

**Oyster River Cooperative School District
Regular Meeting**

November 20, 2013

6:30 p.m.
DRAFT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Maria Barth, Tom Newkirk, Kenny Rotner, Megan Turnbull, Al Howland, Ed Charle, Ann Lane and Student Representative: Peter Zwart

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Superintendent Jim Morse, Carolyn Eastman, Susan Caswell, Dennis Harrington, Jay Richard, Carrie Vaich, Todd Allen, and Catherine Plourde

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were approximately thirty-five members of the public present for this meeting.

I CALL TO ORDER: Chair Maria Barth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Superintendent will be giving his enrollment presentation prior to the public comment section of the meeting.

II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 23rd Minutes: Revision: Replace “approve” with “fund”

October 16th Minutes: Revision: Move the vote to after Megan Turnbull’s comment.

Al Howland moved to approve the October 23 and October 16th minutes with the above revisions, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

November 6th Minutes: Kenny Rotner moved to approve the November 6th minutes, 2nd by Al Howland. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Approval of Manifests: Vendor Manifest #12: \$288,408.03

DISTRICT REPORTS

Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report(s): None

Superintendent Report:

Elementary Enrollment Balance Options:

Superintendent Morse presented the Elementary Enrollment Balance Options:
Goals Guiding Superintendent Morse's Recommendations:

Decrease the disparity in enrollment between Moharimet at 409 students and Mast Way at 292 students.

Bring the enrollment members at the two schools within functional capacity which is 349 students for Moharimet and 369 students for Mast Way.

Create a solution that is permanent that does not require students changing schools every five or so years

Eliminate the use of portable classrooms at Moharimet

School Board Directive:

The School Board directed the Superintendent at the last board meeting "to present other options with at least one being that Kindergarten be moved to Mast Way....by November 20"

Superintendent Morse detailed the cost/savings of each model as well as the parent concerns.

Another option was conceived by a group of parents looking for a solution that could unite our community. Their idea would be for the administration to have the authority to place students so that the goal of equitable enrollment can be achieved without divisiveness or contention.

Highlights of their idea are to maintain the K-4 Model with the following conditions:

Unenrolled Kindergarten students without siblings would be placed by administration to Mast Way for the fall of 2014.

Any new students to the District in grades 1-4 would be placed by administration in Mast Way.

Enrollment would be managed every year so that new students would be placed at Mast Way until it reaches comparable enrollment with Moharimet.

Even after school to school equity is reached, enrollment would continue to be managed by administration to ensure that grade to grade equity is achieved.

No new buses will be needed

Population density or busing would guide placement

No children is forced to relocated from Moharimet to Mast Way

The Modular at Moharimet is eliminated by 2017

Improve Special Education classroom space in Moharimet by 2016

Superintendent Morse feels that there is real potential to the Managing Enrollment option that needs refinement. He is asking the School Board's permission to work with a cross section of the community to work through this option more thoroughly.

Final Result

No option has absolute support

Regardless of the option chosen we recognize there needs to be:

Collaboration among staff

Elementary wide events

Engage the elementary PTO's/Consider forming one PTO serving both schools

The goal is to provide equity and cohesiveness between Mast Way and Moharimet.

Rob McEwan presented an Executive Summary of a Proposed Managed Enrollment Plan:

This plan defines the goal as equity, not equal enrollment
Manage future Kindergarten class sizes so they are balanced to reflect the capacity of the two schools

If you have a child at Mast Way now, your family stays at Mast Way

If you have a child at Moharimet now, your family stays at Moharimet

The Managed Enrollment Plan Adheres to Board and Community goals:

Puts Moharimet under functional capacity in 2014 with Modulars

Restores second SPED room to Moharimet in 2014

Retires Modulars in 2016

No impact to current students and their families from transitions or future school splits

Space for all-day Kindergarten will be available in 2016

Families that are new to the district will be assigned to a grade school by the SAU.

Retain modulars for two years

Return SPED/Extended Resource Room immediately.

Superintendent Morse is asking for the Board to delay the decision until the December 18th meeting. This will allow time to assemble a Superintendent's Advisory Committee that will consist of parents and staff members that will work together to find resolve for the inequitable enrollment issue.

The Board had a lengthy discussion with the Superintendent reviewing each of the options. At the Boards direction, Superintendent Morse will be focusing on the Managed Enrollment Plan and the K-2 3-4 Options.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Guild Request for Interpretation of Policy BHC and Policy GBB and Update from Policy Update: Chair Maria Barth discussed the staff members who are also residents in the District. This has been sent to legal counsel and the Policy Committee for review. Tom Newkirk read a letter from the Guild. They

would like to see a Policy crafted to allow dialogue and meaningful exchange ideas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dean Rubine of Lee spoke of the elementary options. He spoke of redrawing the District line and grandfathering the current families in the schools.

Allison Mueller of Durham discussed the Managed Enrollment option. Some consequences would have a divide in the community and neighborhoods. This model is dangerous for home values in the District by the uncertainty of where their children would attend school.

Denise Day of Durham discussed enrollment projections in the District and thinks that the Board needs to look carefully at any options with numbers that need to be accurate.

Rob McEwan of Madbury spoke that the group putting forth the managed enrollment did not target any neighborhoods. It must include siblings and grandfathering and allow administration flexibility in assigning schools.

Nate Fitch of Durham thinks that once more details are determined to see which option is better academically. Which option will gain the most academic benefit? He is in favor of the management enrollment option.

Peter Jacobs of Madbury feels that there should not be any decisions made in the District without a Strategic Plan in place.

Eric Archey of Madbury feels that Managed Enrollment is the best option is for the District.

Michael Williams of Durham urged the Board to have the committee look at only one option and bring back a proposal for approval. He feels that if Moharimet adds two classrooms it will allow for a lot more flexibility.

Tom Merrick of Durham feels that if they adopt goals which will adopt policies and rules.

Vail Cox of Madbury feels that the solution does not have to be solved overnight. She urged the Board to not consider options 1 and 2. She would like the Board to vote for an ongoing management enrollment plan.

Nicole Toy of Durham would like the Board to make a change that is a community decision.

Laura Williams of Durham supports a K-4 model in the schools. She doesn't feel that the real estate market will be affected by the redistricting.

Catherine Eddy of Madbury spoke about high school tuitioning and feels that we are moving too fast with considering a long term contract with another school.

REPORTS

Tuition Update: Superintendent Morse feels that we are close to presenting to the Board options. They are still in discussions with both Barrington and Newmarket. A finalized draft will be presented at the December 18th Board meeting.

Business Administration: Sue Caswell presented the proposed tuition rates for the FY2014 Durham UNH rate. This rate is used as the basis upon which the Town of Durham seeks a "payment-in-lieu-of-taxes" from UNH for those children residing in UNH's family housing facility (Forest Park) and as the rate charged at 1/3 to those staff that reside outside the District and have children attending ORCSD schools. The estimated cost per pupil resultant numbers is as follows:

Elementary:	\$16,289
Middle School:	\$15,576
High School:	\$17,837

Tom Newkirk to approve the above tuition rates, 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Student Senate Report: None

Oyster River High School Coaches:

Volunteer Positions:

Jason Nifong	Boys Basketball
Mark Newton	Frisbee Coach

Paid Positions:

Leslie Sarno	Girls 7 th Grade Basketball	\$1,919
Paul Kerrigan	Boys JV Basketball	\$3,242
Nate Grove	Boys 7/8 Intramural	\$ 876

Kenny Rotner moved to approve the above coach positions, 2nd by Ann Lane. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES: Chair Maria Barth is resigning from the Communications Committee and appointed Kenny Rotner as her replacement.

Ann Lane moved to appoint Kenny Rotner to the Communications Committee, 2nd by Megan Turnbull. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Vail Cox feels that the Policy resolution for the educators is important.

David Taylor of Durham noted that any appointments need to be approved by the Board. The Advisory Committee needs to be public.

Dean Rubine of Lee talked about the managed enrollment of moving all the new kids to the District.

Rob McEwan of Madbury noted that the schools will even out in 2017 with the management enrollment option.

CLOSING ACTIONS:

Future Meeting Dates: December 4 and December 18

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ADJOURNMENT: Al Howland moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m., 2nd by Kenny Rotner. Motion approved 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson
Recording Secretary