

ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

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

Location: Google Meet
April 27, 2020 – 6:00pm

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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; Heather Wright, Business Manager; Joe Houston, Facilities Coordinator; Kelly Locke, Director of Special Services; Amy Leroux; Josh Webber; Angelique Thomas; Dave Martinez; Dan Demaine; Megan Valley; Linda Michniewicz; Phil Roberts; Tabitha Armstrong; Neil Urie; Tammy Lalime; Jenna Lawrence, Barton Principal; Kim Hastings, Orleans Principal; Paul Simmons, Irasburg Principal; Ed Barber, Newport Daily Express

1. Call to Order 6:05
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda None
3. Privilege of the Floor None
4. Consent Agenda (Action) Linda moved, Josh 2nd. All in favor.
 - a. Approve Minutes from April 13, 2020
 - b. Approve Bills
 - c. Accept Financial Reports
5. Business of the Board (Discussion and Possible Action)
 - a. 8th Grade Field Trips. This was discussed last week but no decisions have been made. The principals have been working with 8th graders to come up with ideas to put into a shared document. Given the lack of clarity on the future, it is hard to know what is possible. One idea is to use some of the money for 8th graders to use on school supplies for them in high school. Others ideas included to make the trip in August, use for a graduation party, or make a local trip (ie. Siskin). Schools raised from \$2-20K and planned trips ranging from Lake George, Springfield, MA, Washington DC, and New York City. All schools have different policies and responsibilities for students and families for fundraising. More information on how the money was raised at each school, ideas that students and administrators have come up with, and what is happening around the state would be helpful to the board

- b. Eola Weeks Scholarship. This is a scholarship for students from Barton that was previously handled by the Barton school board before merger. Heather is working with the board treasurer to determine the amount of funds that can be disbursed. Barton had a policy on the disbursement for the funds. Bev is working on updating the policy so that it can be an EMS policy. There are 10 applicants this year and the policy was that the funds are to be disbursed evenly. Amy will sign the letter and the current funds allow for \$2500/student.
 - c. Tammy motions to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Melissa Ferland as a 1.0 FTE elementary teacher beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Salary per the negotiated agreement. Phil 2nd. Melissa will be at Barton. All in favor.
 - d. Social-Emotional Learning Specialist MOU. Supporting social emotional needs has been a priority in OCSU for the last few years. After the Behavioral Specialist resigned, a Social Emotional Coach was hired. A Behavioral Interventionist was hired with Titles funds in Barton and there is a behavioral para who has experience and training in Brownington. This MOU recognizes the extra training and expertise the para in Brownington has and provides higher compensation. At this time, there are no plans for additional positions. Because this is a side agreement, the EMS, high school, and OCSU board as well as the union need to approve it. Tammy moves to approve the Social Emotional Learning Specialist MOU, Linda 2nd. All in favor.
 - e. Financial Implications of COVID-19. Financial outlook for the rest of this year and next is uncertain. Even though schools are closed, there are very little savings because personnel are still being paid. There is a credit of roughly \$29K from Butler's bus. The EMS budget has passed but the revenues from the state may not meet what was budgeted. Letters of intent have gone out to teachers and are due back Thursday and at this point there are very few expected openings. Support staff contracts are ready to go out but there is not much possibility to cut staff. Negotiations are ongoing with teachers. One discussion is a spending freeze in order to save money for next year. This freeze would apply to discretionary spending that mostly comes from grants. Other than this, the other option for making up a potential revenue shortfall is borrowing.
6. Administrative Requests, Reports & Information (Discussion & Possible Action)
- a. Facilities Update Joe has been spending a lot of time on meal delivery but that has calmed down. Barton bat exclusion was done last week. Barton foundation work will happen soon. Irasburg doors contract is being finalized. Joe feels the Glover and Orleans roof both require immediate attention and Joe would like to put them out to bid. The Orleans roof has some chimney flashing with asbestos but the roof and plaster tested negative. The Brownington roof is close behind. Joe would also like to get some engineering estimates on the Irasburg HVAC system to determine an overall plan. For now, the Barton HVAC is fairly functional with some tweaks here and there. The board supports Joe sending out bids for the Glover and Orleans roofs with a goal of having them returned by the May 18 meeting.
 - b. COVID Closure Update Childcare and meals continued during the break last week. A survey was developed to see how families are doing. Connectivity (esp multiple students working at the same time) continues to be an issue for staff and students. Bev shared she is concerned about what will happen with students as more people return to work. There was also discussion about how more parents working may require more childcare. The admin team and principals are meeting regularly and are starting to think about next year.
7. Committee Reports
- a. OCSU Board – Meets tonight at 7:30pm, all board members encouraged to attend
 - b. Negotiations

8. Executive Session (if needed, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313)
 - a. Post Executive Session Action (if needed)

9. Future Agenda Items

10. Adjournment Tammy moved to adjourn at 7:29. Angelique 2nd. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Demaine