

ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

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

Location: Orleans Elementary School
February 10, 2020 – 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; Kim Hastings, OES Principal; Phil Roberts; Josh Webber; Angelique Thomas; Linda Michniewicz; Steve Owens, ACS Principal; Matt Kittredge, Amy Leroux, Dan Demaine, Jenna Lawrence, BAGS Principal; Theresa Daigle, via phone

1. Call to Order 6:19
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda None
3. Privilege of the Floor None
4. Principal Updates – The new behavioral specialist at Barton has started and is working well. They have also done several trainings on restorative practices and Jenna is feeling good about how the staff is responding.
5. Focus on Learning: Special Services Update – Kelly Locke presented on special education. Students become eligible for special services when they have a disability, the disability has an adverse effect on a basic skill area, and a need for specialized service. There are several disability categories with the most common being a specific learning disability, other health impairment (ie ADD, ADHD) and emotional disturbance. Assessments must be done within 60 days of the parents providing consent (without parent consent there is no assessment). There are 267 OCSU students currently on IEPs. An IEP has annual goals, service plans to meet those goals, and reassessment every three years. Before an IEP there is an EST and a 504. An EST is a plan made by a team of teachers in a school overseen by the principal to help a student. A 504 is for students who have a disability but do not need specialized instruction (ie. may need a computer to help write). Act 173 is a change in funding disbursement from the state that will move from a reimbursement model to a grant model. In theory, this could allow for a greater use of special services beyond just those on an IEP. However, the grants may not provide as much funds to our schools. Kelly and principals have been working creating social emotional learning teams and trying to improve the EST process. There was discussion about staffing and how paras fit into special education and what kind of training they receive. In next year's budget, paras will be paid for several in service days.
6. Consent Agenda (Action) Linda moved. Phil 2nd. All in favor.
 - a. Approve Minutes from Jan. 27, 2020
 - b. Approve Bills
 - c. Accept Financial Reports
7. Business of the Board (Discussion and Possible Action)

- a. Irasburg Parent Request – Parents had children in Albany and moved to Irasburg this year. They have had issues with the teaching and bullying in Irasburg. They feel the communication from the school has not been good and they feel their children are not being well served. Bev has had discussions with Mr. Simmons about some of the circumstances and shared that some of the issues had to do with staffing (a teacher and interventionist both had long medical leaves). The class sizes in Irasburg and Albany would allow for a move. Board would like some more information from Irasburg teachers and principal about the progress of the children, bullying timeline, and the process of establishing the IEP.
 - b. Westmore Parent Request – Student from Westmore is in Charleston for 7th grade and would like to continue into 8th grade there. There is some question about whether the student is entering 7th or 8th. Also, the board would like to know how much will be left in Charleston’s capital reserves at the end of this budget year.
 - c. Orleans Principal – Kim Hastings has submitted a letter of resignation effective at the end of the year in order to spend more time with her family. Her son is moving back to the area. Phil moved to accept her letter of resignation and release her from her contract, which has one year left, Matt 2nd. She started her career with OCSU as a para in 1978. All in favor.
 - d. Principal Salaries – Bev brought some information to start the discussion. Health insurance will change by state mandate starting in January and this will affect principals differently based on their insurance elections. There was also discussion about how this will affect a new principal coming in with since they may elect different coverage. There was also discussion about having a pay scale that principals could slot into. In the budget there is allowance for a 5% increase. There are many permutations to how the health insurance factors in and depending on how they fall, principals will be looking at a net increase between 1-3%. Heather will be coming to the next meeting to bring the board more information.
 - e. School Choice Guidelines – Bev handed out a copy of the school choice guidelines with comments from principals. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - f. JUUL Lawsuit – Our attorney has asked whether we want to join a class action lawsuit. Linda motions to join the lawsuit. Joshua 2nd. There is no cost. All in favor.
 - g. Pay for Substitute Nurses – The head nurse shared with Bev that different schools are paying different amounts for a substitute nurse. Phil motions to set the rate for substitute nurses as the same as substitute teachers. Matt 2nd. All in favor.
8. Administrative Requests, Reports & Information (Discussion & Possible Action)
- a. Staffing Update. New interventionist has just started at Irasburg. The guidance position at Glover is still unfilled. There are still several teachers on leave and no licensed teachers are available. Principals are shuffling teachers around to get coverage.
 - b. 21st Century grant has been completed and submitted.
9. Committee Reports
- a. OCSU Board
 - b. Facilities. Joe is working well with principals and custodians.
 - c. Negotiations
10. Executive Session (if needed, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313) None
- a. Post Executive Session Action (if needed)
11. Future Agenda Items & Next Meeting (Discussion) School Choice policy. Principal salaries.
12. Adjournment 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Demaine