

ORLEANS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

APPROVED

Regular Meeting, March 17, 2014, Orleans Town Hall

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

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

For the Administration: Dr. Richard Hoffmann, Giovanna Venditti, Diane Carreiro

'14 AUG 5 2:10PM

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

CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES - Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

CITIZENS SPEAK - No one wished to speak.

RECOGNITIONS - Ms. Carreiro recognized grade 4 student Carson Winslow and his class, and grade 2 student Riley Meehan and his class. Carson is recognized for his work on the Biography Convention and Research Project. Riley is recognized for his work on the Occupation Fair. Both students were in attendance at the meeting. Additional information can be found in the March 2014 Principal's Report.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Administrators' Reports

- Principal's Report - Sue Richer and Paul Gregg gave a presentation on technology curriculum. Martha Jenkins and Judy Upedgraff presented portfolio assessment. All were thanked for sharing. Orleans Police Officer Coffee's role is ending. A daily police walk through, free of charge, has been offered for children to feel comfortable around police presence. Calmer Choice is to be scheduled for grades 1,2, and possibly 3. Kindergarten screening will be held in April. The final theme is birds. Breakaway Grill has volunteered to take part in the annual Sizzler.

Committee members would be interested in feedback about having a daily visit by a police officer. They cautioned to be careful how its implemented, and the goals of having a resource officer should be clearly stated. Ms. Carreiro noted that extensive training takes place for resource officers - actually earning a certificate of completion.

Ms. Carreiro wanted to emphasize that the school is struggling with bandwidth and internet wireless issues. Electricians have been called in, and support has been needed from tech teacher and the Director of Technology. Mr. Rohmer would like to see a technology assessment done and have a report brought back to the committee. The school needs to have a reliable network. Dr. Hoffmann said the assessment has already been scheduled to take place. Ms. Carreiro noted problems with old wiring for the fire alarm and the electrician was back this afternoon because the parking lot lights were out. Faulty wiring was the culprit. The roof needs to be checked. The recent rough weather has revealed 10 leaks.

- Assistant Superintendent's Report - In packet.
- Director of Student Services' Report
- Superintendent's Report - AASA 2014 National Conference on Education in packet.

## Orleans School Committee Meeting, March 17, 2014

### FY14 Budget Update

The most recent School Expenditure Report was in the packet. Ms. Venditti noted a balance of \$41,513.77. The out-of-district placement cost of \$19,585 was encumbered leaving a balance of \$21,929. Ms. Carreiro and Ms. Venditti will meet to formulate a spending plan and will report back at the next meeting. An educational assistant was laid off due to the student moving.

### FY15 Budget

A report, prepared by Ms. Carreiro, on Special Education Staffing Considerations was in the packet. In it, she noted OES is servicing 32 students during the current year. It is anticipated there will be 28 students for FY15. Grade K educational assistants' hours were compared throughout the district. She felt that the 3.6 daily hours for special needs is sufficient. She did find a little time in a special needs teacher's day to help in kindergarten. Mr. Abel wondered what their concern was. Having an additional pair of hands was probably the reason. Ms. Carreiro said if she could provide it, she always did. Special needs is always changing based on students coming and going in the program during the year. She does not feel that a full time special needs teacher is needed. OES offers grade K educational assistants 4 hours per day five times per week. Mr. Rohmer pointed out that parents and staff seemed concerned that OES wasn't able to provide small group reading. Dr. Hoffmann said, in general, schools have enough staff for small group instruction. He sees more staff available in K/1/2 at OES. Mr. Stewart said he doesn't want to take away decisions made by our administrators. He feels that would be overstepping our role. Mr. Ehnstrom said he would always defer to Ms. Carreiro's decisions.

Dr. Hoffmann said previously, the committee was trying to meet the town budget increase guidelines. Mr. Rohmer recalled the committee voting 4-0 to adopt the FY15 proposed budget. Mr. Stewart said he felt good about the number the committee reached. Mr. Rohmer said the committee had tried to reach the town's criteria, but the budget needs to maintain basic services and noted there had been a lot of unanticipated expenses. The town target was \$3,534,870. The FY15 proposed budget is \$3,567,125, \$32,255 over the town's request. A motion was made by Mr. Abel and seconded by Mr. Rohmer to approve the FY15 proposed budget at \$3,567,125 previously adopted on February 11, 2014. The vote was unanimous.

### Update on Security System

The plans, voted by the subcommittee, include a new vestibule, moving the principal's office to the small conference room, secretarial area reconfigured, new entry doors. Awaiting architect's plans. The subcommittee will meet on March 27th to approve drawings. Ms. Venditti will send plans to the school committee. The next step is to go out to bid. School Committee could vote approval at the upcoming joint meeting.

### School Choice

The Superintendent recommends that Orleans not participate in School Choice. Mr. Ehnstrom felt OES should participate in School Choice. If we have seats on the bus, we should fill them. Dr. Hoffmann said the current enrollment projection is 17 in each kindergarten, and three classes in grade one with 15 or 16. Mr. Rohmer said he wouldn't support increasing class sizes any further noting the benefits of small classes. Mr. Stewart mentioned having an income stream that allowed OES to purchase unanticipated items. He would look into increasing numbers in grades 3 or 4 for next year. Dr. Hoffmann felt the current class sizes are fine. He thought it was difficult to send a bill to one of the other elementary schools. Mr. Ehnstrom thought OES could offer 3 seats each in grades 3 and 4.

## Orleans School Committee Meeting, March 17, 2014

The committee continued to debate the pros and cons and decided to table the School Choice discussion and decision until the meeting in April.

### Capital Plan Update

Neither Dr. Hoffmann nor Ms. Carreiro have received any feedback on the Capital Plan from the March 4th meeting. Mr. Kelly indicated the \$20,000 for technology could probably be put back into the Capital Plan. Mr. Ehnstrom said no explanation had been put forth as to why changes were made to the OES plan. Mr. Abel suggested meeting with Mr. Collins and Mr. Kelly to review our reasoning for the OES Capital Plan. Dr. Hoffmann said he didn't understand why the technology money had been removed. Mr. Stewart suggested it would be nice to have the town's Capital Plan be more inclusive among all the town's entities. Mr. Abel and Mr. Rohmer said the committee wants to work collaboratively with the town, if not this year, definitely next. Mr. Abel wondered if we don't object, does that mean we've approved the plan and the changes? Ms. Carreiro noted that a ventilator went down and she is waiting for it to be repaired. She said 2018 seems pretty far out for repairs to the system. Mr. Stewart asked if we should, by letter, formally express our concerns, especially about the bathrooms and heating system? Dr. Hoffmann said he definitely wants to talk with Mr. Kelly about the technology piece. If we do hear about the needs of the town, it would be beneficial for future planning. Mr. Abel said he would call Mr. Collins to get up to speed and meet with Ms. Carreiro if necessary.

### Transportation Update

Ms. Venditti said she was able to exercise the fifth year option of the current contract. The money in the budget is sufficient. Five vendors showed interest. She hopes to go out to bid in the summer and have more participation.

### Policy Update

A motion was made by Mr. Ehnstrom and seconded by Mr. Abel to approve in form for a first reading, Section K, School Community and Section L, Education Agency Relations; Section J, Students, with the exception of the policy regarding fundraising; Section G, Personnel, with the exception of the policy regarding School Committee and Staff Communication. The vote was unanimous.

## OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Cape Cod Collaborative – No report at this time.

Playground Subcommittee – A meeting will be held soon.

Transportation Subcommittee – Ms. Venditti gave update.

Policy Subcommittee – Has not met.

Preschool Enrollment – No change.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Abel and seconded by Mr. Rohmer to approve the minutes of February 24, 2014 as printed. The vote was unanimous.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Stewart announced that there would be an Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel and will not return to public session. Roll call vote: Mr. Rohmer – Yes, Mr. Ehnstrom – Yes, Mr. Abel – Yes.

Orleans School Committee, March 17, 2014

PAYMENT OF BILLS

ADJOURNMENT - It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Templeton, Secretary

Orleans School Committee