

APPROVED

ORLEANS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of January 23, 2012

Held in the Music Room, Orleans Elementary School

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

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C. May

Present for the Committee: Mary Lyttle, Josh Stewart, David Abel, Eric Ehnstrom, Gwynne Guzzeau

Present for the Administration: Dr. Hoffmann, Principal Carreiro, Hans Baumhauer – Business Manager

Others in attendance: Brian Kavanaugh – Nauset Regional School Committee, John Hodgson – Orleans Finance Committee, Margie Fulcher – Chair of the Board of Selectmen in Orleans

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Lyttle called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

AGENDA CHANGES – None.

CITIZENS SPEAK

Brian Kavanaugh announced that the Brewster School Committee videotapes all of their meetings. He encouraged the audience to watch two recent meetings of December 15, 2011 and January 19, 2012, where the decision to reduce the Brewster Integrated Preschool was announced and discussed.

Karen Sweeney, the Orleans PTO President then proceeded to read a letter from Patricia Hill, the Brewster PTO President. In the letter, she stated her concerns with the reduction in the Brewster Integrated Preschool and requested that the Brewster portion of the program be restored and put back into the budget.

RECOGNITIONS

Principal Carreiro recognized Educational Assistant Sue Porter for the time she volunteered to create and sew organizational pouches for each of the Educational Assistants, which she displayed at the meeting. Secretary Laura George was recognized for her creative technology work in formatting information within the monthly newsletters. Custodian Glen Ashley was similarly recognized for the extra effort he put in to build an animation camera tripod. Along with Art Teacher Caitlin Greer, he demonstrated how his camera slide, made from mostly recycled material, allowed them to zoom in while making a movie. Appreciation was expressed to the Director of the Cafeteria, Naomi Freethy for her work with Food Services activities. Also, both Karen Frankel and Ann Moronta were thanked for their great efforts in running the book challenge program.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

FY13 Public Budget Hearing

Mary Lyttle declared that the public hearing was open. Then Dr. Hoffmann issued his presentation entitled: "Orleans Elementary School – Public Hearing on the Proposed 2012-2013 Elementary School Budget". Dr. Hoffmann initiated the discussion by explaining the budget development process, indicating that this public meeting was intended to prioritize budget needs.

The School Committee will then vote on the FY13 budget at the next meeting on February 27, 2102.

There were a few outlooks on enrollment projections; as a result it was determined the enrollment could increase by 8 students in 2013. Although the goal was to keep the FY13 budget below 2.5%, and the projected increase was 2.45%, it may be 2.52% with the addition of the Point-of-Sale (POS) system for the cafeteria. Most of the other increases are attributed to instructional supplies and technology and buildings and ground. Savings were expected from retirements in 2012 and natural gas price decreases. The overall goal is to maintain class sizes and interventions for struggling as well as advanced students.

He continued that the FY10 per pupil cost for the OES was \$23,905, where 98.5% of the budget comes from municipal sources as opposed to state and federal aid. It was pointed out that the cost includes what OES was charged for town services.

OES has much to offer including, among other things, a very high MCAS ranking, highly qualified faculty, special subjects integrated across the curriculum and a great after-school program.

Dr. Hoffmann proceeded to expand upon each of the following budget goals:

- #1 – Maintain Quality Academic Programs & Student Support Services
- #2 – Maintain Reasonable Class Sizes
- #3 – Stimulate Professional Growth of All Staff
- #4 – Provide for Students with Special Needs
- #5 – Provide for a Safe and Supportive Climate
- #6 – Enhance Parent & Community Involvement

To accomplish these goals, the FY12 budget of \$3,135K would need to be increased to \$3,212K for FY13, for an increase of \$76K or 2.45%. (The numbers will be adjusted to include the POS system, which will bring the total increase to 2.52%).

Upon completion of Dr. Hoffmann's presentation, there was further discussion. With respect to goal #3 pertaining to professional growth, Gwynne Guzzeeau inquired how the staff could be developed in non-traditional ways; i.e. leadership development and promoting community culture. She shared information about a workshop.

There was a concern raised from the public that goal #1, which included plans to expand technology, contradicted with plans to reduce the computer program. With respect to technology, David Abel pointed out the need to have a technology plan to better understand why the school was behind.

Mary Lyttle declared that the public hearing was closed.

Principal's Report

Principal Carreiro announced that the yearbook was finished at the end of the year and the National Geographic event is scheduled at the end of February. Now organizations using the school facilities pay for space, which enabled the school to make a recent deposit of \$700 in its building use account. They are also running an after-school enrichment program. She also recognized many staff members who, in addition to their traditional responsibilities, are also active on various committees to support curriculum development.

Separately, Principal Carreiro provided a report "Weekly Specialist Times By School" so the OES could compare programs and time spent by each elementary school in the district. Among other things, the report demonstrated how more time was spent by OES in Art, Library and Computers than the other schools and the OES was the only school providing Spanish.

In response to past inquiries, Principal Carreiro also provided a salary savings from FY13 proposed changes.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

The Assistant Superintendent's report was included in the packet highlighting, among other topics, the Math and Literacy plans, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for Colleges and Careers (PARCC) consortium, new directions in writing, Educator Evaluator Tool and Mentor Program.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hoffmann recently participated in a panel at the University of Southern Mississippi to discuss how to monitor and evaluate wellness policies within school systems. He found the experience very positive and one outcome would be the creation of an on-line system.

FY12 Budget Update

Hans Baumhauer reviewed the School Expenditure Report (from 7/1/2011 – 1/17/2012) and reported that the expenses were tracking well. He continued with a discussion of the OES cafeteria financials, which was breaking even. He did indicate that the Cafeteria Director's salary was not included in this budget as it was charged to appropriations.

Facilities Study

The Town Buildings & Facilities Master Plan was addressed. A newer version has since been published, which Principal Carreiro agreed to e-mail, and which will be discussed in more detail at the next OES meeting. Some of the projects cited are already in progress.

Cafeteria

Dr. Hoffmann clarified the role of the principals in the cafeteria operations. He stated that in theory, the principals are all in charge of decisions of their respective school. However, the cafeterias should have the ability of making things happen. Dr. Hoffmann will speak to all of the principals personally about the chain of command issue. He also initiated a survey, conducted by the Ashland Public Schools Food Service Director.

School Choice

Dr. Hoffmann started the discussion on school choice by explaining his concerns with the program. Although the number of students by grade can be limited, the specific students cannot be selected. Dr. Hoffmann is opposed to school choice for OES due to concerns about class sizes, lack of control over who enters and from which towns, the permanency of the arrangement and the cannibalism effect. Some of the school committee members cited benefits, such as the possibility of attracting talented students, the spirit of the program, opportunity for those who either moved out of the district or for those who work in the district and filling grades below capacity, as long as there was no need to increase the staff. There were two areas that needed to be addressed: 1) Is the OES interested in participating in School Choice and 2) Which grade(s) and how many seats could be filled by School Choice candidates? In a straw poll, all of the members of the OSC agreed to try the program, if only on an experimental basis. Principal Carreiro agreed to bring numbers to the next OES meeting to evaluate for the School Choice program. A final vote for FY13 is required by June 1, 2012.

OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Playground Subcommittee – Josh Stewart had provided an expanded report in last month's OSC meeting. Since his next Playground meeting was scheduled that evening, he will have more to present in the next OSC meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Josh Stewart, seconded by David Abel, it was voted to approve the minutes of December 19, 2011. Abstaining: Gwynne Guzzeau and Eric Ehnstrom.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Gwynne Guzzeau, seconded by Josh Stewart, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM, subject to the payment of bills.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia T. Switchenko