

ORLEANS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

APPROVED

Regular Meeting, January 27, 2014, Orleans Town Hall

K. D. ... ASST.
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK
'14 APR 16 2:58PM

Present for the Committee: Josh Stewart, Chair, Eric Ehnstrom, Ginger Marks, Ed Rohmer, David Abel

For the Administration: Dr. Richard Hoffmann, Giovanna Venditti (arrived at 4:50 p.m.), Diane Carreiro

Others in Attendance: Town officials, and members of the community

CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES – Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. He announced there would be an Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to conducting collective bargaining with union personnel. The committee will return to open session immediately following. Regarding agenda item B., Dr. Hoffmann announced that Jim Hardy would not attend tonight's meeting. However, he will attend the upcoming Joint Meeting to review committee roles and policy on school committee and staff communication. Agenda item G. Policy Update was tabled. Policies I and G are awaiting language from the administration.

CITIZENS SPEAK – No one wished to speak.

RECOGNITIONS – Ms. Carreiro recognized Nauset students Jane Marks, Amanda Schuman and Katie Tingley who were in attendance. Ms. Marks, representing The Atlantic White Shark Conservancy, does volunteer work and outreach. Ms. Schuman and Ms. Tingley perform weekly volunteer work in kindergarten. They were thanked for the time they give back to OES (additional information is contained in the January 2014 Principal's Report).

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Executive Session

A motion was made by Eric Ehnstrom and seconded by David Abel to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to conducting collective bargaining with union personnel. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Rohmer – Yes, Mrs. Marks – Yes, Mr. Abel – Yes, Mr. Ehnstrom – Yes, Mr. Stewart – Yes.

Return to Open Session

The committee returned to Open Session at 4:50 p.m. The committee's decision is there was not a violation of Article VIII, 2.b.1. of the Teachers Contract. However, the administration has been directed to look for opportunities whenever possible for collaboration.

Food Service Update

Ms. Susan Murray, Director of Food Services, provided a substantial written mid-year report to committee members as well as a 2014 position paper on Federal Child Nutrition Programs, Income Eligibility Guidelines, Daily Participation Summary, and Revolving Fund YTD comparisons and 2014 projections. Highlights of her report included new managers, program improvements and promotions at all Nauset schools, special ways the program is meeting goals, and continuing improvements. She is using products from the school gardens, new vendors to reduce costs, and supporting the wellness policy. Dr. Hoffmann noted participation, except for Wellfleet, is slightly down. This may be due to the economy. Ms. Murray was thanked for her report and departed at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Abel also departed at this time.

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FY14 Budget Update

Committee members received the School Expenditure Report. Ms. Venditti reviewed recent detail analysis and noted an unexpended balance of \$67,405.88.

Update on Security System

Mrs. Marks said the subcommittee met on January 17 and voted on the draft proposal. However, Mr. Collins presented an alternative plan. The subcommittee will meet on January 29 at 10 a.m. to review the new plan which may contain some savings, but the architect's input is still needed.

FY15 Budget

The committee began its review of the proposed OES FY15 budget. The first draft shows an increase of 9.83%. Ms. Carreiro has been combing through the budget looking for ways to reduce it. She noted transportation (Account 3085) has increased \$28,000 because PreK has moved to Eastham next year. Account 3014 was increased in FY14 due to kindergarten numbers requiring the hire of an additional teacher. It will have to be maintained for grade one. The Title I grant has been cut by \$56,076. Ms. Carreiro proceeded to go through the FY15 proposed budget account by account. Account 3011 has a \$9900 increase because of required technology services. This is also true for Account 3036 in order to meet state standards. Transportation of a student for an out-of-district placement is projected to cost \$27,500. Account 3088 SN Preschool Tuition is up \$29,980. The tuition cost for the out-of-district placement is potentially \$54,748 in Account 3098. Ms. Carreiro was asked how Account 3088 was configured. She said Dr. Caretti formulates preschool costs based on student population. Ms. Venditti will check on how special needs money is paid out during the year. Mr. Rohmer requested additional information on technology plans and costs.

Ms. Carreiro gave the committee a list of proposed budget cut considerations in the amount of \$100,155. The cuts only amount to 3% of the 9.83% increase. Dr. Hoffmann said Dr. Caretti will attend the upcoming Joint Meeting and explain the preschool revolving account and how it could benefit the towns. Ms. Carreiro said she already has received calls regarding kindergarten enrollment for next year. School Choice will be a future agenda item.

Mr. Ehnstrom noted the budget is still \$86,000 above where we need to be. Dr. Hoffmann suggested the committee consider staffing and its ramifications at the February meeting. Mr. Stewart said he was bothered by cutting afterschool programs and clubs. Ms. Carreiro said the PTC gives the school \$10,000 to \$12,000 annually. It helps with programs and field trips. She has also considered a small fee for field trips to help offset costs.

The OES Title I cut was due to the administration redistributing funds based on a formula of the number of students who qualify for the services. Dr. Hoffmann said he would have Mr. Gauley explain at the upcoming meeting in February.

Ms. Carreiro said she was very impressed with how the new technology hardware and software has enhanced learning.

Mr. David Dunford, Orleans Selectman, spoke saying how much he appreciated the deliberations of the committee. He pointed out that the kindergarten teacher hired in September 2013 isn't part of the FY15 increase as it was approved last year. Also, the PreK transportation to Eastham is an unanticipated cost.

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At a suggestion by Mr. Stewart, the committee agreed to hold a special meeting on February 10, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss only the FY15 proposed budget. Ms. Carreiro was asked to continue to pare down the budget.

OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Cape Cod Collaborative – No report at this time.

Playground Subcommittee – A grant application was presented to the Community Preservation Commission for \$60,000.

Transportation Subcommittee – Mr. Ehnstrom said there will be a meeting tomorrow to look at the specs and ways to lessen costs.

Policy Subcommittee – Mr. Ehnstrom said the meeting had been snowed out.

Preschool Enrollment – Will be on the agenda at the Joint Meeting on Thursday.

Dr. Hoffmann said Ms. Carreiro had a special announcement. She will retire at the end of the school year. She presented a formal letter saying her last day will be July 31, 2014. She indicated she is willing to do anything to help make the transition as smooth as possible. She was thanked for her years of service to OES, wished well, and given a round of applause.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a correction to grade 2 teacher's name in the last paragraph of page 1 – Katherine Bovino. A motion was made by Mr. Ehnstrom and seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the minutes of December 16, 2013 as corrected. The vote was unanimous.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

ADJOURNMENT – It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Templeton, Secretary

Orleans School Committee

