

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH SCHOOL BOARD
OOB HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
AUGUST 9, 2007 – 6:30 PM**

WORKSHOP

- 1. To Review Potential Revision to School Department Web Page.**

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OOB HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
AUGUST 9, 2007 - 7:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Chair Laura Bolduc, Vice Chair Dennis Robillard, Patricia Clark, Shari MacDonald, Superintendent Eric Matthews; Administrator: Richard DiFusco.

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** - The regular monthly meeting of August 9, 2007 was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chair Laura Bolduc

- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- 3. APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL BOARD SECRETARY – Wendy Brown**

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to appoint Wendy Brown as Secretary of the Board. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

- 4. EMERGENT ITEMS** - None

- 5. MINUTES of REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF JULY 19, 2007**

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

- 6. CITIZEN FORUM** - None

- 7. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Consolidation Update**

- (1) Regional Planning Committee (RPC)**

Eric Matthews discussed an email he received from Saco Contingent working on financial data for the consolidation effort. He questioned whether the figures were derived using the State template. The email called for a meeting on Monday, August 13, 2007. Mr. Matthews thought it was important for a facilitator to be there. Mr. Matthews stated he contacted Jake Clockodyle, facilitator for the region, who said he was aware of meeting, but did not have any specifics. Mr. Clockodyle stated he would like to be there, but had a scheduling conflict. Mr. Clockodyle had told Mr. Matthews that meeting must be at 3:30 or he wouldn't be able to be there. Mr. Matthews stated that he did not think it was anything underhanded on Saco's part, but that it was just people trying to be prepared.

Dennis Robillard asked who is on committee from Old Orchard Beach.

Eric Matthews said Roxanne Frenette is the Town Council Representative and Shari MacDonald is the School Board Representative. There are two candidates for the Citizen Representative: Jane Flaherty and Peter Flaherty, who was recommended by the Town Council.

Shari MacDonald asked if the appointment of a citizen representative is a function for the Town Council or a function for the School Board. Ms. MacDonald stated that the School Board appointed Roxanne Frenette and her, and she wondered if it is the Town Council's business.

Eric Matthews stated there isn't much guidance from state regarding setting up the Regional Planning Committee with regard to committee appointments and members. He stated that in this

region it was decided that Superintendents would be present, but are not part of committee, which is not the same for all regions in the state. At the first Regional Planning Committee, which was headed by Dave Galley, Saco School Board Chair, the group decided how the committee would be structured. They decided three was adequate number of representatives for each town, and that the superintendent was a “resource” but not a member.

Eric Matthews stated that he will be present at all regional planning committee meetings, but is only an advisor. Mr. Matthews stressed that the Regional Planning Committee does not have any decision-making authority, and that the local school boards are not giving over control. Mr. Matthews emphasized that the School Board will still make final decisions regarding the Old Orchard Beach school district. At present the State has recommended consolidation of Saco, OOB, Arundel and Dayton. Old Orchard Beach School Board can still say it is something that they do not wish to pursue.

Laura Bolduc asked if the school board would like to make a motion to ask the Superintendent to select committee member at large.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to have the Superintendent find a qualified person to act as the public member of the board and to then notify the municipal offices. Shari MacDonald (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

(2) Letter of Intent (August 31, 2007)

Eric Matthews stated that the Letter of Intent must be filed by August 31. Mr. Matthews stated the Letter of Intent is more of a formality, and that it will, basically, state that Old Orchard Beach School District would like to continue discussions. Mr. Matthews stated the next deadline is December. Mr. Matthews stated that the purpose of Old Orchard Beach’s participation in the meetings is to ensure that they have all of their “ducks in row.”

Laura Bolduc asked if the Letter of Intent can be generic/broad.

Shari MacDonald asked if the district can have “multiple Letters of Intent.” Ms. MacDonald asked if Old Orchard Beach can enter discussions with multiple school districts.

Eric Matthews stated that the letter can be broad and non-specific. He stated that the State can offer recommendations for consolidation, but local districts do not have to follow those recommendations, and if they come up with a better plan on their own, while the State can reject it, they can not force the school districts to comply with their recommendations.

Eric Matthews reiterated that the Letter of Intent was due on August 31. He stated the first official regional planning meeting was August 15 at Saco Town Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 to develop Letter of Intent.

(3) Consolidation Plan (December 1, 2007)

Laura Bolduc stated Dayton and Arundel might be interested in meeting separate from Saco to discuss consolidation of just the three school districts.

Eric Matthews said that the State’s goal is that each district have 2500 students, and that Arundel, Dayton and Old Orchard Beach might not be big enough to meet that number; however, the consolidation of the three would exceed 1200 students. If Old Orchard Beach has things in common with Dayton and Arundel financially, it might be worthwhile to only consolidate with those and leave out Saco. Mr. Matthews stressed that the district must show due diligence, and if plan is not what the region wants, but it does show that OOB is trying, it may be approved.

Patricia Clark asked how close to the 2500 mark Saco is.

Eric Matthews stated Thornton has the required number of students now, but that if Dayton consolidates with Old Orchard Beach and Arundel, Saco may fall short of the mandated 2500 students. Dayton has 300 students or so.

(4) Penalties

Eric Matthews referred to handout: RE: regional planning committee. Mr. Matthews stated that the district would lose 50% of subsidies, including administration costs which would total \$740,000 to \$900,000 worth of state aid. Mr. Matthews stated this would be a substantial loss. However, once all of the numbers are calculated and reviewed regarding each district's budget, it may be that the penalties are less than the cost of consolidation. If the merger looks like it might cost taxpayers more, it could be that Old Orchard Beach says no to consolidation.

Shari MacDonald pointed out if other schools have debt, Old Orchard Beach would have to assume that debt if they consolidate.

Patricia Clark asked if some schools are not being required to consolidate.

Eric Matthews referred to the diagram. Mr. Matthews stated that large school districts, like Biddeford and Bonney Eagle are not being required to consolidate; however, they are being required to save money on the costs of things like Special Education and administrative costs.

Laura Bolduc asked how Old Orchard Beach would go about showing it is a high performing district, as high performing districts could be exempt from consolidation requirements.

Eric Matthews said stated that he does not think it would help and that Old Orchard Beach could not stand on that.

(5) Referendum Vote

Eric Matthews stated that the consolidation must be approved by referendum. The State would like to see the question voted on in January 2008 for the July 2008 year, but Mr. Matthews stated that July 2009 is looking to be a more realistic time frame. Ideally the referendum vote would be January 15, 2008. Eric Matthews stated as the Town will vote on the referendum, the question should be worded carefully.

B. School Board Meeting Date

Eric Matthews stated, as instructed, he contacted town hall. Third and Fourth Thursdays were available. Louise Reid will save both dates until she hears back.

Laura Bolduc recommended third Thursday.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to meet at Town Hall the third Thursday of each month. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

C. Second reading of policy IHBEA Limited English Proficient Students

Eric Matthews said the policy for limited English Proficient students should have been discussed at an earlier meeting. It was an oversight that it wasn't added to the agenda, but he feels the policy is in need of second reading.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept second reading of policy IHBEA Limited English Proficient Students. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Technology Update

Eric Matthews reviewed recent discussions regarding technology. Mr. Matthew stated he had a sense that the district needed technology committee. Mr. Matthews stated the current technology plan should be revised anyway. Mr. Matthews stated that all three school buildings need to be

in the meetings so that all are represented, but that a date that works for everyone has not, yet, been found.

Shari MacDonald stated she wanted to get a technology center up and running before school started. Ms. MacDonald stated she is not certain that the technology center should be district-wide, as the budgeted funds were for high school.

Laura Bolduc stated it is important to show something to the Council and to thank them for their support. Ms. Bolduc stated she envisions something state of the art and that she would like to see all of the money being used by the center.

Eric Matthews stated that the \$115,000 given to the school system by town council was never intended to be just for the technology facility. Preliminary costs for the room were \$35,000 to \$50,000.

Shari MacDonald stated \$35,000 was a good start to get the center up.

Laura Bolduc stated some money must be spent on aesthetics and noise control with panels like the bandroom. Ms. Bolduc stated her thought is that council will want to walk into room and see where the money was spent.

Dennis Robillard stated that he is not positive that the funds allocated were just for the high school.

Eric Matthews stated it was his impression that it was implied that the high school would be the recipient of the technology funds.

Laura Bolduc stated in the future she would like it to be user friendly from kindergarten to adult education, and that some funds should be invested in training for teachers.

Eric Matthews stated given the knowledge that all students will soon have laptops, the room should be wireless. Mr. Matthews did not think school would necessarily want to buy new computers, as they were just given computers by Bath Iron Works.

Laura Bolduc stated those donated computers could go anywhere in the district. Ms. Bolduc stated that the technology center could be consolidated with the school web page, and that this would open up new opportunities for independent study for the students.

Eric Matthews stated he will have an update in September, or sooner if there is a special meeting.

B. Maintenance and Transportation Discussion

Eric Matthews stated the Maintenance and Transportation Director position was cut during the budget cuts. As such, he had delegated specific areas to each administrator, i.e. Richard Difusco has plumbing and glass and he had delegated transportation to himself. He mentioned that the positions often required very nit-picking and time-consuming tasks, like vehicle inspections. Mr. Matthews asked if the School Board might ever consider speaking with the town regarding collaborative efforts. Mr. Matthews asked if the School Board had any thoughts on long term solutions.

Laura Bolduc recommended the Board revisit this issue quarterly to see if there is money to rehire someone to take care of this area.

Shari MacDonald suggested that other administrators take on some responsibility also.

Laura Bolduc stated that this area really needs a central supervisor as this group can be particularly difficult to handle.

Patricia Clark asked if there were any other positions that weren't filled.

Eric Matthews stated Cathy Porter was given only a _ contract, and she might leave for a better offer. Mr. Matthews emphasized that the State is expecting schools to cut their maintenance and transportation budgets by 5%.

Laura Bolduc asked if the position could be outsourced.

Shari MacDonald suggested waiting until consolidation.

Laura Bolduc suggested revisiting the issue in October or November.

Dennis Robillard stated with regard to grounds upkeep, one thought is to consider snowplowing.

Eric Matthews stated that a school employee had already contacted him and offered to provide snowplowing for the school.

Laura Bolduc stated the Board should revisit the issue before committing to a contract for snowplowing.

Dennis Robillard asked about inspections of busses.

Eric Matthews stated that busses are inspected twice a year, and everything is on a schedule.

9. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. School Department Report

Eric Matthews stated handbook codes are being rewritten and that a full report with audited numbers will be available at the September meeting. Mr. Matthews stated based on preliminary numbers \$78,000 had been brought forward and exact numbers will be given in September.

Dennis Robillard asked about the salaries at Loranger, which are \$50,000 more than budget.

Eric Matthews stated he would check those figures to find out where the discrepancy is, but that his guess is that a staff member was replaced, which makes the number higher.

Patricia Clark stated that there was a similar figure on the Jameson report.

Dennis Robillard asked about recreation fees. Mr. Robillard stated that he thought the fees were changed, but that the report showed \$500 in revenues for the Parks and Recreation Department, which shows an ending balance of \$5500, and he wondered how they ended up with extra.

Eric Matthews stated he will check the numbers. Mr. Matthews stated that sometimes lines are overspent, but it's made up in other areas.

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

B. Consolidated Lunch Report

Nothing to report. Item should not have been on agenda.

C. Adult Education Report

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

10. GENERAL INFORMATION: None

11. ADJOURNMENT – Dennis Robillard (motioned) to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

I, Wendy Brown, Secretary 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 August 9, 2007.