

APPROVED

C. May

ORLEANS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of February 27, 2012

Held in the Music Room, Orleans Elementary School

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

Present for the Administration: Dr. Hoffmann, Principal Carreiro, Dr. Gifford, Hans Baumhauer – Business Manager, Barbara Lavoine – Technology Director

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA CHANGES

Dr. Hoffmann recommended that the agenda items Technology Plan and School Choice be addressed prior to discussion on the budget. There was a consensus on his suggestion.

CITIZENS SPEAK

None

RECOGNITIONS

Principal Carreiro recognized School Nurse Mary Ellen Reed and OES parent Heather Bailey, who were present at the meeting, for their leadership skills in organizing their recently held Health and Wellness Fair and for serving as representatives on Nauset's Health and Wellness Task Force.

Also in attendance was OES student Samantha Elliot, who was recognized for her leadership skills and professionalism when expressing disagreement over the Health and Wellness Policy with regards to the Valentine's Day refreshments.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Administrators' ReportsPrincipal's Report

Principal Carreiro stated that the TLCR Report has not yet been released but it will be forwarded to the committee upon availability. The new doors have been installed at the school. Upcoming events include Bingo for Books (where 200 people signed up), Community Reading Day, Art Reception at Snow Library and the OES Spring Concert and Art Show. The school is prepared for the MCAS Exams and Principal Carreiro shared the testing schedule. She mentioned that DESE is incorporating even more stringent security measures this year due to the increasing number of compromising events that took place across the state last year.

Principal Carreiro's Report also included personnel updates, Kindergarten screening plans, monthly enrollment data and professional development plans.

There is a fund-raising event planned at Land Ho Restaurant on March 24th with Cape Cod Beer to benefit the Orleans Community Playground Project. In addition, there is a town-wide mailing to 7500 people in progress to help support matching funds. Gwynne Guzzeau made a motion to approve the event on March 24th as well as approve the fund-raising activities. The motion was seconded by Eric Ehnstrom and approved unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gifford highlighted the professional development program that resumed in February where teachers of Grades K, 1 and 2 continued working with math consultants in grade level teams. There are three more sessions and the program has been viewed as successful. Within the writing discipline, there is a continuing effort on benchmark assessment. Her report also included information on the Educator Evaluation Tool, Mentor Program, Data Team and Teaching and Learning with Technology.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hoffmann announced on March 5, there will be a parent forum about continuing or not continuing to group grade 6 students in separate advanced classes. There is also a Joint Meeting on March 8th where an update on the Integrated Pre-School Program, food services and a review of bus transportation will be provided. Dr. Hoffmann is also seeking a legal opinion on whether the Joint School Committee can rescind a prior vote.

Technology Plan

Barbara Lavoine, Director of Technology, reviewed the technology plan with the Committee. She led her presentation with the showing of a YouTube video entitled "Engage Me", where students expressed their desire to use their favorite technologies for learning in schools. She then addressed some of the some of the technology shortcomings including insufficient bandwidth, poor performance of the "cloud" based system and the need to replace switches. Of the 28% of the computers that meet DESE's standards, few meet the industry standard. There is inconsistency in both platforms and student applications. Inadequate support is an issue as well, as throughout the district the DESE recommended technology support standards are not met.

The 2011 Technology Survey revealed that only 26% of the respondents do not take their students to the computer lab at all. The top technology concerns expressed in the survey were bandwidth, slow computers, Internet reliability and the minimal use of technology as a tool for learning.

To address the concerns, the technology and infrastructure are being updated and funding has been requested in both the school budget and capital plan. There is also a need for professional development to secure and train the needed technicians, curriculum support specialists and technology coordinators.

School Choice

To initiate the discussion, Dr. Hoffmann issued the Orleans Elementary School FY13 Enrollment Projection. Although there are seven potential choice seats for Grade 4 in the hand-out, some felt

that it might be challenging to get 4th graders to make a school change. The target class size is 13 – 17 students for K-Grade 3, and Grades 4 and 5 should not exceed 20 students.

After some discussion, Eric Ehnstrom made a motion to offer School Choice next year for nine 4th Grade seats and two 1st Grade seats. It was seconded by Gwynne Guzzeau. Eric voted in favor, and the others were opposed, so the motion was rejected.

A second motion was made by Gwynne Guzzeau to offer School Choice next year for seven 4th Grade seats and two 1st Grade seats, and seconded by Josh Stewart. All voted in favor and the motion was passed.

School choice will be made available by a lottery system, a waiting list will be maintained and a vote will take place annually.

FY12 Budget Update

Hans Baumhauer reviewed the School Expenditure Report (from 7/1/2011 – 6/30/2012) and reported that the expenses were tracking well.

FY13 Budget Update

Dr. Hoffmann commenced the discussion by indicating that the 2012-2013 proposed budget remains at \$3,214,137.

Principal Carreiro distributed her earlier memo to Dr. Hoffmann on February 25, 2012 regarding Recommended Budget Reductions to Version 4 Budget. The proposed reduction of \$18,200 was the amount to cover the addition of an extra Pre-K class. Also, another \$3000 reduction was proposed to cover the Gestalt training, if approved.

David Abel then made a motion to accept two changes to the budget - the reduction from 80% to 70% for technology support and reduction from 60% to 55% for Spanish, and Josh Stewart seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously. David Abel also made a motion to accept the FY13 Operating Budget at \$3,214,137. Gwynne Guzzeau seconded it and all voted in favor.

FY13 Capital and Building & Facility Maintenance Plans

There is \$37,000 in the Financial Plan for the fiscal years 2012 – 2013 for OES Capital Outlay. However, the maintenance items for the school exceed the available funding. The TLCR report is needed to view repair requirements.

The FY13 Capital Plan included \$250,000 for the playground. Josh Stewart made a motion to request the Town of Orleans place a Warrant Article on the 2012 Annual Town Meeting in May for the amount of \$250,000 to replace the playground structure and make related site improvements at Orleans Elementary School. Gwynne Guzzeau seconded the motion. With the exception of Eric Ehnstrom who abstained from the vote, all others voted in favor of the motion.

OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Cape Cod Collaborative

No update was provided.

Playground Subcommittee

Josh Stewart referred to Principal Carreiro's Progress Progression report of February 13, 2012 which provided a detailed status of activities. The report identified that of the seven formal proposals submitted for consideration, Leathers Associates was top ranked. Arrangements are being made to both have the site professional surveyed as well as have the site landscape design completed. Grant proposals are being drafted and fundraising efforts continue.

In order to have a site that benefits the wider Orleans community, a walking path and hiking trails are being considered.

Principal Carreiro publicly thanked all those who helped clearing the land.

After discussion on a community build option (which the town opposes) vs. a hybrid build, Margie Fulcher, Chair of the Board of Selectmen in Orleans, agreed to pursue further.

Transportation Subcommittee

As the OSC representative, Josh Stewart admitted that his schedule makes it difficult to attend meetings. Eric Ehnstrom offered to assume his responsibility on the team.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Gwynne Guzzeau, seconded by David Abel, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 23, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Gwynne Guzzeau, seconded by David Abel, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM, subject to the payment of bills.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia T. Switchenko