

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH SCHOOL BOARD
OOB TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
NOVEMBER 15, 2007 – 7:00 PM**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Chair Laura Bolduc, Kay Dutton, Sharri MacDonald, Dennis Robillard, Patricia Clark, Supt. Eric Matthews; Administrators: Donna Ford, Patricia Hayden, Michael Pulsifer, Lloyd Crocker, Richard DiFusco, Ellen Bell (Student Council Representative), Jason Webber, and Mary Ann Conroy.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Monthly Meeting of November 15, 2007 was called to order at 7:06 pm by Chair, Laura Bolduc.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. EMERGENT ITEMS None

4. MINUTES of REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2007

Sharri MacDonald (motioned) to accept the October 18, 2007 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes as they were written. Kay Dutton (seconded). The vote was three in favor and two abstentions. (Dennis Robillard and Patricia Clark abstained).

5. ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS

Old Orchard Beach High School: Nothing to add.

Loranger Middle School: Mr. Crocker reported the middle school participated in a healthy choices week. He wished to recognize Julie Smyth who organized the event and expressed his belief that the week helped to promote a sense of school spirit.

Laura Bolduc congratulated George Shabo for being recognized by the Maine Coalition for Excellence.

Jameson Elementary School: Nothing to add

Dennis Robillard congratulated Mr. Pulsifer on a job well done with the Jameson Trail Bridgework. Patricia Clark asked if shades were simply pulled during lockdown drills, and Mr. Pulsifer said “yes”.

High School:

Special Ed: Nothing to add.

Curriculum Coordinator: Nothing to add.

Student Report: Nothing to add.

6. CITIZEN FORUM – None.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Submission of School Consolidation Partial Plan

Mr. Matthews stated that he did not receive the complete state template until today. He explained that he understood the Board’s frustration regarding having to vote on a plan that they had not had the opportunity to review. He assured the Board that they would have something prior to December 1 and asked the Board if they would like to schedule a special meeting on Friday 11/30/07, after they’d had a chance to review a plan.

Laura Bolduc stated that she is not opposed to tabling the item, but added that she will be going out of town and would not be available for a special session at the end of the week.

Kay Dutton wished to have a written plan before her to vote on. Patricia Clark stated she would like to see the plan before voting, as well. Laura Bolduc suggested scheduling a meeting after Monday for the four available members.

Mr. Matthews stated he can fax their approved plan to the state.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to table approval of partial plan until the 11/30/07 special meeting. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Loranger Middle School Lap Top Protection Plan

Mr. Matthews stated that per State requirements, schools must have a procedure in place that will allow the students to take home their computers. Unfortunately, the school does not have it in the budget to fix or replace broken or lost computers. As such, they have been looking into an insurance program. Parents will be offered an insurance option for \$50 with a sliding scale to accommodate lower income families. The other option is that parents do not allow their children to take the laptops home. The letter that was recently sent home to parents detailing the plan was included in the Board members' packets.

Laura Bolduc asked about item thirteen, which addresses revocation of the privilege of taking laptops home if they are not returned. She asked if the revocation was indefinite or extending only until the item was returned. Mr. Matthews stated that the intent was to extend for the duration of the year. Laura Bolduc stated she felt that extending the punishment for the duration of the year would not be an appropriate learning tool. Patricia Clark stated she thought it was a little extreme.

Mr. Crocker clarified that the intent was not to revoke students' ability to take the laptops home for the entire year, but that the student would need to earn the privilege back. Laura Bolduc suggested rewording the item because the current wording makes it seem as if it would be forever. Mr. Crocker stated he would look into the wording and get back to the Board.

Laura Bolduc stated that item fourteen addresses strikes, which seems to contradict item thirteen. She stated that the policy needs to be very clear about what the consequences are. Mr. Crocker agreed that the policy in that area was not very well articulated and stated that they would better define a strike system.

Mr. Matthews stated that the committee saw a big difference between a \$50 textbook and a \$1300 laptop. The committee felt a strong message needed to be sent to the students. Laura Bolduc stated that the message should apply to damage, but not necessarily to forgetfulness. She asked when the letter was going to the parents. Mr. Matthews stated that the letter went out Nov. 13th. Laura Bolduc stated that clarification of the policy should be addressed at the next Parents' Meeting.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the sign-out procedures with the exception of items thirteen and fourteen. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

B. High School Fund Raisers

Mr. Matthews stated he does not typically bring fund raiser requests to the Board, but as these two involve local businesses, he felt it should be brought before them.

(1) Applebee's Breakfast

Cheerleaders want to have a pancake breakfast. The restaurant would keep one dollar of the profits with the rest going to the school. The fund raiser would be a good way to promote community involvement and would be positive for both the school and the restaurant.

Patricia Clark asked why the breakfast was being slotted for a Sunday. Ellen Bell stated that people often associate Sundays with eating out for breakfast.

Sharri MacDonald stated that the breakfast was a good idea. It was something different and could turn out to be a good community endeavor, as it would be an opportunity to bring people together. In addition, it would not cost the school anything because it was not being held at the school.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to allow the cheerleaders to continue with the Applebee's pancake breakfast fund raiser following guidelines set forth by Applebee's. Kay Dutton (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

(2) Redemption Cards

Laura Bolduc stated that it didn't seem as if the school would benefit as much from the project as would the organizer. In addition, as the organizer would be doing all of the work of gathering business offers, the school would have no control over how the school and community were being represented and questioned who would be making the decision about what kinds of items were offered. Mr. Matthews stated that was why a similar project was turned down by the Board when requested two years ago.

Kay Dutton suggested that the school/community organize this sort of fund raiser without the assistance of this outside group. That way the students would do the work and the school would keep all of the profits. Laura Bolduc stated she was opposed to the fund raiser until they knew more about the company. Dennis Robillard stated that it would be worthwhile to contact the Better Business Bureau to check up on the company.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to deny the fundraiser until the Board was able to obtain more information on the reputation of the person who will be doing the program. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

C. Gifted and Talented Position/Program

Mr. Matthews stated that he has received many calls from parents regarding the Gifted and Talented Program that was cut during the budgeting process. The issue is that the Gifted and Talented program is an unfunded mandate, but there is very little guidance from the state regarding program requirements. The only Gifted and Talented program still available is the Regional Fine Arts program, which is regional, not local.

Sharri MacDonald suggested rather than having one teacher overseeing the entire Gifted and Talented program, that a group of teachers could work together to offer students options that might be a more feasible option. Mr. Matthews stated he liked that idea because it would support the community-building initiative.

D. Curriculum Mapping Update

Patricia Hayden explained the web-based program called Curriculum Mapper which is currently being used by the teachers for planning purposes. Highlights of the software include: the ability to use the program in subsequent years with modifications; ability for individual districts to tailor the program to fit needs; ability to access maps used by other districts, teachers and even other states for similar lesson plans; a listing of skills sets not just at grade level, but also by class; ability to upload resource materials like tests and worksheets; and in the future, the ability for students and/or parents to download materials from remote locations.

The program benefits teachers who are moving from one grade level to another, as it will outline what is usually covered at that level. In addition, if a teacher is starting a new unit on a new topic, the teacher can access the program, find similar lesson plans, including resource materials and recommendations, and often the teacher's contact information is also present so that teachers can contact one another for information and/or assistance.

Typically, lesson plans and curriculum mapping have been stored in binders. Having the information online makes it more easily accessible and more dynamic, and making changes is more easily accomplished. Finally, using the software makes it easier to ensure that the curriculum is aligned with the Maine Learning results.

Laura Bolduc stated the program seems to be a wonderful resource. She asked if there is a time-frame for completion. Patricia Hayden stated it is a multi-year program that will be added to. Once teachers learn how to navigate the program, it doesn't take much time. She stated that teachers are handling the process differently with some working individually and others in a group. For example, the fourth grade teachers had approached the project as a collaboration and will have one map for each subject rather than one per teacher.

Sharri MacDonald stated that she liked the fact that Old Orchard Beach was on the cutting edge. Patricia Hayden stated that a license has been purchased for each teacher and that Title IID funds from the state were used to fund the licenses this year.

E. Superintendent's Contract

Laura Bolduc stated that a couple of members of the School Board have asked to review the Superintendent's contract.

Sharri MacDonald suggested extending the contract to three years, as is usual in neighboring districts, especially with what's going on with the consolidation talks. Laura Bolduc stated she would support a three year contract with the same terms as the two year contract. Dennis Robillard suggested doing an evaluation before giving a contract extension. Laura Bolduc stated that she was not opposed to moving forward without an evaluation. She stated that the contract and performance evaluation were two separate things.

Sharri MacDonald (motioned) to extend the Superintendent's contract to three years. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was four approved and one opposed (D. Robillard opposed).

F. Expansion Teams

Donna Moutsatsos, Loranger AD, requested an expansion team for the basketball season, due to the numbers who signed up for basketball and the no cut policy. Mr. Matthews stated there is no money in the stipend account for this project; however, if the Board wished to support the expansion teams, there is other money available.

Kay Dutton asked what the program costs. Mr. Matthews stated the stipend is \$700 for two coaches at \$350 each. Kay Dutton asked how many students the program supports. Mr. Matthews stated the team currently has twenty-two students. Kay Dutton asked if there are any coaches available. Mr. Matthews stated the position would be posted internally, and typically someone steps forward.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to grant two expansion teams. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

G. Trails Committee – Safe Routes to School Grant

Mary Ann Conroy, Director of Public Works, explained that the community was given a grant totaling \$113,000 to develop a biking/walking path/trail along E. Emerson Cummings Boulevard from Saco Avenue to Dirigo Drive. In addition to the landscaping changes, the program would include a community awareness initiative involving Public Works and businesses who regularly use the road. Ms. Conroy emphasized that the project was costing the community nothing.

Laura Bolduc asked how wide E. Emerson Cummings Boulevard is. Ms. Conroy responded the road is 28 ft wide. Laura Bolduc expressed concerns regarding the land that had already been designated wetlands or conservation land.

Jason Webber, Recreation Department Director, stated that because this use is not taking land away from the citizens, and because the paths will still be open green space, it is not affected by the Land Use Conservation Act.

Dennis Robillard asked when the plan was scheduled to go forward. Ms. Conroy stated the plans can be finalized when the Board agrees that they are ready to go forward with the project.

Laura Bolduc asked if anyone from the school department had been part of the planning. Mr. Matthews stated that he had been made aware of the plans. Additionally, the project would tie in with the Jameson Trail work being done by Mr. Pulsifer. He stated that the grant was approved at the beginning of October, and that the scope of the project had changed since the initial phases of the project because they didn't think they would get such a large grant.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to approve going forward with the Trails Project. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

H. Recreation Room Gift from UNUM

Jason Webber stated the insurance company UNUM donated several pieces of industrial-sized, high quality exercise equipment, including treadmills and steppers with an estimated value of over \$500 each. He stated that the equipment was being used by community members and also by several different grade levels. He requested permission to draft a thank you letter from the Board.

Dennis Robillard asked how UNUM came to offer the equipment to Old Orchard Beach. Mr. Webber stated that the maintenance man also works for UNUM, and when he saw they were replacing their equipment, he requested it for the Old Orchard Beach Recreation Department.

Kay Dutton asked if the facility would be open to the community. Jason Webber stated the room is open to adult community members from 10:00 to 1:00 for the annual recreation fee of \$10.

Laura Bolduc stated she would be happy to sign a letter.

I. Recognition of School Board Member

Laura Bolduc recognized Sharri MacDonald for her service to the Old Orchard Beach School Board. Sharri MacDonald was presented a plaque on behalf of the Board and the town with thanks for her service to the children of Old Orchard Beach. Laura Bolduc stated that Sharri MacDonald left a legacy with the work she accomplished on the web page. Laura Bolduc stated that she was happy to see Sharri serving as a Town Councilor and feels Sharri will represent the town well.

Sharri MacDonald expressed her appreciation and added that she is looking forward to working with the School Board as a member of the Town Council. Dennis Robillard thanked Sharri and wished her good luck.

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Mr. Matthews stated that at the last meeting, Kay Dutton had asked about the increase in insurance. He stated that as he had suspected, the increase was a result of not budgeting enough to account for the percent of increase and the addition of the boiler plate policy. He stated that adjustments will be made in the next year, and added that he is certain the school will not be over budget at the end of the year.

A. School Department Report

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the School Department Report for the month ending October 31, 2007 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 October 31, 2007 until audit. Sharri MacDonald (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

C. Adult Education Report

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the Adult Education Report for the month ending October 31, 2007 until audit. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

10. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Loranger Middle School Student Teacher Steven Lemieux, a student at USM, will be working as a student teacher with George Shabo from March until May.

B. Appointments:

- (1) Jameson School Ed Tech I
- (2) H.S. Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Coach

C. Resignations:

(1) **High School Math Department Head** Duane Simonds resigned as Math Department Coordinator.

(2) **H.S. Coaching Positions: Tennis and Freshman Basketball** Jason Webber resigned as coach of the tennis team and the freshman basketball team.

D. Other

Laura Bolduc stated that both George Shabo and an Old Orchard Beach alumni who is also a Presidential Award Candidate, would be at the luncheon.

Mr. Matthews reminded the Board of the swearing in of the new member on Monday night.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Sharri MacDonald (motioned) to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

I, Wendy Brown, Secretary to the School Board, do certify the foregoing document consisting of six pages is a true copy of the original minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the School Board, which was held on November 15, 2007.