

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH SCHOOL BOARD  
OLD ORCHARD BEACH TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 7:00 PM**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chair Kay Dutton; Board Members: Debbie Evans, Patricia Clark, and Dennis Robillard; John R. Turcotte, Superintendent; Administrators: Dick 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; and guests.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of October 8, 2008 was called to order by Chair Kay Dutton at 7:04 pm.

**2. PLEDGE OR ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES TO MEETINGS**

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2008 Regular Monthly Meeting as written. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

Deb Evans (motioned) to table the approval of the September 16, 2008 meeting minutes. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept the September 18, 2008 Special Meeting minutes as written. Deb Evans (seconded). Vote passed three for and one abstention. Patricia Clark abstained as she was not present for the meeting.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Turcotte stated that he had received a letter from the Old Orchard Beach Educational Association regarding contract negotiations. He stated it was standard protocol and the letter was just informing the administration of the upcoming contract negotiations and the Association's intent to bargain.

Dennis Robillard stated that he hoped negotiations would go smoothly.

## **7. RESIGNATIONS**

The Board was informed of the resignation of the High school cheering coach.

## **8. APPOINTMENTS**

None.

## **9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Turcotte provided paperwork/handouts to follow along.

With regard to consolidation, Mr. Turcotte stated that meetings have been held. Public hearings were scheduled for October 21 and 23.

Mr. Turcotte stated that he met with the Student Counsel. The students reported that they did not know what was going on with the consolidation and that there had not been much discussion at home with their parents. The students had asked "high quality" questions. They requested that Mr. Turcotte discuss plans with the rest of the student body and suggested meeting with English classes as every student has an English class, it would be smaller groups, and the alternative, an assembly, would be "too boring." One big issue was that the students did not understand where the consolidation talks had come from. Mr. Turcotte stated he would follow-up.

Mr. Turcotte stated that he has been working with Jack to try to predict the sports teams. He stated that scheduling of games happens well in advance of the season, which can be difficult, as they often do not know what the interest will be. Based on the interest inventory conducted at the school, however, an expansion team for baseball in the spring is anticipated.

Mr. Turcotte reported that contract negotiations are 99.9% complete and that they are down to "word smithing and review." A meeting has been tentatively scheduled for November 12 in the Superintendent's office. Roger Kelley is to ask for voter ratification and will be having a workshop for all supervisors and support staff personnel.

Mr. Turcotte believes there was a loss to the scholarship fund due to the stock market fluctuations.

Mr. Turcotte informed the school board of the annual School Board Conference in Augusta.

Mr. Turcotte handed out insurance forms for each board member to complete and return.

Mr. Turcotte discussed the recent teacher workshops, which included Smart Board Training and Curriculum Mapping, both of which are wonderful teaching tools. The staff worked on curriculum development and the new federal initiative towards structuring good classroom practices. He stated that they invited the Chief of Administration of Auburn Alternative School to speak regarding being aware of students' needs, intervention, and tailoring approaches for different students' needs.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the Superintendent's report. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous

## **10. STUDENT REPORT**

Mr. McDermott reported on several student extra-curricular activities and sports. He also stated that MWA testing and PSATs were the next week.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept the Student Report. Deb Evans (seconded). The vote was unanimous

## **11. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS**

**Jameson Elementary School:** Nothing to add.

Patricia Clark asked about the playground renovations.

Mr. Pulsifer stated that the equipment was being updated, and that wood chips had been donated to the school by the Conservation Commission.

**Loranger Middle School:** Nothing to add.

Mr. Crocker expressed appreciation to the Board for approval of the fifth graders' trip to the Ferry Beach Ecology School in September and for the eighth graders' annual Camp Kieve trip. He stated that both events went well and were wonderful experiences for the students.

**Old Orchard Beach High School:** Nothing to add.

Dennis Robillard asked if the freshman cook out attendance had been better.

Mr. Difusco stated that sixty parents had attended. There are eighty students in the class.

Dennis Robillard stated it was a great program and to "keep it up."

### **Special Education:**

Donna Ford reported that the schools had been the recipients of a grant to provide mental health services. Old Orchard Beach will serve as the pilot school and among other things, the program will provide mental health services to students, provide surveys for students and staff, and check the climate of the school. She stated that it was a "pretty exciting" opportunity.

**Adult Education:** Nothing to add.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept Administrator's Reports. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous

## **12. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Dick Descoteaux reported that he had concerns regarding the supply accounts.

Jay Kelley stated that, while there were not immediate concerns, the Board needed to be aware that in February, March and April, the supply account may be experiencing some shortages. For example, for paper towels, alone, the schools are using 25 to 30 cases,

which amount to \$7000 of the \$23,000 budget. He reported that he was not given any input with regard to actual usage, but was given the budget amount by Mr. Matthews.

Kay Dutton asked Mr. Turcotte to look into the supply account and report where there might be shortfalls.

Mr. Descoteaux stated that he would provide a more in depth report comparing last year with this year.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept financial reports as presented. Deb Evans (seconded). The vote was unanimous

Kay Dutton asked Mr. Descoteaux to look at food services budget to be sure that there would not be any shortages.

Mr. Descoteaux stated that food services may have problems, adding that the cost of deliveries have also increased, but there were no problems to report at this time.

### **13. POLICIES**

Mr. Turcotte stated that there will be a new policy regarding the agenda in the near future, but that they will be out of compliance with policy at least one more time.

Mr. Turcotte stated that he had been in discussion with Mr. Difusco regarding changing graduation requirements.

Mr. Difusco stated that the proposed change, as outlined in the packet, was to eliminate freshman science as a graduation requirement, although freshmen would still be required to take the course.

In addition, freshmen are currently required to complete a social studies class and the proposed change is to make this a senior year requirement. The feeling is that seniors would benefit from a social studies/government class.

Kay Dutton asked if discontinuing the freshman science class might hinder the students in more advanced science classes later.

Mr. Difusco reiterated that the freshmen would still take the class. It just would not be a graduation requirement.

Kay asked if by not requiring that the students pass the course to earn graduation credit, might this be what causes them to fail later.

Mr. McDermott stated that the freshman level course was not a prerequisite for future classes, adding that the course only touched on the basics, but did not offer any specific information that would be necessary for understanding more advanced scientific studies. He also stated that if a student fails freshman science, and is therefore required to repeat it in a later year, the student would be prevented from taking a more advanced course.

Mr. Crocker stated that Mr. McDermott is correct and that the science courses are not sequential like mathematics courses. He added that the freshman science course is not a foundation.

Mr. Turcotte stated that class, as a graduation requirement, was likely originally adopted to boost MEA test results. He reiterated that the class was not being discontinued, and that it would still be offered to freshmen, but that the idea was to take it off of the list of required courses for graduation.

Patricia Clark (motioned) accept the first reading of the IKF Graduation policy. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous

#### **14. OOB HIGH SCHOOL – Quebec City Trip**

Ms. Butler requested permission to organize the annual French IV class trip to Quebec City. As in the past, it is a collaborative effort between Old Orchard Beach and Cumberland which will reduce the overall cost. Estimated cost is \$350 per student. There are currently there are eight students who will be going.

Mr. Difusco stated his strong support of the program.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to approve the trip to Quebec City for the French IV class in April 2009. Deb Evans (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

#### **15. LMS – STIPEND POSITION – EXPANSION SOCCER TEAM**

Mr. Turcotte stated the funds for this position will be taken from the unused funds set aside for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Field Hockey Team.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to approve stipend for girls soccer team to be paid for out of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade hockey team stipend, which was not needed. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

#### **16. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next school board meeting is scheduled for November 12.

There is to be a public hearing on October 21 at 6:30 at the Burns School in Saco, and on October 23 at 7:00.

#### **17. ADJOURNMENT**

Patricia Clark (motioned) to adjourn at 8:17 pm. Deb Evans (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

The undersigned certify that 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 October 8, 2008

---

Kay Dutton, Board Chairperson

---

Jack Turcotte, Board Secretary