

10 JUL 16 AM 11:20

Orleans School Committee  
April 12, 2010  
Orleans Elementary School, Library

APPROVED

Present for the Committee: Chair Jordan, Mary Lytle, Josh Stewart, Fred Walters, and Gwen Guzzeau

Present for the Administration: Superintendent Hoffmann, Principal Carreiro, and Hans Baumhauer, Business Manager

Other: Town Officials, Margie Fulcher and John Hodgson

Call to Order -- Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Recognitions --

Principal Carreiro recognized Mary Ellen Reed, school nurse for her dedication and commitment to the staff, students, and community at Orleans Elementary School. She is staff representative on the School Council, a member of the Health and Wellness Committee, assists with the OES KIDS' Council, and coordinated the H1N1 Health Clinic. She quietly and efficiently interacts with local agencies to benefit children and their families during holidays or in times of need.

Pat Bradley of the Orleans Bike and Walkways Group was recognized for her persistence in getting schools involved with the Massachusetts State Routes to School Program. Pat was instrumental in bringing the project to Orleans. This will make Orleans eligible for grant funds for crosswalks and walk ways in town.

FY11 Budget --

Dr. Hoffmann reviewed the Proposed Budget Reduction Update (4-12-2010) with the Committee.

Chair Jordan suggested to the Committee if there were concessions, perhaps some items could be put back in the budget. It was noted that \$19,684 still needed to be cut. The town officials could not give the schools \$19,684 and reminded school officials to come in with the original budget request. Dr. Hoffmann reported that at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting it was noted that municipal employees insurances went up 12-14% and the Board voted not to increase the cost to retirees, thus increasing the school budget by \$10,000. Presently the gap is \$32,650. Dr. Hoffmann informed the Committee that he received a letter of retirement today from Mrs. Burr. Principal Carreiro anticipates hiring at replacement at master's, step 4, which would make a \$22,090 differential. Discussion was held regarding the reductions of educational assistants by .5 due to the fact the two fifth grade students were moving onto the middle school. Several scenarios were discussed relative to the reduction of educational assistants noting some need, students are presently in kindergarten. Other areas were mentioned for reductions such as Spanish and supplies. Mrs. Guzzeau stated she was surprised that Mrs. Burr's position would be replaced and asked the committee to consider not hiring but supporting a grade two classroom with 23 students for next year. This classroom could have additional support during core subjects. Mrs. Lytle stated that there is a class size guideline. The chair indicated it was a guideline and not a policy. Chair Jordan stated that the committee has always been in favor of smaller class sizes.

Dr. Hoffmann told the committee it was imperative that they vote a bottom line budget. The items in question could be revisited. They are still waiting for information on Title I and ARRA grants. Mrs. Guzzeau stated she was very interested in voting a bottom line but was very concerned about the future. Mrs. Lytle restated that after they vote, they can look at the budget one more time. Dr. Hoffmann reminded the Committee that if there are lay-offs, he needs to notify people, according to the contracts.

On a motion by Mrs. Guzzeau, seconded by Mrs. Lytle, it was voted to approve the reduction as set for in the sheet and approve the budget in the amount of \$3,073,553. The motion was amended after Dr. Hoffmann indicated that \$12,960 had to be deducted from that total due to the increase in retiree insurance.

On a motion by Mrs. Guzzeau, seconded by Mrs. Lytle, it was voted unanimously to approve the FY11 budget in the amount of \$3,060,587.

Reports and Information –

Mrs. Guzzeau asked that the committee look at a long-range plan for Orleans Elementary School and do a self-study with all constituents involved. It was suggested that they hire a consultant with the help of the Orleans PTC to help facilitate a conversation about what Orleans citizens and staff value. This will be placed on the May agenda for further discussion. The facilitator would meet with the community to facilitate an agenda on how to move forward, embrace excellence and new initiatives. Mrs. Guzzeau would like to hear from a lot of people. Brady Somerville, PTC representative stated that the school is excellent and having a plan is important.

Mrs. Guzzeau stated that with veteran teachers retiring it may be a way to have a faculty think tank and that we should tap into their knowledge base. Perhaps some retirees would want to contribute in that way. Mrs. Guzzeau thought perhaps the school committee had gotten too complacent and that it is the school committee's job to plan for the future. Mr. Stewart thought having the consultant come in was a good idea as well. Chair Jordan asked that Mrs. Guzzeau send her some information on the consultant and her background. It was Mrs. Guzzeau's hope that she will come in with a proposal at the May meeting.

Dr. Hoffmann stated that we are in unprecedented times. Never before have people had to make hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of cuts. He stated that the school committee represents the public when they are meeting and everyone should be well informed.

Cape Cod Collaborative -

Mr. Walters indicated the Cape Cod Collaborative was meeting on Wednesday evening.

Adjournment –

On a **motion** by Mrs. Lytle, seconded by Mrs. Guzzeau, it was **voted unanimously** to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m., subject to payment of bills.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Tefft, substitute recording secretary