

ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

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

Date: May 24, 2021 Time: 6:00pm

Information to join the meeting:

meet.google.com/gwa-anyb-ora

[Join by phone](#)

(US) +1 413-359-0071 PIN: 336 132 939#

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: Phil Roberts, Dan Demaine, Angelique Thomas, Neil Urie, Linda Michniewicz, Bryanne Marquis, Matt Kittredge, Josh Webber, Megan Valley, Dave Martinez

Administrators Present: Bev Davis, Heather Wright, Steve Owens, Jenna Lawrence, Larry Fliegelman, Angelique Brown, Paul Simmons, Sherrie Gentry, Joe Houston, Mike Moriarty

Others Present: Molly and Justin Veysey, Heather Clark (and Fiona), Wally Rogers, Rod Owens, Maire Folan (Farm to School), Danielle Lord (Farm to School), Esme Forbes (Farm to School), Ben Morley

1. Call to Order - Reminder that this meeting is being recorded 6:06 pm.
2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** One addition to Business of the Board.
3. **Equity Updates:** Mike showed the board the equity section of the OCSU website that includes links, newsletter, resources, and a button where people can ask questions. The last equity meeting again focused on the Education Justice Coalition's toolkit, especially on mental health and wellbeing. There are still plans underway for equity sessions during Ed Camp professional development at the end of the school year.
4. **Privilege of the Floor:** Ben Morley read a letter to the board about social emotional learning and the connection to critical race theory and specifically Castle curriculum. He feels that this is indoctrination. Heather Clark from Glover came to express support for solar on the school in Glover. Fiona Bock from Glover shared that she would really like to see Glover use solar especially since the school is a major energy user in town.
5. **Consent Agenda (Action):** Matt moved, Angelique 2nd. All in favor.
6. **Business of the Board (Discussion and Possible Action)**
 - a. **Farm to School Report:** Farm to School staff gave an update on their work this year. Some of the programming was a little different due to the pandemic. For example, there was no harvest festival so working in the garden and doing workshops with individual classes took precedence. A few highlights included maple workshops in Barton, renewing composting in Orleans, building a new fence at Brownington, harvesting kale in Glover on Halloween, and working with the 8th grade on their seed saving curriculum in Irasburg. Unfortunately,

cooking with kids could not happen this year. One adaptation that seemed to work well and may continue was having the farm to school coordinator focus an entire week at a time in a school instead of a day or two a week.

- b. **Non-union employee salary increases:** Now that support staff salaries have been negotiated the board should discuss if they will increase non-union employees from 2.5% to 4%. Lake Region board did so. Dan motions to increase non-union employees to 4%. Josh 2nd. All in favor.
- c. Josh motions to accept Erin Fuchs resignation at the end of the 20-21 school year. Angelique 2nd. Erin has taken a job closer to home. All in favor
- d. Matt motions to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Dorothy Bonnette as a 1.0 FTE interventionist beginning with the 21-22 school year. Josh 2nd. Dorothy will be at Orleans. All in favor.
- e. Angelique Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Kathryn Jones as a 1.0 FTE music teacher beginning with the 21-22 school year: Matt 2nd Kathryn (Katy) will teach music. All in favor.
- f. Matt Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Rachel Isenberg as a 1.0 FTE teacher beginning with the 21-22 school year: Angelique 2nd Rachel will be the middle school science teacher at Orleans. All in favor.
- g. Angelique Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Tammy Hicks as a 1.0 FTE teacher beginning with the 21-22 school year: Matt 2nd Tammy will most likely be the grade teacher at Barton. All in favor.
- h. Angelique motions to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Michael Nixon as a 1.0 FTE teacher for the 21-22 school year with a 1-year, non-renewable contract. Salary per negotiated agreement. Matt 2nd. Michael will teach for teacher on leave of absence in Albany. All in favor.
- i. Angelique motions to accept Superintendent's recommendation to hire Caleb Harris as a 0.4 interventionist. Linda 2nd. All in favor.
- j. **8th grade field trips:** Some discussion of 8th grade field trips. The cancellation of the field trips last year and decisions that were made with the funds made it clear that there was not good policy around 8th grade trips. There was some discussion of how other districts handle these trips. Bev shared that other districts fund their trips through their budgets so students do not fundraise and all schools are allocated an amount. Some discussion that this may lead to more equity in the experience but it also lessens the experience of fundraising for the students. Also generally the board was not comfortable with the process of returning funds to families last year and would like to avoid this setting a precedent. There will be more discussion about this at the next board meeting.
- k. **Open Board Position:** Phil Roberts has let us know he is moving away at the end of June. This will be a Barton position that will need to have someone appointed until elections next spring. Bev will put out a notice on social media to alert the community of the opening.
- l. **Board Retreat:** Debbie Brunelle has expressed interest in the Board holding an annual retreat. The board thinks this is a good idea especially with the new superintendent starting. Debbie will work on organizing this.
- m. Matt motions that the Board express its intent to sign the following documents with Union Bank based on the tax/revenue anticipation bid for borrowing. Linda 2nd.
 - i. to borrow \$2,100,000 in anticipation of expenses and revenues for the fiscal year 2021-22, Linda 2nd.
 - ii. A tax certificate,
 - iii. A tax/revenue anticipation note. All in favor.

7. Administrative Requests, Reports & Information (Discussion & Possible Action):

a. Facilities Director Report

- i. Feasibility Study. Joe put together an RFP for the board to review. Board agrees that the RFP looks good and Joe will put the proposal out. Depending on whether this is approved for ESSER 3 in time, this may need to be funded locally. This will be decided when the bids come in.
- ii. **Roof Bids.** Joe got bids from two contractors for Irasburg and Brownington and they both came in much higher than the COFEC and Glover roofs from last year. Joe advised rejecting the bids as the roofs do not need to be replaced imminently. EMS has roughly \$327K available and \$30K in Brownington's capital reserve which would not cover both roof projects. Matt motions to reject the roof bids. Linda 2nd. All in favor.
- iii. **Solar projects.** Joe reached out to a few solar contractors for more information. The company leases the roof for 25 years to put the solar panels up and then takes them down at the end or sells them to the school. The school gets 10% of the credit from the solar energy produced. The amount of money would depend on the size of the project but would likely be around \$1000 for Glover. Including more schools could lead to more leverage with the contract. Board would like to have contacts reviewed by the lawyer. There was also some discussion about how putting a project would affect rates for other customers.
- iv. Joe is now a licensed water operator and can take over from a contractor at three schools (John Desjardins operates Glover).

II. Superintendent's Report

- i. Summer Programs. Registrations are coming in for summer programs. Linda asked about meal access especially in Barton where no summer program is planned. At this point, the staffing even for the central preparation at the high school isn't full so providing meals beyond the summer programs is not possible.
- ii. Superintendent Transition. Penny has come to spend two days visiting schools and the central office.
- iii. Recovery Plan and ESSER funds. Recovery plan has been submitted to the Agency of Education. The plan and breakdowns of ESSER 1 and 2 funds are on the OCSU website. ESSER 3 has a separate plan requirement that will solicit input from the community with a survey soon.
- iv. Vaccine Clinics, Emergency Medical Services personnel had clinics at EMS schools. Most schools gave 10-20 students vaccines and a few walk-ins.
- v. V. Staffing. There are still several openings. Some schools are fully staffed while others are lacking teachers and there are several openings for special educators.

8. **Committee Reports**

- i. **OCSU Board:** The board went over and approved all the required policies. OCSU will be having three special meetings focused on policies every year. Some discussion about whether the equity policy is required. It is recommended and has been vetted by VSBA. Linda would like to begin discussing the equity policy and it may start at either the high school board or equity committee.

9. **Executive Session (if needed, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. sec. 313)**

- i. **Post Executive Session Action (if needed)**

10. **Future Agenda Items 8th grade field trips, equity policy.**

11. **Adjournment 8:18 pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Demaine

“Proceeding with Purpose”