

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OOB HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
JULY 19, 2007 - 7:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Chair Laura Bolduc, Vice Chair Dennis Robillard, Patricia Clark, Shari MacDonald, Kay Dutton, Supt. Eric Matthews; Administrators: Donna Ford, Patricia Hayden, Michael Pulsifer, James Boisvert, Julie Smyth, Richard DiFusco, Missy Gervais

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER - The Regular Monthly Meeting of July 19, 2007 was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Chair Laura Bolduc.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Patricia Clark (motioned) to appoint Wendy Brown Secretary Pro Tem. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

3. EMERGENT ITEMS – Eric Matthews recommended appointment of Lindsay Butler as the high school French teacher.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to put on agenda as C4. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

4. MINUTES of MEETINGS:

A. REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2007

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept the June 14, 2007 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes as they were written. Patricia Clark (seconded). Laura Bolduc abstains from vote. The vote was unanimous.

B. SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 4, 2007

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the June 4, 2007 Special Meeting minutes as they were written. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

C. SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2007 – By email June 21

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the June 18, 2007 Special Meeting minutes as they were written. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

5. CITIZEN FORUM – None.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Budget Workshop Review

Eric Matthews stated during the workshop \$20,000 too much was cut from the budget. He suggested not increasing activity fees, and that the stipend cut be decreased by the remaining balance of \$10,256, which would still leave a stipend cut of \$7744.

The proposed school budget for 2007-2008 of \$9,616,320 was ready for approval.

Shari MacDonald asks for clarification of stipend worksheet amounts. Eric Matthews explains that \$10,000 would be reinstated across the school system.

Laura Bolduc suggested that the money be spread across a wider range of programs, including academic and student government activities, and not just focused on sports-related programs.

Kay Dutton asked why the cuts weren't across the board.

Laura Bolduc stated they are not equitable to begin with, and that there seemed to be more athletic stipends than others. She stated that the stipend structure not equitable for lower grade teachers. The list showed only one athletic team was not filled, but Special Olympics and student counsel were not given stipend money.

Kay Dutton asked how much the Rec. Department pays for activities fees.

Eric Matthews stated the Rec. Department pays \$3000 to the school. He stated that the Rec. Department pays gas and mileage and also pays custodial costs during summer.

Kay Dutton stated the Rec. Department used a lot of the school's facilities. She suggested the Rec. Department might be charged a higher rate.

Eric Matthews suggested adding the issue of fees to the Rec. Department to the agenda for the next meeting.

Laura Bolduc suggested that the Rec. Department be informed that the school board is beginning a dialogue with regard to the topic.

B. Filming of School Board Meetings

Laura Bolduc explains she has been told the quality of the recording is poor.

Dennis Robillard stated it is the equipment and not the photographer. He states the photographer is limited by the equipment and by the fact that it is only one person trying to operate the cameras.

Shari MacDonald stated meetings do not look as high quality as they could. She recommended moving the meetings to Town Hall, stating it would make the Board seem more credible.

Kay Dutton stated agreement, adding that it would be best for the children and best for the teachers to have the best for ourselves.

Laura Bolduc stated the policy is that the Board would discuss once a year in December where to meet.

Dennis Robillard stated they should go to Town Hall sooner than later. "As soon as arrangements can be made."

Eric Matthews stated if board decides to take action, he would need to contact the Town Hall to see what days are available. He suggested in September to move, that it would be nice to start off the school year at that location.

Laura Bolduc stated she did not want to put Stephanie on spot. She assumed equipment was same, because it was all donated by Time Warner.

Eric Matthews says, initially, it was all the same equipment, but believes the Town Council has upgraded their equipment.

[Camera Operator} stated the cameras in the Council chambers are permanently mounted and can be operated by one person using a joystick. She does not have the ability to remotely operate the cameras. She added that the system at Town Hall was more sophisticated.

Shari MacDonald (motioned) to move school board meetings to town council chambers for September meeting. Dennis Robillard (seconded).

Laura Bolduc restated her position that school business belongs in school.

The vote carries 3 to 2.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Adopt the FY 07-08 School Department Budget

Eric Matthews asked for motion to adopt budget at \$9,616,320.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept 2007-2008 Budget at \$9,616,320, which includes the budget cuts from the meeting of 6/18/07. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

B. Kindergarten Program Data

Michael Pulsifer reported on impact of all day kindergarten. The 2007 data shows positive affects of all day kindergarten. He states they "tweaked" bench marks to get them more in line with where they should be.

Dennis Robillard requested clarification.

Michael Pulsifer explained that they had originally set the goal of each child memorizing thirty-two sight words in order to exceed the standard. They raised their own standard and now a child must know thirty sight words to simply meet the standard. The number of words to exceed the standard is now considerably higher. Mr. Pulsifer stated that most kids meet or exceed new standard. He stated that nine students did not meet the standard last year, but this year it was only five.

Patricia Clark stated her daughter came out of the 2006 kindergarten program already reading.

Laura Bolduc asked at what grade level students start the MWEA.

Mr. Pulsifer stated 2nd graders will begin testing in the fall.

Laura Bolduc asked Mr. Pulsifer come back one more year to report progress of Kindergarten program to discuss test results.

C. Appointments:

(1) High School Mathematics Teacher – Eric Matthews recommended Rebecca George as the High School Mathematics Teacher for the 2007-2008 school year.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept Mr. Matthews' recommendation to appoint Rebecca George for the high school mathematics teacher for the 2007-2008 school year. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

(2) High School Library Media Specialist – Eric Matthews recommended Amy Thompson as the High School Library Media Specialist for the 2007-2008 school year.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept Mr. Matthews' recommendation to appoint Amy Thompson as the high school Library Media Specialist for the 2007-2008 school year. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

(3) High School Guidance Director – Eric Matthews recommended David Steckino as the High School Guidance Director for the 2007-2008 school year.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept Mr. Matthews' recommendation to appoint David Steckino for the high school guidance director for the 2007-2008 school year. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

(4) French teacher - Eric Matthews recommended Lindsay Butler as the high school French Teacher for the 2007-2008 school year.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept Mr. Matthews' recommendation to appoint Lindsay Butler as the high school French teacher for the 2007-2008 school year. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

D. Proposed Region 56 Update

Eric Matthews reported that legislation was passed, which puts the whole consolidation into action. Mr. Matthews and Mr. Robillard attended workshop at Biddeford Middle School, where the details of the State's expectations were laid out.

Eric Matthews stated that there were some very rigid time frames, and so to ensure that Old Orchard Beach was in compliance, prior to his vacation, he sent a memo to Mr. LaFortune stating the Old Orchard Beach was willing to enter into "consolidation discussions." He stated that if Old Orchard Beach fails to show "due diligence" in terms of attempting to act in cooperation with this new legislation, there would be heavy penalties, the first one being 50% reduction in state subsidies, which total over \$500,000. He stated that the memo does not bind Old Orchard Beach to consolidation, but that it only proves Old Orchard Beach's willingness to enter into the discussions.

Eric Matthews stated that the second portion of the issue is with picking a facilitator. He stated that Old Orchard Beach and Saco could have entered into the discussions without a facilitator, but if after several weeks or months of discussion no consensus could be reached, the state would assign a facilitator. Mr. Matthews stated his goal was to start with the facilitator from the beginning to avoid wasting any time.

Eric Matthews reminded the Board that they do have the option of refusing all consolidation discussions and accepting any penalties the State might impose.

Laura Bolduc stated she would support bringing in a State facilitator.

Shari MacDonald stated concern that Mr. Matthews had made such an important decision without any discussion with Board members. She stated there seemed to have been plenty of time to get together as a group to discuss the issue. Ms. MacDonald stated that the Board needs to communicate better.

Laura Bolduc stated support for Mr. Matthews' actions, adding that it would have been negligent to do nothing.

Kay Dutton stated that Ms. Bolduc had the opportunity to at least review the memo before it went out and questioned why the rest of the Board was not given that same opportunity.

Laura Bolduc stated the belief that approving memos was a function for the Chair.

Shari MacDonald stated her email was only addressing the fact that the memo was sent at the last minute and without discussion.

Matthews stated July 26 meeting is a 2020 meeting without a facilitator with Saco.

Shari MacDonald asked if the Town Council has been invited.

Eric Matthews stated the Town Manager, Councilor Jim Long and Councilor Roxanne Frenette will be at the meeting.

E. Amend the 2007-08 School Calendar

Rick Difusco requested to amend the school calendar to move the early release date from May 9 to May 16, which will allow the early release day to coincide with the Prom date, as the Dunegrass facility, where the Prom typically takes place is only available on May 16.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to move the early release date from May 9 to May 16 to accommodate the high school prom. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

F. Technology Update/Web page

Eric Matthews stated that hidden within the Governor's budget was the laptop program, which was to be extended over the next two years. This year every secondary teacher will have a brand new laptop. Every high school student will have a laptop the following year. Mr. Matthews recommended a district-wide technology committee to address all of the changes including the \$115,000 of technology money from the town.

Shari MacDonald asked if the school still wants a technology center.

Eric Matthews stated they do. He stated that the school had just received thirty three year old computers from Bath Iron Works. He stated the donated computers are better than most of the computers in the school. He stated that the school still wanted to develop a learning center. He recommended setting up the infrastructure around the free computers, and later when the students get their laptops to go wireless.

Eric Matthews stated plans to "freshen up" current web page.

Shari MacDonald offered her help with the web page at no cost to the school. She recommended making updates soon, because the school could be one of the things that might attract families to town.

G. Update of Administrators' Retreat

Eric Matthew reported that the school administrators went to Camp Kiev. They tackled data and how to use data - not just how to collect it, but how to use it, specifically with regard to improving instructional practices. He stated they came back from retreat rearing to go.

Laura Bolduc stated that she was glad they could get away and do some good work.

H. School Board Policy Review

Laura Bolduc reviewed the School Board policies and procedures. She recommended, specifically, moving forward with caution, especially considering consolidation. She stated that as discussions progress, email might seem like the most logical mode of communication, but cautioned the Board to exercise care with email communications. One of the Code of Ethics guidelines prohibits Board members from participating in "unofficial" meetings, and without care, email communications could turn into unofficial meetings.

Ms. Bolduc reminded members that the Board is policy maker, not administrators. Members can not have politics or make personal or financial gains. Members can not make promises with regard to how they will vote. Members will make decisions based on facts.

Ms. Bolduc reminded Board members to avoid conflict of interest. If they are part of a process or privy to the process, it might be a conflict, especially if that issue ends up before the Board.

Ms. Bolduc reminded the Board members of the School Board/Superintendent Relationship: She stated it is the Board's responsibility to delegate to the superintendent what they wish to see done.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. School Department Report

Eric Matthews stated everything in order. The school district carried forward \$77,000. He stated the final report would be in next budget and that a full audit would take place in late July or in August.

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

B. Consolidated Lunch Report

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept Consolidated Lunch Report for the month ending June 30, 2007 as presented and until audit. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

C. Adult Education Report

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept Adult Education Report for the month ending June 30, 2007 as presented and until audit. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

9. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Appointment of JV Field Hockey Coaches – Collins/Moustrouphis were appointed as JV Field Hockey coaches with a shared stipend.

B. Resignation of H.S. French Teacher – Stephanie Pejic resigned as the high school French teacher.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Dennis Robillard (motioned) to adjourn at 8:34 pm. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

I, Wendy Brown, Secretary Pro-Tem to the School Board, do certify that 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 July 19, 2007.