acceptable Use of Computers, Networks, and Electronic Communication policy. Debbie Evans (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

I. Workshop – School Board Role – Confidential Information

Laura Bolduc requested to have a workshop with the Board's legal counsel to review the School Board's role and the proper chain of command when dealing the parental grievances. She stated concerns regarding recent communications in which the Board was made privy to information that could have compromised the Board's objectivity.

Patricia Clark stated that it is not the Board members who need to be advised, but rather the community and the parents. Laura Bolduc stated that the purpose of the workshop would be to educate the Board members regarding information they should and should not see so that they could better educate the public regarding how to air their grievances.

Eric Matthews stated he would be happy to set up the workshop, if he could have a few dates. Dennis Robillard suggested prior to the next School Board meeting. The meeting was set for Wednesday, May 14 at 5:30 with the alternative dates of May 7 and May 21.

J. Possible Reduction of Force Scenarios

Eric Matthews stated the document with the proposed cuts was included in the packet. It appears at this time, based on the recommendation of the Town Manager Steve Gunty, that the school budget will only be approved for \$9.5 million of the \$10.2 million requested. As such, every department was affected.

Dean Plante, Vice President of the Teacher's Association, and John Nye, President of the Teacher's Association, presented a slide show presentation that outlined an alternative solution. Mr. Plante stated that the teacher's proposal had a more student-centric solution, and rather than cutting programs that provided enrichment experiences for the children, they felt that additional cuts on the administrative side made more sense. Mr. Plante and Mr. Nye walked through their proposal.

Mr. Plante stated that with the consolidation looming, he believed it would be best to look out for the interests of the students. He stated that if we consolidated and had cut all of the programs the administration was proposing, we would not get those programs back. Mr. Plante said it would be better to cut positions that would be reinstated after the RSU, such as the Curriculum Coordinator, than to cut the elementary music program.

Eric Matthews stated Bill 1932 will be going to public referendum and requested permission from the Board to authorize him to turn the document over to the Town Clerk. He stated that he would review the cost centers with the Board at the April 15 meeting.

Kay Dutton asked if the numbers on the form would be the numbers that would be used if it is approved. Mr. Matthews stated that the Board was only voting to approve use of the form and that the numbers would be filled in later. Kay Dutton stated the Town Clerk has ten days to prepare for the public vote.

Patricia Clark stated that it does not matter what the school asks for in terms of budget. It is up to the public. Mr. Matthews stated it has always been that way. Mr. Plante requested a copy of the

form so that the Teacher's Association could streamline their proposal.

Kay Dutton asked if the budget would be going to Town Referendum on June 10. Eric Matthews replied yes. Kay Dutton asked what budget be used if the public voted against the proposed budget. Mr. Matthews stated that the budget would revert to the budget the School Board had proposed until a new budget was passed.

Laura Bolduc asked where the Alternative Education program would be funded if it was no longer part of the Adult Education program. Mr. Matthews stated he did not know, but would find out.

Kay Dutton asked if this budget would be voted on as a line item budget. Eric Matthews responded that he did not know for certain as there were several loopholes, but he felt it may be a bottom line budget.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to provide the Town Clerk with the School Budget Validation Referendum form Pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1486(2) and 2307. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. School Department Report

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the School Department Report for the month ending March 31, 2008 until audit. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

B. Consolidated Lunch Report

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept the Consolidated Lunch Report for the month ending March 31, 2008 until audit. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

C. Adult Education Report

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the Adult Education Report for the month ending March 31, 2008 until audit. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

11. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Letter from Mr. & Mrs. Lampert

This letter was a testimony to the tremendous work that the high school did in the latest crisis.

B. Long Term Sub Jameson School Special Ed. – T. Emory

Tracie Emory will be filling in for the rest of the year for Megan Quackenbush.

C. School Health Coordinator Report

Report from Jackie Tselikis, School Health Coordinator

12. ADJOURNMENT

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to adjourn at 8:48 pm. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

I, Wendy Brown, Secretary to the School Board, do certify the foregoing document consisting of five (5) pages is a true copy of the original minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the School Board, which was held on April 9, 2008

