

APPROVED

ORLEANS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting, May 19, 2014, Orleans Town Hall

[Signature]
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

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: FinCom liaison, OES Staff members

'14 AUG 5 2:10PM

CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA CHANGES – Chair Stewart called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

CITIZENS SPEAK – No one wished to speak.

RECOGNITIONS – Ms. Carreiro said she would have recognitions in June. She introduced Ms. Dawn Steber, OES Technology teacher, who provided a demonstration/Power Point of keyboarding skills by the use of Type to Learn 4. Next, Ms. Erin LaGasse spoke about the program Raz Kids which is new to OES and will be in use in the fall. It is a reading progress aid related to the Common Core. It's success is due to the support of the families. Math 1XL, a new program, provides a way to practice first grade math skills and is extremely motivating. Committee members asked about having Type to Learn available online at home. The cost is \$200-250. Ms. LaGasse was thanked for setting up the programs, and Ms. Steber for her report.

PRIORITY BUSINESS

Administrators' Reports

Principal's Report. Mr. Rohmer asked about building wiring. Ms. Carreiro said an electrical engineer and Ron Collins toured the building on Friday because the electrical inspector wants the computer lab rewired. It is out of compliance. New wiring and new tables are being looked at. Mr. Rohmer asked to receive the outside vendor's (Whally) report via email. He requested the committee receive a presentation at a future meeting. The committee asked to have the bullying survey results for the next meeting.

FY14 Budget Update

Ms. Venditti reviewed the School Expenditure Report. Presently, there is a negative \$10977. There is a \$30,000 balance in the health insurance account. Applied to the negative balance, the total would be \$19,023. Both Ms. Venditti and Ms. Carrerio feel it's too soon to unencumber the substitute account. Dr. Hoffmann said there would be a clearer picture at the June meeting. He wants all schools to have the same reading program. OES is looking to purchase the reading program with year end funds at a cost of \$47,000. Some money (\$17,000) will come from the Title I Grant. It will be a big investment.

Update on Security System

The bid was posted on May 14th. A site visit is scheduled for May 21. Sub bids are due on May 28, and sub contractor bids on June 5. Ms. Venditti said 21 vendors expressed an interest in the packet. It is hoped the project will be substantially complete by August 22.

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Policy Update

Enclosed in the packet were legal opinions regarding policies on fundraising, former students and the School Choice program, and communications. Mr. Stewart said the Policy Subcommittee met last week to craft some replacements, however, neither the fundraising policy nor the communications policy were changed. Four out of five committees did not have an issue with the fundraising policy. The issue is unique to Brewster. The Staff Communications policy was debated for a long time. The legal opinion steered the subcommittee to keeping the original policy unchanged. Teachers are welcome to communicate with school committee members at school committee meetings. We talked about formalizing outside meeting communication. We are committed to finding how to have open communication. Dr. Hoffmann said the goal is to work closely with staff to encourage them to come to meetings and speak out on issues. Dr. Hoffmann plans to speak about this issue on Opening Day. Mrs. Marks said Mr. Abel had emailed his thoughts to her on the topic. She will let him know he can email the letter to committee members. It can be discussed at Thursday's Joint Meeting. Mr. Rohmer wanted the committee to know he does not support Policy 4213. Mr. Stewart reiterated that the Policy Subcommittee will be trying to find paths to better communication. We should reach out to engage staff in discussions. The onus should also be on the Union to clearly define to their staff the meaning of the policy. Mrs. Marks would like to see something in writing so committee members can gain more feedback from staff.

OTHER REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Cape Cod Collaborative - No report at this time.

Playground Subcommittee - Meeting later on to figure next steps.

Transportation Subcommittee - Last report by Mr. Ehnstrom.

Policy Subcommittee - Meeting held.

Preschool Enrollment - In packet. There are two finalist for preschool coordinator.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Ehnstrom and seconded by Mrs. Marks to approve the minutes of April 28, 2014 as printed. The vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was being called to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel and will not return to open session. A motion was made by Mr. Rohmer and seconded by Mrs. Marks to go into Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken - Mr. Rohmer - Yes; Mrs. Marks - Yes; Mr. Ehnstrom - Yes; Mr. Stewart - Yes

PAYMENT OF BILLS

ADJOURNMENT - It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:50 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Marcia M. Templeton, Secretary
Orleans School Committee