

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH SCHOOL BOARD
OOB TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
DECEMBER 12, 2007 – 7:00 PM**

Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Chair Kay Dutton, Vice Chr. Laura Bolduc, Patricia Clark, Deb Evans, Dennis Robillard, Supt. Eric Matthews; Administrators: Donna Ford, Patricia Hayden, Michael Pulsifer, Lloyd Crocker, Richard DiFusco, Ellen Bell (Student Council Representative).

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Monthly Meeting of December 12, 2007 was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair, Kay Dutton.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board observed a moment of silence in memory of Dotty Spencer, Loranger Middle School secretary who recently passed.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The executive session was canceled.

4. EMERGENT ITEMS

None.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS:

A. MINUTES of REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2007

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept the November 15, 2007 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes as they were written. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was four in favor and one abstention (D. Evans).

B. MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2007

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the November 19, 2007 Special Meeting minutes as they were written. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

6. ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS

Old Orchard Beach High School: Mr. Difusco reported the Annual Holiday Concert would be on Monday at the high school at 7:00 pm.

Laura commended the high school on the number of college applicants, stating that forty-one out of the sixty-seven seniors was impressive. Dennis Robillard commended the football team for the Sportsmanship Award.

Loranger Middle School: Nothing to add.

Dennis Robillard reported attending the recent luncheon at a local nursing home where the jazz band played. He stated that the performance was very good.

Jameson Elementary School: Nothing to add.

Dennis Robillard commended all involved with the Wreaths Across America project, stating that everything seemed to go very well, and the volunteers really appreciated seeing the children.

Patricia Clark asked if there was a declining enrollment at Jameson School. Mr. Pulsifer said that enrollment has been declining for the past ten years, but that this year's enrollment has actually increased.

Special Ed: Nothing to add.

Curriculum Coordinator:

Mr. Difusco commented on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results. He stated that the high school had not met the State's testing standards. He explained that the high school has been using the SATs for the past two years instead of the Maine Educational assessment (MEA). Unfortunately, the results are not provided to the school in the same way, and so administrators do not always know where the weak areas are. The current senior class has sixty-seven students out of which five students scored 1140, which is two points below the "meet standards" cut-off and eight students scored 1138, which did not meet the standard.

Mr. Difusco stated that the school is working with the Department of Education to help determine where students need work. In addition, students will be taking the PSAT as a prep for the SATs. Classroom teachers will be organizing their class curriculum around reinforcing the skills tested, and students will be offered an SAT prep course. As such, students will be getting reinforcement throughout the year.

Ms. Hayden had nothing to add.

Student Report: Nothing to add.

7. CITIZEN FORUM: None

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. School Board Meeting Date

Laura Bolduc asked if the Board wished to discuss location, as well as date under this item.

Dennis Robillard stated that he was comfortable with the Town Hall Council Chambers, as the meeting place.

Laura Bolduc expressed her belief that school business belonged in the school, and that Board meetings should be at the school. She stated that the school had been given broadcast equipment and that holding the Board meetings at the school would give the students an opportunity to learn some valuable skills.

Patricia Clark expressed concern regarding lack of coverage during the summer and early in the fall because students have not been trained.

Laura Bolduc reiterated her belief that students should be learning the broadcasting skills instead of the school system paying a stipend for the meetings to be taped by someone else.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to hold School Board meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at the high school library. Deb Evans (seconded). Vote failed two to three (D. Robillard, P. Clark and K. Dutton opposed).

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to hold School Board meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at Town Hall in Council Chambers. Patricia Clark (seconded). Vote passed three to two (L. Bolduc and D. Evans opposed).

B. Update on Laptop Protection Plan

Eric Matthews reviewed the laptop discipline policy. He stated that the parent meeting was very well attended, and approximately 50 students have been taking their laptops home.

Deb Evans asked for clarification regarding downloading files. Eric Matthews stated he was not sure what controls had been put into place. Deb Evans asked Mr. Matthews if there was a policy in place regarding which kinds of files students will be permitted to download. Mr. Crocker stated that there are some files that students would need approval to download.

Eric Matthews said he would get clarification on downloading files.

C. Update on High School Technology Room

Eric Matthews said all prep has been done in the High School Tech Room and they were just waiting for furniture to arrive.

Mr. Difusco said the plan is for the lab to be up and running after holiday break. Mr. Difusco stated he is planning an Open House for the Board and Town Council members to visit the new Technology Room at the High School.

D. Update of School Consolidation Plan

Eric Matthews stated that the last Regional Planning Committee (RPC) meeting was on November 28, and at that time, Old Orchard Beach had opted not to approve the plan, as not all members had had the opportunity to review and understand what they were approving. At the special meeting on November 30, the Board voted four to nothing to approve the partial plan, which was submitted on December 1st. The document that was sent to the state was 104 pages.

Eric Matthews stated that on December 7 he was one of two Superintendents to participate in a meeting, which was organized by the Maine Municipal Association

to explain the consolidation to the towns. Four Old Orchard Beach Town Council Members also attended this meeting.

Eric Matthews stated that a Public Hearing was held in Augusta on December 12. He added that the next RPC meeting would be at Saco City Hall on December 19 at 7:00 pm.

Eric Matthews reported that overall, there is a lack of support in York County for consolidation, and that the York County Superintendent's position on consolidation has been sent to Legislators.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Transportation Committee Recommendation

Mr. Pulsifer requested on behalf of parent, Lisa St. Louis, to reduce the school bus pick-up area from 6/10 of a mile to 4/10 of a mile from the school. He stated that this is the third time such a request has been made, and it had been denied previously, but felt that this time the change should be considered. He requested consideration regarding allowing all Jameson students be allowed to ride the bus, and recommended that parents who live within 4/10 of a mile from the school be surveyed to see which ones would use the service if offered.

Laura Bolduc asked if there was enough room on the bus to accommodate additional children. Mr. Pulsifer stated that there are, maybe, twenty students on the bus, which means there is plenty of room, but that he wished to be official and have the survey completed.

Laura Bolduc recommended that the survey also include input from the bus drivers to state how many students are on the route. She stated that it might be a matter of simply adjusting stops. She asked if the bus currently stops at Pine Brook Terrace. Mr. Pulsifer stated that the bus stops at Pine Brook Terrace for kindergarten students only. He added that the concern this evening is for students who walk near the fire station.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to instruct bus drivers to provide a tally of regular riders, have parents surveyed to see who would use the bus if the service were available to them, and present the information to the Transportation Committee for consideration of reducing the bus route from 6/10 of a mile to 4/10 of a mile for Jameson students. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

Lisa St. Louis thanked the Board.

B. Audit

Laura Bolduc stated that she was pleased that the auditor found the schools' practices good. She stated that, per the auditor's recommendation, the Board might want to look at funding teacher's salaries during the summer. Eric Matthews stated that they already have a reserve to cover _ of the salaries.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to approve the audit performed by Runyon Kersteen Ouellette for the 2007 Financial Report. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

C. School Board Members Committee Assignments

Policy Revision: Dennis Robillard and Laura Bolduc; **Alternate:** Kay Dutton

OOBTA Negotiations: Laura Bolduc and Dennis Robillard

OOBESP Negotiations: Laura Bolduc and Dennis Robillard

Transportation: Patricia Clark

At Risk/Drop-Out Prevention: Patricia Clark

Adult Education Advisory: Deb Evans and Kay Dutton

ADA/504: Laura Bolduc

Adult Ed. Governing: Deb Evans

School Initiative Team: Deb Evans and Patricia Clark

Stipend Review: Dennis Robillard and Kay Dutton

Budget Process Liaison: Kay Dutton

School Safety Liaison (s): Patricia Clark and Deb Evans

School Consolidation: Kay Dutton

Patricia Clark asked how often the School Initiative Team meets. Patricia Hayden responded that it meets at 2:30 P.M. on the third Thursday of each month.

D. Mission Statement

Patricia Hayden stated that last year the School Initiative Team (SIT) worked on creating a mission statement. After five drafts, they finally settled on the current draft with six bulleted statements. For example, they changed "promoting citizenship" to "modeling citizenship", which seemed more in line with the goal of promoting community partners.

Patricia Hayden asked the Board to review the revised statement and said she would be happy to take any comments back to the School Initiative Team. Dennis Robillard said one of the goals of the school system was to promote community partnership, but the word partnership was left out. Patricia Hayden said the Team wanted a stronger word than partnership, because the ideal was to encourage communication. Dennis Robillard stated partnership seemed the stronger word.

Laura Bolduc agreed and added that there could not be a partnership without communication.

Laura stated that she understands the mission statement is student driven; however, she felt there should be something in the mission statement with regard

to professional development and academics. Patricia Hayden stated that professional development is addressed in bullets one and five.

Eric Matthews stated that at the beginning of the year, they developed four standards for professional learning communities, and the Mission Statement was the first thing they handled, but with the understanding that the it is all dynamic and fluid.

Ms. Hayden will share the Board's feedback at the next SIT meeting on January 17th.

E. School Board Resolution

Eric Matthews stated that some school districts have decided to try changing the new consolidation law. In particular, SAD35 is challenging certain points. He asked if the Board might want to entertain a resolution.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to form a sub-committee to adopt a resolution, which would be presented to the Board at a future meeting. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

F. Appointment of Half-time Maintenance/Transportation Director Position

Kay Dutton suggested this item be tabled, as interviews have not been completed. Eric Matthews stated interviews were being conducted on Friday.

Kay Dutton asked if school was prepared with regard to snow storms.

Eric Matthews stated it was being addressed, adding that the town was being very helpful.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to table until the Board meeting in January. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. School Department Report

Eric Matthews reported that they were looking at purchasing a new van to accommodate a student with greater transportation needs who had recently moved into the district. He stated that Medicaid would reimburse the purchase; however, until the funds were deposited into the school budget, it would appear that the transportation budget was overdrawn.

Patricia Clark asked if van could to be used in other capacities. Laura asked of the van will have to be specially equipped for the student. Eric Matthews stated he would look into it.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to accept the School Department Report for the month ending November 30, 2007 until audit. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

B. Consolidated Lunch Report

Eric Matthews reported everything was in order.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the School Department Report for the month ending November 30, 2007 until audit. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

C. Adult Education Report

Eric Matthews reported everything was in order.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept the School Department Report for the month ending November 30, 2007 until audit. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

11. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Resignation/Retirement of Bus Driver – Peggy Berry

Patricia Clark asked if there were plans to do something for Ms. Berry, who had been employed by the school for twenty-five years. Eric Matthews said things may already be in motion, but that he would check.

B. Intent to Retire – L. Roy

The Board received a letter from Linda Roy notifying them of her intent to retire.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to adjourn at 8:01 pm. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

I, Wendy Brown, Secretary to the School Board, do certify the foregoing document consisting of seven pages is a true copy of the original minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the School Board, which was held on December 12, 2007.