

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH SCHOOL BOARD
OOB TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JANUARY 9, 2008 – 7:00 PM**

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

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER The Regular Monthly Meeting of January 9, 2008 was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair, Kay Dutton.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

4. EMERGENT ITEMS

Eric Matthews requested an update on the high school tech lab be added to the agenda.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to add the item as 9H. Laura Bolduc (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS:

A. MINUTES of REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2007

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to accept the December 12, 2007 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes as they were written. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

6. ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS

Old Orchard Beach High School: Mr. Difusco reported that the high school invited alumni from the class of 2007 to meet with seniors to discuss their post-secondary educational experiences. He reported that ten alumni and over thirty seniors attended.

David Steckino, Guidance Director at the high school, stated that the alumni shared insights on how to deal with specific issues at college such as homesickness, meeting friends, and living with a roommate. He stated that it was a very good discussion and they are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Mr. Crocker suggested that it would be beneficial to ask the high school alumni to also talk with the eighth graders.

Mr. Difusco stated that the annual transition meeting for parents of eighth graders had been moved from April to February, as they felt that having the discussion earlier in the year would help make the transition easier and give parents the opportunity to understand what high school is about.

Loranger Middle School: Nothing to add.

Jameson Elementary School: Nothing to add.

Special Ed: Nothing to add.

Curriculum Coordinator: Nothing to add.

Student Report: Ellen Bell reported that the students participated in a fundraising program to raise money to help needy families during the holidays.

Dennis Robillard asked how many families had been assisted. Ellen stated that two families had received assistance – one with six children and the second with only one child.

He congratulated the high school students on their good deed.

7. CITIZEN FORUM

None.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Transportation Committee Followup

Mr. Matthews asked Mr. Pulsifer to report on information he had gleaned regarding the request to include students who live within .4 miles of the school in the bus route.

Mr. Pulsifer stated that so far the only conflict was with Becky's afternoon route. He requested permission to send a letter to parents to gauge how many students would actually use the service. He added that if the Board is contemplating changing policy, it could take a long time. At the moment, it would work, but if more students move into the area, it might become more difficult to accommodate all of them.

Patricia Clark asked if the numbers Mr. Pulsifer had collected included the children who were eligible to take the bus, but didn't. Mr. Pulsifer said his numbers reflected both the actual number of students who use the bus, per the bus drivers' count, and the number of students who were eligible based on mapping out addresses within .6 miles and .4 miles of the school.

Mr. Matthews stated that with the Board's permission, a letter would be sent to Jameson parents. He stated that as long as the Board vote is unanimous, they could add a bus stop.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to add a bus stop while the process goes forward. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

B. Appointment of Half Time Maintenance/Transportation Director – Tabled at December Meeting

Mr. Matthews stated that six candidates were interviewed for the position. He recommended Jay Kelley be appointed as half-time Maintenance/Transportation Director.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appoint Jay Kelley as the half-time Maintenance/Transportation Director for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Adult Education OOB/Saco Alt Ed Presentation – S. Ultsch

Sally McGarry from the Adult Education Program stated that the fall was busy and productive. The students participated in a number of enrichment programs including visiting college campuses, group problem solving activities, art enrichment through the Portland Art Museum, digital photography class, a tour of the Longfellow House, and an eight week fitness program through Saco Sport and Fitness.

Ms. McGarry stated this was her fifth year with the program, and her first year as a teacher.

Laura Bolduc asked how many students were enrolled. Ms. McGarry stated that they had four students from Old Orchard Beach, six students from Thornton and one student from out of district.

Patricia Clark stated that she works in the evening with one of the students in the program, who is doing very well, and that student had expressed appreciation for the program.

Ashley Marcotte, a senior at the Learning Center, stated that she will be graduating in May. She stated that if it weren't for this program, she would likely have dropped out of school and not graduated. She added that she plans to explore a career in family criminal justice.

B. Snow Removal

Mr. Matthews stated that Jack Trull and the town have been working together to remove snow from the school grounds. He recommended that Mr. Trull continue plowing for the remainder of the season.

Patricia Clark stated the lower parking area at Loranger was not plowed very well. She stated that the combination of ice and water has created a big mud hole in which parents are now having to park. The walkway is also not wide enough and she has seen several children fall.

Laura Bolduc asked if the snow plowing is a stipend position. Mr. Matthews stated that there has not been any formal arrangement, and that they were waiting until a Maintenance Director had been appointed. In the past, a stipend was paid. With the Board's permission, he will sit down with Mr. Trull and outline an agreement.

Dennis Robillard asked if Mr. Trull is insured. Mr. Matthews stated he was.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to approve the request for Jack Trull to provide snow removal services for the remainder of the school year at an amount not to exceed the previous stipend amounts. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

C. Stipends – D. Plante

Dean Plante, a teacher representative from the Stipend Committee, reported that system-wide, the stipends paid to Old Orchard Beach employees is below the pay for similar positions in surrounding school systems. As a result, it is difficult for Old Orchard Beach to be competitive. Mr. Plante requested an additional \$150,000 to be distributed over the forty stipend positions.

Laura Bolduc recommended a thorough review of stipends to provide more equitability. Mr. Plante stated that he believes a thorough review has already been done. Mr. Matthews stated that in-house reviews were done in June, and he would be happy to provide copies of the information to the Board.

D. High School/College Credit

David Steckino reported that both USM and UNE offer programs for high school students to take college classes for credit. Tuition is waived for one class per semester at UNE and one class per year at USM. Students are responsible for paying for books. Two students took classes in the fall. Presently, there are eight students registered in the program. Mr. Steckino requested that students who are taking college classes be given a credit toward graduation if they successfully complete the college class. Mr. Steckino emphasized that the college classes would be considered electives and would not take the place of core requirements. By allowing the college class to count as a credit toward graduation, students in the program would not be required to carry such a large class load at the high school level while also taking classes at the college.

Laura Bolduc asked if there were funds available to assist with buying textbooks. Mr. Steckino stated that funds were not currently available, however, they have been requested in next year's budget.

Laura Bolduc asked if grant programs, like Upward Bound, had been researched. Mr. Steckino stated he had not done that research, and he would look into that possibility.

Laura Bolduc (motioned) to allow college credits to be applied toward high school graduation for students participating in the USM and UNE early start programs. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

E. Set Budget Workshop Dates

Eric Matthews recommended splitting the budget workshops over four dates. Suggested days were January 30, February 6, February 27 and March 5.

Kay Dutton inquired if it might make sense to lay out the budget to match State mandates.

Mr. Matthews stated that he had not looked at doing it that way; however, as the administration has already started the budget process, it might not be feasible to switch to a different format this year.

Kay Dutton recommended having the budget meetings at the high school in the new tech room.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to schedule the budget workshops at the high school tech lab on January 30 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, February 6 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, February 27 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and March 5 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

F. Set Date for Joint Meeting of School Board and Town Council

Kay Dutton stated she would like to have the entire Board meet with the Town Council.

Eric Matthews asked when would be a good time for the meeting. Kay Dutton stated that the Board should schedule a meeting after the budget workshop.

G. Renewal of 2020

Eric Matthews stated that the original 20/20 committee was formed so that the area schools could start discussions regarding consolidation before it was made law. The Superintendents of Biddeford and Saco would like to renew the 20/20 committee with the objective being to explore areas in which the three communities could become more efficient by combining offices. A meeting is planned for January 16 in Saco.

H. Update of High School Tech Lab

Mr. Difusco stated that the furniture arrived yesterday, and that the Technology Achievement Center will be ready to be used by teachers by end of week. He added that he would like to plan an Open House for the Board, the Town Council and the community sometime before the February winter break. Invitations will be sent.

10. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. School Department Report

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

B. Consolidated Lunch Report

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept the School Department Report for the month ending December 31, 2007 until audit. Laura Bolduc (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

C. Adult Education Report

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

11. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Resignation of HS Girls JV Basketball Coach - Jim Allen

B. Appointment of HS Girls JV Basketball Coach - Martin Macisso

12. ADJOURNMENT

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to adjourn at 8:07 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 January 9, 2008.