

ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

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

Google Meet  
June 8, 2020

[meet.google.com/imv-hbns-ikm](https://meet.google.com/imv-hbns-ikm)

**Join by phone**

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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
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PRESENT: Bev Davis, Superintendent; Josh Webber; Dave Martinez; Tabitha Armstrong; Kelly Locke, Director of Special Services; Heather Wright, Business Manager; Angelique Thomas; Kim Hastings, Orleans Principal; Paul Simmons, Irasburg Principal; Amy Leroux; Jenna Lawrence, Barton Principal; Megan Valley; Dan Demaine; Linda Michniewicz; Phil Roberts; Neil Urie MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Stephanie Harper; Sean Harper; Teresa Piette; Gerry Cahill; Ryan Ives; Molly Veysey; Patrick Butterfield; FARM TO SCHOOL: Maire Folan; Alida Farrell; Colton McCracken; Sharon Palmer

- 1) Call to Order 6:03 pm
- 2) Vermont Open Meeting Law – Reminder that this meeting is being recorded
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda There are a few additions.
- 4) Privilege of the Floor Stephanie and Shawn Harper talked about the Irasburg asphalt plant and wants LRUEMS board to act as an intervener in the plant's permitting process. She shared that she is concerned about the lack of testing on the new plant and the past poor test results for the previous plant. Teresa Piette is another Irasburg resident and shares concerns about air quality in the school itself and whether the school is equipped to handle air pollutants from the plant. She also is concerned that this is a time sensitive issue and that there is currently no one representing the interest of the school. Ryan shared that these are parents asking for help from the school board. He also shared that any standards the state has should be reconsidered with COVID 19 in mind. Gerry Cahill shared her concern about adding a layer of bureaucracy with the facilities manager in a time of potential budget shortfalls. Molly Vesey, an Irasburg parent, who is also concerned about the asphalt plant and wants the board to intervene in this process. She feels that this has a direct effect on the education of the children. She also asked that the facilities director consider taking a leadership role. Patrick Butterfield from Orleans discussed the 8th Grade trip fundraising and heard that a principal had shared that students are receiving a \$250 gift card and the rest of the money was going to school improvement.
- 5) Focus on Learning. Farm to School. Maire Folan from Farm to School to share reporting on the programs that happened in the schools this year. Alida Farrell, the coordinator for Orleans and Brownington, shared the garden for each school has been planted. In Orleans they did a virtual cooking lesson and in

Brownington new teachers added some new energy. Colton McCracken shared about Irasburg where there was very high turnout in the activities and taste tests and also lots of parent support. Sharon Colton shared about Barton and talked about pairing older and younger students together for garden work and book reading afterward. Some discussion about how less food was produced due to lack of nutrients in the soil, the garden's shady location, and perhaps community grazing. Maire shared about the involvement of key teachers in the Glover garden for the coordinator there.

- 6) Consent Agenda (Action) Linda Michniewicz moved, Josh Webber 2nd. All in favor.
  - a) Approve Minutes from May 18, 2020
  - b) Approve Bills
  - c) Accept Financial Reports
  
- 7) Business of the Board (Discussion and Possible Action)
  - a) Irasburg Asphalt Plant Party Status. There is an Act 250 hearing coming up and several parents asked the board to ask for party status. There were questions about when the hearing happens and what seeking party status involves. An Irasburg parent shared that there is not a current date for the hearing. Board would like more information from our attorney on what is involved in becoming a party and what guidance the board needs to provide to their representative. Board would also like Joe Houston to look into the issues presented by the asphalt plant and provide information on it to the board.
  - b) Titles funded Interventionist position: Phil Roberts motions to create a 1.0 FTE interventionist at Irasburg. Linda Michniewicz 2nd. This was ended pending the receipt of titles funds. Now that titles have been funded, the position can be reinstated. The current 4-5 math and science teacher would like this position. All in favor.
  - c) Linda Michniewicz motions to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Rachelle Cotnoir as a 0.8 FTE school counselor beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Angelique Thomas 2nd. There were other potential applicants who could not get licensed. There is a candidate who will start as a support person and may become eligible for a provisional license next year. All in favor.
  - d) Linda Michniewicz motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Duncan Nutter as a 1.0 FTE elementary teacher beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Angelique Thomas 2nd. He will replace a teacher at Barton and comes from Stowe and has international experience. All in favor.
  - e) Dave Martinez motions to hire Kim Hastings as a 0.4 FTE interventionist at Brownington. Angelique Thomas 2nd. All in favor.
  - f) Dave Martinez motions to transfer Brownington reserve from Community Bank NA to Community National Bank. Angelique Thomas 2nd. All in favor.
  - g) Dan Demaine motions to offer a two year contract with a 2% raise starting July 1, 2020 to Facilities Director Joe Houston. Phil Roberts 2nd. Some discussion about offering a one year vs two year contract and whether to give a raise given he has only been in the position for six months. So far he has received good reviews. All in favor.
  - h) Linda Michniewicz motions to authorize 3 board members to sign the tax anticipation note. Phil Roberts 2nd. Amy Leroux, Angelique Thomas and Phil Roberts all volunteered to sign the document. All in favor.
  
- 8) Administrative Requests, Reports & Information (Discussion & Possible Action)
  - a) COVID Closure Update. Still waiting for guidance from the Agency for next year but there has been a change to focus on resuming in person instruction next year. The Agency, with guidance from others are starting with health and safety guidelines and then will work on templates that each SU will fill out to determine their plans for the fall. Surveys were sent to parents to identify their attitudes to reopening (ie. would they allow children to ride bus, attend school, etc.). Principals are beginning to think about ways schools will have to adapt to limit congestion (ie. school entrances and exits).

Given how things change, there may be a lot of last minute decisions once the situation is clearer in August. Some discussion about parents wanting or not wanting masks and social distancing. There was also discussion about the 8th grade celebration as was mentioned in privilege of the floor. Principals are giving out gift cards and determining what to do with any balance (some ideas include making donations, purchasing a bench, refurbishing basketball hoops, etc.). No local trips are planned.

- b) Staffing Update. Still looking for 2 guidance counselors. We have several open positions for classroom teachers. There is also an opening for the head food service position at Glover. The support staff contracts are being returned.
- c) Facilities. The waiver for the Orleans roof was granted by the state. Joe is working with all the contractors for the summer projects (Glover, COFEC, Orleans roof, Barton foundation). Joe is also working with custodians to plan for the fall.

9) Committee Reports

- a) OCSU Board

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

- a) Post Executive Session Action (if needed)

11) Future Agenda Items

- a) Future 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip
- b) School Choice Guidelines

12) Adjournment Linda Michniewicz moved to adjourn at 7:45 Phil 2nd. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Demaine