

ORLEANS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Special Meeting, September 20, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

APPROVED

ROLL CALL

K. DeLy, Asst
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

'13 OCT 31 2:11PM

For the Committee: Josh Stewart, Eric Ehnstrom, David Abel, Ginger Marks, Ed Rohmer

For the Administration: Diane Carreiro

Others in Attendance: Orleans FinCom Member, Several Teachers

I. CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES

II. PRIORITY BUSINESS

Establish School Committee Goals (5:15 p.m. Secretary arrives.)

Committee members were in discussion about technology, equipment, and vision. Ms. Carreiro explained that technology equipment acquisition was sometimes determined by the needs of the school and, at other times, decided by the district. A K-12 draft tech plan is ready and will be presented at the Joint Meeting. Committee members asked to receive a copy of the plan. Since the district is not regionalized K-12, Mr. Ehnstrom wondered if a committee of five members from each elementary school be formed. They could meet every two weeks or so to discuss elementary issues and make decisions unilaterally. Better communication among stakeholders was an item of interest for the committee. What method could the school committee use to hear teacher concerns? Mr. Abel asked the teachers present at the meeting what item would they like to see the school committee focus on? One reply was to be sure all the money being spent was benefitting the children. Mrs. Marks asked if there could be a teacher liaison (either a staff member or a school committee member) to foster communication between the groups. Is there a feeling within the community of not being able to approach committee members? Mrs. Marks pointed out the Citizens Speak section of each meeting agenda when committees can hear concerns and receive information from anyone. In the event that the school committee might want to add a program or a course (such as offering Spanish every day), the issue of an extended school day was brought up. Ms. Carreiro said anything was possible, but the issue would require extensive exploration.

Mr. Stewart identified ongoing talking points for the committee throughout the year. They include better communication, access by the public, technology, and foreign language. He will ask the Superintendent about opportunities and limits so teachers can provide feedback to the committee. He will also inquire of Dr. Hoffmann regarding technology and visioning. Mr. Rohmer wondered if it would be beneficial to tape our meetings for broadcast to the public?

Ms. Carreiro reminded the committee that she had to hire a special needs educational assistant and also has a part time long term substitute. As a result of the MCAS test results, OES is rated as a Level 1 school.

Mrs. Marks said she was in favor of more meetings, such as today's, to discuss goals in an informal setting. Mr. Stewart will check with the Superintendent regarding meeting guidelines.

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Another question committee members raised was how to seek legal advice and opinions. Was the committee aligned with the school or the town since they were an elected body.

Ms. Carreiro will seek the opinion of Town Administrator, John Kelly, regarding the expending of the \$300,000 voted at the May Town Meeting. She is waiting for the security design company to sign a contract and get the project underway.

V. PAYMENT OF BILLS

VII. ADJOURNMENT – It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Templeton, Secretary

Orleans School Committee