

ORLEANS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

APPROVED

Regular Meeting, April 28, 2014, Orleans Town Hall

Present for the Committee: Josh Stewart, Chair, Ed Rohmer, Ginger Marks, Eric Ehnstrom
For the Administration: Dr. Richard Hoffmann, Giovanna Venditti, Diane Carreiro
Others in Attendance: OES Staff Members

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

'14 AUG 5 2:10PM

CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES – Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

CITIZENS SPEAK – No one wished to speak.

RECOGNITIONS – Ms. Carreiro introduced OES new principal, Elaine Pender, who will begin July 1, 2014. She was welcomed by the committee saying they were looking forward to working with her. Cafeteria Manager, Lisa Chappel, was recognized by Ms. Carreiro in her Principal's Report. Mrs. Marks was thanked for volunteering to work and chair the book fair. The fair raised \$6000. Additional information can be found in the April 2014 Principal's Report.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Food Service Update

Susan Murray, Food Service and Nutrition Director, was not able to attend the meeting. Her April 2014 report was in the packet. She will be rescheduled.

Administrators' Reports

Principal's Report – Four summer programs are being planned; a parents luncheon is being scheduled; new software is being implemented (IXL Math software). The date for the reception for Ms. Pender is May 28 from 2:30 to 3:30. Paul Gregg and Sue Richer were introduced and presented technology integration with brain-based spelling centers. Ms. Carreiro noted that teachers had only just received Ipad and their progress is laudable. Next, Ms. Youmans and Sharon Huges demonstrated special education support through Ipad use. The teachers were thanked for their presentations. Mr. Rohmer asked to received a list of apps in use at the school. Dr. Hoffmann said he hoped to have the list of apps in general use throughout the school system shortly.

Assistant Superintendent's report was in the packet.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Hoffmann said he would be reporting on his trip to China at a later time. The Brewster public library has asked him to give a report. Most of his time was spent in grades 7-12. Some class sizes were 50-60 students with one teacher. A typical day is 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with a break from 12-2. One school had over 12,000 students. He observed a third grade class doing paper cutting with an exacto blade!

FY14 Budget Update

Dr. Hoffmann noted that OES had some real challenges – an unexpected out-of-district placement and associated transportation costs. Ms. Venditti highlighted accounts 3014, 3019, 3027, 3034, 3096, 3085, 3075, 3093, 3062, 3063, 3054, and 3055. The printed budget balance is negative \$9574. She

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then explained what had changed since the report was printed. She is looking to use \$21,365 of School Choice funds. Ms. Venditti and Ms. Carreiro do not feel they can unencumber the substitute accounts at this time. There are still a lot of unknowns. Dr. Hoffmann suggested he write a letter to the Orleans Finance Committee in case there may be a need for an emergency transfers. It would be wise to give them a "head's up." The Committee also received a Cafeteria Revolving Fund report in their packets.

Update on Security System

The package went out to bid. There was a walk through last Friday with one general contractor and three security firms. It was determined to pull the bid in order to clarify specs. When it is reposted, all interested parties will be informed.

School Choice

The Committee received the results of a staff survey regarding school choice. Eight surveys were turned in to Ms. Carreiro. Mr. Stewart noted that only 30% responded, but it's clear small class size is valued. Mr. Stewart said he was leaning towards not having School Choice. Mr. Rohmer would favor having an in depth discussion with all stake holders very early in the next school year. The goal is to enhance the learning environment. A motion was made by Mr. Rohmer and seconded by Mrs. Marks to not participate in School Choice. Mr. Ehnstrom could not see how one or two more students could be a detriment to the school. Leaving money "on the table" doesn't make sense to him. Mr. Stewart and Mrs. Marks could see both sides of the issue. Vote: 3 YES 1 NO

Policy Update

The Policy Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday and they hope to have a proposal for the next Joint Meeting. Dr. Hoffmann said the Joint Meeting has been cancelled and rescheduled for May. Mr. Stewart polled the Committee regarding the Fundraising Policy. Consensus was the policy is approved as presented. The Staff Communication policy is awaiting legal opinion. The Committee felt it was still an open issue for OES and should receive additional discussion. The Nauset Education Association interpreted the policy as a barrier to speaking out.

Coverage Plan for Town Meeting

Committee members should plan to attend. Although there do not appear to be any issues, Dr. Hoffmann said he may be asked about the windows and MSBA funding.

Survey Results

Dr. Hoffmann reviewed the results of the recent 2013-2014 Parent Survey. Questions 1-4 are raw data comments. Principals were asked to highlight several items to work on. He appreciated the time the parents took to complete the survey. Ms. Carreiro said she reviewed the survey results which were overall very favorable, but there is always room for improvement. For next year's calendar, committee members were concerned that the first student reporting period wasn't until December next year. They would like to see an interim informal report to parents sooner. Mrs. Marks noted that enrichment for academically advanced students needs attention.

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Superintendent's Evaluation

The evaluation forms were in the packet. Later this week, Dr. Hoffmann will send out information to help complete the evaluation. This is a state form.

OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Cape Cod Collaborative – No report at this time.

Playground Subcommittee – The playground looks awesome. The new paving has been completed.

Donations of time and materials were received.

Transportation Subcommittee – Report given by Ms. Venditti.

Policy Subcommittee – Will meet tomorrow.

Preschool Enrollment – Position for preschool director has been posted. There may be some savings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Ehnstrom and seconded by Mr. Rohmer to approve the minutes of March 17, 2014 as printed. Voted: 3–YES 1–ABSTAIN (Marks)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was postponed until another time.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

ADJOURNMENT – It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Templeton, Secretary
Orleans School Committee

