

ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

**Lake Region Union Elementary-Middle School District
Board of School Directors Meeting**

Location: Irasburg Village School
Monday, August 12, 2019 – 6:00pm

OCSU Vision: All of our students will have choices for success throughout their lives.

OCSU Mission: It is the mission of the Orleans Central Supervisory Union to provide an environment that celebrates diversity and creativity, promotes inclusion and integrity, and partners with parents and community members to give students access to a 21st century education.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Bev Davis, Superintendent; Phil Roberts (Barton); Paul Simmons, Irasburg Principal; Josh Webber (Orleans); Theresa Daigle (Glover); Megan Valley (Westmore); Debbie Brunelle (Brownington); Heather Wright, Business Manager; Linda Michniewicz (Westmore); Matt Kittredge (Albany); Amy Leroux (Irasburg); Neil Urie (Albany); Dan Demaine (Glover); Wendy Morgan, Thaddeus Stevens School; PARENTS: Sierra Girard; Ryan Degreenia; Cory Curtis; Seana Rowell; Marisa Trevits; Ben Trevits; Leanne Kruszyna

1. Call to Order 6:07 pm
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda Added
3. Privilege of the Floor None
4. Focus on Learning: Tour of the School by Principal Paul Simmons. Irasburg school was built in 1973 and initially had no dividing walls. The dividing walls between classrooms were put in later. There have been several different floor plans with the latest change involving the library moving from the 2nd floor to the art room and special education moving to the 2nd floor. HVAC issues have been a concern especially the ability to control heat in each room and maintain ventilation. The school has a nice athletic fields although the playground structure needs to be updated. Mr. Simmons is happy with the mixture of teachers at the school and is welcoming three new teachers to replace those that retired. In grades 2-3 and 4-5 there is a math/science and a humanities teacher and the grades switch classrooms to do those subjects.
5. Consent Agenda (Action) Debbie moved, Linda 2nd. All in favor.
 - a. Approve Minutes from July 18, 2019
 - b. Accept Financial Reports
 - c. Hazing, Harassment, Bullying designees Albany: Steve Owens, Candy Palmer Barton: Jenna Lawrence, guidance counselor Brownington: Larry Fliegelman, Jessica Lewis Glover: Angelique Brown, guidance counselor Irasburg: Paul Simmons, Erin Day-Chesley Orleans: Kim Hastings, Amanda Addeo COFEC: Julie Lavine, Michele Streeter.
 - d. Approve superintendent's recommendation to hire Emily Corkins as a .2 library-media specialist
 - e. Accept the resignation of Sherie Frizzell

6. Business of the Board (Discussion and Possible Action)

- a. Reconsideration of grandfathering Westmore Students. Linda mentioned that there was confusion on whether we could do it for one more year instead of grandfathering in for the rest of their K-8 education. Also, Westmore voted to allow the use of the capital reserve (roughly \$55K) for this year. A Westmore parent brought up that their child would be starting school next week and is nervous about starting a new school. Phil motioned to allow Westmore students tuitioned out of LRUEMS for school year 2018-19 enrolled K-7 as of June 1st, 2019 to continue for school year 2019-20 in those same schools. Linda 2nd. Question about whether this includes pre-K to go into kindergarten because there is one student in this category. This motion does not allow students in pre-K in school year 2018-19 out of district to stay out of district for kindergarten 2019-20. All in favor.
- b. Parent request about school choice. Mother of Glover 6th grader has moved to Barton because living situation in Glover changed. She would like to have her daughter continue at Glover through 8th grade because she is established in that class. Another parent of Glover 2nd grader also recently moved and would like to stay in Glover. Mother lives in Barton. There is also a letter from an Albany parent that works in Glover and would like child to attend Glover. Amy concerned about making decisions before policies are established and the danger of establishing precedent. There was also some discussion of whether the merged district would automatically have choice. The state imposed articles stipulated that students should stay in their schools for two years although the board can make exceptions. Amy motions to deny the requests by parents to send students out of the school in which they currently reside. Phil 2nd. Voting done by raising hands. Ayes 6, nos 3, 1 abstain. Motion to deny requests to send students to schools outside of their town of residence carries. Amy suggests maintaining a list of families that have requested school choice so we can alert them when we have a policy.
- c. Accept Revisions to Policy E1: Fiscal Management and General Financial Accountability. Deb motions, Amy 2nd. All in favor.
- d. Review breakfast/lunch prices. Discussion is on what adults pay. Board already decided for all students to receive free breakfast and lunch. Current prices range from \$3.70-4 for lunch. All breakfast are \$3. Theresa motioned for breakfast to stay at \$3 and all lunch to be \$4. Joshua 2nd. All in favor.
- e. School choice policy and guidelines. In the guise of school choice, there was a long discussion about how hazing and bullying are handled. Bev shared that the administrative team trains on this issue every year and that the lawyer has developed a tight guidance based on state law that all administrators must follow. She also shared that beyond legal requirements, the goal of teachers and administrators is to foster healthy and safe classrooms where all students are valued. This is also a source of constant training including restorative techniques. There was some discussion about how to structure the discussion of the school choice and other important policy discussions. It was agreed that the entire board would continue the school choice policy discussion in coming meetings.
- f. Addition. Erin Day-Chesley increased from 0.4 to 0.6 FTE. Debbie motions, Megan 2nd. All in favor.
- g. Building projects. There was discussion about how best to handle capital needs for the schools. Principals put together a list of items in the schools that need to be addressed. It was decided that a standing committee on building projects would help work through priorities and bring them to the whole board. Phil and Matt volunteered to start with and there is space for another board member. In addition, it is hoped that all the principals can come to most of the meetings. The first meeting of the building committee will be at 5:15 August 26 before the LRUEMS meeting at Orleans School.
- h. Stipends for coaches. Need to set rates for all schools. Debbie motions to set the rate at the same amount as teacher. Phil 2nd. All in favor.

- i. Delegate board members to review warrants. Heather reached out to auditor after board decided not to review all bills and auditor thought this was not enough oversight by the board. Phil motions to have two members sign the edits of the bills. Debbie 2nd. All in favor.

- 7. Administrative Requests, Reports & Information (Discussion & Possible Action).
 - a. Heather brought a summary of the unaudited year end numbers. The budgets ended up a collective \$465K better than anticipated in operating expenses and \$6500 worse for school lunch. Some of this surplus is likely encumbered by expenses that were planned for FY2019 but not billed before year end.

- 8. Committee Reports
 - a. OCSU Board
 - b. Negotiations Progress has been made and there will likely be a contract to ratify at the Aug 26 meeting.

- 9. Executive Session (if needed, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313)
 - a. Student Issue Entered 7:17 pm. Exited at 7:37. In open session, Amy moved to deny request for an out of district tuition placement. Phil 2nd. All in favor of denying the request. Entered again at 7:42 to discuss another student issue. Exited 7:56. In open session, Phil motioned to deny request to send a student to a school outside of their school of residence. Amy 2nd. All in favor to deny request.
 - b. Post Executive Session Action (if needed)

- 10. Future Agenda Items
 - a. School choice policy

- 11. Adjournment 9:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Demaine