

**OLD ORCHARD BEACH SCHOOL BOARD  
OOB TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2007 – 7:00 PM**

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

**AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER** - The Regular Monthly Meeting of September 20, 2007 was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by Chair Laura Bolduc.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. EMERGENT ITEMS**

Eric Matthews requested to add two items: The proposed overnight trip to the Ferry Beach Educational Center for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students; and the hiring of two new teachers for the high school.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to add discussion of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Ferry Beach as item G in New Business. Sharri MacDonald (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

Kay Dutton (motioned) to add the hiring of two new high school teachers as item 8H in New Business. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

**4. MINUTES of REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF AUGUST 9, 2007** – Dennis Robillard (motioned) to accept the August 9, 2007 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes as they were written. Kay Dutton (seconded). Laura Bolduc abstained from the vote. Vote is three in favor, one abstention (L. Bolduc).

**5. Administrator's Reports**

Jameson Elementary School: Mr. Pulsifer reported that the school received \$100 from the Rotary Club in Saco. He expressed thanks and stated the plan was to buy textbooks and to put some of the funds toward purchases for the library.

Mr. Pulsifer stated that the school was given a \$5000 grant from Lowes and work on the trail system around the school for the mileage club has been started.

Dennis Robillard asked about the teacher distribution at each grade level. Mr. Pulsifer replied there are four kindergarten, three first grade, five second grade and three third grade for a total of fifteen.

Loranger Middle School: Mr. Crocker reported that the annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Camp Kieve is scheduled for October 1 through 5. Mr. Crocker told the Board that the trip is funded in part by the camp, in part by the school, and in part by families of participants. There are scholarship funds available, and he stated that ideally all 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have the opportunity to participate, as it's a very positive experience.

Laura Bolduc asked for an update on the electronic mailing system to parents. Mr. Crocker reported that the parents received a hard-copy memo that included information about the system, including passwords, at the beginning of the school year and that they are still in the process of gathering email addresses.

Old Orchard Beach High School: This evening the high school is having their open house, so Mr. DiFusco was not available to comment on his Administrator's Report.

Special Ed: Nothing to add.

Curriculum Coordinator: Nothing to add

## **6. CITIZEN FORUM - None**

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Financial Report**

Eric Matthews followed up to the inquiry by Dennis Robillard regarding the teachers' salaries at Jameson. He spoke with Mr. Descoteaux, who stated that a teacher was transferred from Jameson to Loranger, but that the teacher's salary was not transferred to the Loranger budget. As such, there did not appear to be funds for a second grade teacher at Jameson. After the budget had been finalized, the issue was corrected to reflect the teacher's new position with Loranger and to allow for the hiring of a new teacher.

Mr. Matthews stated that the goal is to ensure that the budget reflects actuals on salary lines. He provided a spreadsheet with preliminary numbers. He explained that the spreadsheet shows Jameson is already \$18,000 in the red, but that is because two programs were entered in the budget as Special Ed. Programs rather than elementary programs in the Jameson budget. He reported the intent is to ensure all positions are properly allocated in the future.

### **B. Technology – Update**

Eric Matthews provided handwritten notes from the August and September meetings. He stated that computers have been ordered and a contractor has been hired to build the Technology Center.

### **C. Consolidation Update**

Eric Matthews told the Board that specific information regarding consolidation is included in the packet. He reported that there have been a couple of Regional Planning Committee meetings and subcommittee meetings, and felt they have made good progress. He praised the Old Orchard Beach representatives.

Mr. Matthews noted that representatives from Saco are concerned after running the preliminary budget templates that there will be an additional \$700,000 extra tax burden to Saco.

Mr. Matthews said that the state template shows the Town of Old Orchard Beach will be responsible for 31% of the consolidated school budget, which according to the preliminary numbers seemed to indicate that the school budget will increase from \$9,600,000 to \$13,000,000.

Sharri MacDonald stated that she finds it difficult to be on the consolidation committee at all, as she does not want to consolidate. Ms. MacDonald explained that the objective in requiring consolidation of individual school systems is to reduce the cost of top-heavy administrations. She believed it has been proven that Old Orchard Beach is not top heavy, and that none of the other four systems (Saco, Arundel and Dayton) are top heavy either. She said that based on the information she has received as a member on the Financial Sub Committee that the numbers don't "jive."

Laura Bolduc asked for clarification regarding what the State defines as Administration for the purposes of making cuts.

Administrative departments that will be consolidated are the Superintendent, business manager, and secretarial support and administrative assistants for these positions. Individual school Principals, the Curriculum Coordinator, Special Education Director and Technology Director would be separate conversations.

Eric Matthews stated as a point of clarification that the new RSU would have a Special Education Director and a Curriculum Director, but that the positions would be reclassified.

Dennis Robillard asked how other towns compare based on the preliminary numbers.

Sharri MacDonald said other schools have debt, which will be spread across all of the towns to ensure that no individual municipality has a larger tax burden than the others. She cautioned that the consolidated system would be top heavy with administrators from the largest RSU, which means Saco would have a larger number of representatives than the other towns represented.

Dennis Robillard asked if the school budget will decrease.

Sharri MacDonald said the budget will increase to \$13,000,000.

Eric Matthews said that according to the State that OOB makes out the best, but the actual numbers say otherwise.

Laura Bolduc asked about tuition rates. Eric Matthews said they didn't have an answer for that. Sharri MacDonald said tuition would be only be required of students who live outside of the RSU (Regional School Unit) district.

Laura Bolduc asked if there was information specific to services offered to students from organizations such as Sweetser.

Sharri MacDonald stated that the consolidation proposal is not going to affect Special Education. Only the Superintendent's office will be affected.

Kay Dutton said the issue of school equipment was also addressed, specifically, playgrounds and who would own them – the schools or the towns.

Sharri MacDonald stated that all school property in Old Orchard Beach would be deeded over to the RSU.

Laura Bolduc stated there were still a lot of questions.

Eric Matthews noted that as the deadline gets closer, the Board will need to make some decisions regarding whether it would be better to take the state penalties or to proceed with the consolidation efforts.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Recreation Fees**

Jason Webber from the Town Recreation Department presented information regarding the recreation fees.

Mr. Webber reported that two years ago the Recreation Department moved from the Town Hall into the office at Loranger. Prior to the Recreation Department being in that space, it was a storage room. The Rec. Dept spent \$25,000 to upgrade the room, including replacing the

asbestos ceiling and light fixtures, and completing electrical work so that computers could be used.

He stated the move has worked out great for the Town and the school, reporting there are a number of programs that use the facility. Mr. Webber stated that the Recreation Department pays \$3000 for rent and \$1.25 per mile for use of the buses. School custodians provide some services, but mostly at the end of basketball season. A cleaning company has been hired and is paid for by the Rec. Dept. Mr. Webber stated they pay their own cable, Internet and fax, equipment replacement, and will be purchasing a treadmill and an all-in-one lift machine with grant monies.

Laura Bolduc asked if the School Department pays for electricity and heat. Eric Matthews reported they did.

Laura Bolduc asked if there is any record of the Recreation Department contributing funds for maintenance.

Mr. Webber reported that the Rec. Dept has supplied paint for the fields. In addition, he reported that the Rec. Dept equipment is available to the district staff.

### **B. School Opening Power Point**

Eric Matthews referred to slides in the packet about consolidation.

Sharri MacDonald asked how staff feels about consolidation. Eric Matthews said he believes the staff appreciates being kept informed. He said that since the teachers have been assured that the schools are not being closed and positions are not being eliminated, the overall consensus seems to be positive.

Eric Matthews asked the teachers who were at the School Board Meeting for their comments about consolidation. Teachers responded that there was not a lot of discussion in "our school."

### **C. School Resource Officer**

Officer Peter Guay was appointed by the Town to be the School Resource Officer. His office is located at Loranger in a space that originally served as the office of the School Resource Officer, but he has duties in all of the schools. Mr. Crocker stated that he has seen Mr. Guay out interacting with the students and that it has, so far, been a very positive experience. The position is paid by the police department and is not part of school budget.

### **D. Jameson School Maine Educational Assessment Results (MEA)**

Mr. Pulsifer stated that Jameson School is at the state average. He noted that the special needs students have improved. Sharri MacDonald congratulated Mr. Pulsifer on the increase.

### **E. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Title funding**

Patricia Hayden stated that she wanted to keep the Board informed of grant funding. She stated that over the several programs, the school receives \$28,6049 in Title funds. Each Title can be used to fund specific programs. Money can be transferred from area to area, except no allotted funds can be moved from the Title 1A program. Ms. Hayden stated that most of the funds are moved into Title V, as it is the most flexible. Dennis Robillard asked how money compares to previous years. Pat Hayden stated that Title funds are being reduced every year.

### **F. Quarterly Meeting with Town Council**

Eric Matthews contacted the Town Council and scheduled a meeting with them on October 18<sup>th</sup>, one hour prior to the regular meeting. Mr. Matthews offered to draft an agenda for the joint meeting.

### **G. Overnight Field Trip to Ferry Beach for the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders**

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers requested permission to expand the current one-day program at Ferry Beach to an overnight program for their students. The teachers added their belief that it will be a valuable opportunity.

Drew Dumsch from the Ferry Beach Ecology School provided information regarding the program. Mr. Dumsch stated that a similar program has been offered to students in Saco for several years, but with a recent grant from the Starbuck Foundation, the Ecology Center is now able to offer the program to more students. Mr. Dumsch states that the center offers an across the curriculum program to over 3000 students per year from all over the United States.

Laura Bolduc apologized for any inconvenience the procedure may have caused, but feels it is important that the Board be involved in the decision-making process due to liability issues.

Kay Dutton asked if Mr. Crocker would have a scheduling conflict, as the Ferry Beach program is the same week as the 8<sup>th</sup> graders' annual Camp Kieve trip. Mr. Crocker stated that he and his assistant, Julie Smyth, have coordinated their schedules to have at least one of them at each place.

Sharri MacDonald asked about chaperones. Drew Dumsch stated that Ferry Beach Ecology School tries to maintain a 10:1 ratio, and that between the school and the teachers, that ratio is easy to maintain. Mr. Dumsch stated that the Ecology School offers family programs for children as young as kindergarten age.

Mr. Crocker said they had an information night for the parents, and the parents are supportive of the program.

Laura Bolduc asked if there are provisions for medical needs. Marlene Day said that the Ecology School has a nurse on site, and medications will be distributed by the school nurse.

Dennis Robillard asked where the Ferry Beach school is located. Drew Dumsch stated the school is located in the area south of Ferry Beach State Park and north of Camp Ellis. The campus is huge and can accommodate 200 students.

Patricia Clark (motioned) to permit students to go on the Ferry Beach trip. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

### **H. Staff Appointments**

Patricia Clark (motioned) to appoint Angela Bell to the high school culinary arts teacher \_ time position. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

Dennis Robillard (motioned) to appoint Cathy Reed as 4/5 social worker at the high school. Patricia Clark (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

## **9. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Eric Matthews stated that the school system is in the midst of the audit. Mr. Matthews stated that there were no concerns at the moment and that he would have a report in October.

### **A. School Department Report**

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the School Department Report for the months ending July 31 and August 31, 2007 and until audit. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

#### **B. Consolidated Lunch Report**

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the Consolidated Lunch Report for the months ending July 31 and August 31, 2007 as presented and until audit. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

#### **C. Adult Education Report**

Patricia Clark (motioned) to accept the Adult Education Report for the months ending July 31 and August 31, 2007 as presented and until audit. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

### **10. GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **A. Resignations:**

(1) **HS Consumer Science** – Katharine A. Porter resigned from her part-time position as Family & Consumer Science Teacher at Old Orchard Beach High School, having found a full-time position at Portland High School.

(2) **HS Social Worker** – Kim Hopkins resigned from her position as 4/5 School Social Worker at Old Orchard Beach High School to pursue other opportunities.

(3) **Jameson Ed Tech III** – Missy Foster resigned from her position as Ed Tech III at Jameson Elementary School.

#### **B. Appointments:**

(1) **Jameson School Ed Tech III – L. Bruno**  
Patricia Clark (motioned) to appoint Lori Bruno as Ed Tech III at Jameson School. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

(2) **Jameson School Ed Tech I – A. Boutin**  
Patricia Clark (motioned) to appoint Andrea Boutin as Ed Tech I at Jameson School. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

(3) **HS Varsity Girls Basketball Coach – C. Buffum**  
Patricia Clark (motioned) to appoint Cassie Buffum as Girls Varsity Basketball Coach at Old Orchard Beach High School. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Sharri MacDonald (motioned) to adjourn at 8:27 pm. Dennis Robillard (seconded). The vote was unanimous.

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I, Wendy Brown, Secretary to the School Board, do certify that 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 September 20, 2007.