

ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

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

Location: Virtual  
June 22, 2020 - 6:00pm

[meet.google.com/sjy-hmmh-eqz](https://meet.google.com/sjy-hmmh-eqz)

Join by phone

(US) +1 585-340-7831 PIN: 792 449 777#

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; Mike Moriarty, Curriculum Director; Amy Leroux; Debbie Brunelle; Angelique Thomas; Phil Roberts; Dan Demaine; Matt Kittredge; Megan Valley; Paul Simmons, Irasburg Principal; Jenna Lawrence, Barton Principal; Dave Martinez; Josh Webber; Linda Michniewicz; Heather Wright, Business Manager; Larry Fliegelman, Brownington Principal; Joe Houston, Facilities Coordinator; Kelly Locke, Special Services Director; Kim Hastings, Orleans Principal; Neil Urie. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: Maya Auger; Tyra Scelza; Matthew Myers; Renee Martinez; Kate Ives; Justin Veysey; Michelle Souliere; Martha Willey; Patrick Butterfield; Amy Davis

1. Call to Order 6:02 pm, left from 7:30 to attend OCSU, meeting resumed at 8:02 pm.
2. Vermont Open Meeting Law – Reminder that this meeting is being recorded
3. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda Several additions.
4. Privilege of the Floor Maya Auger, eighth grade graduate from Glover School, talked about all the efforts (19 fundraisers taking thousands of hours from students and parents) and how a computer or scholarship would benefit the students. Tyra Scelza, another Glover 8th grade graduate, also supports offering the students computers or scholarships. Matthew Myers, parent of Orleans 8th grade graduate, feels that \$250 gift card is not commensurate with the amount of effort in fundraising or with what the trip would have been. Kate Ives spoke about the Irasburg asphalt plant and wants to support the board continuing to investigate how it impacts the school, Justin Veysey also discussed asphalt plant and is willing to work with Joe Houston. He realizes the deadline for party status has passed but says the board can still become a friend of the process. Michelle Cloutier, parent of 8th grade graduate in Brownington, feels students should have voice/vote in any decision on what to do with 8th grade funds. Martha Willey, mother of Glover 8th grade graduate, detailed all the time of parents and students put into fundraising and how students worked with the Glover principal to come up with ways to deal with the funds. She also is upset that the board has taken so long to make a decision on the funds. She also feels that the equity between trips also applies to the amount of time each school's students spent fundraising. Patrick Butterfield, parent of Orleans 8th grade graduate, is concerned about inaccuracies in the reporting on the amount of funds raised. He also read from a letter by Renee Martinez detailing all the work students and

families spent raising money. Renee's letter also asserts that the efforts of the students and parents are not being respected by the decisions made by principals. Amy Davis, an attorney working on the behalf of an 8th grade graduate, wants to make sure students and parents are heard.

5. Focus on Learning: Identity and Education Group Mike Moriarty gave a presentation on racial and social justice at OCSU. There is an identity and race work group composed of teachers and community members that are striving to help students express their identities and challenge bias. The work stretches back over several years and over the last three years included a Rowland Grant at Lake Region in 2017-18, professional development from outside agencies in 2018-19, and creating a work plan and a virtual professional development at the end of 2019-20. Mike will be taking a leadership role next year that includes mandatory trainings on bias. Kim Hastings also wanted to remind people about the social justice library as a resource to all people in OCSU. Some discussion of letter from OCSU parents to the board and administration. Mike will follow up with authors of the letter to keep them involved.
6. Consent Agenda (Action) Debbie Brunelle moved, Angelique Thomas 2nd. One change to the minutes. All in favor.
  - a. Approve Minutes
  - b. Approve Bills
  - c. Accept Financial Reports
7. Business of the Board (Discussion and Possible Action)
  - a. 8- Grade Field Trip Funds. Bev Davis outlined discussions that happened between parents and principals once the field trips couldn't happen. In Irasburg, the students seem happy with the gift cards and one student donated their share to the food bank. In Barton, the students all received an equal share of gift cards to local businesses and there is \$1400 remaining. In Brownington, there was a meeting of 5 of the 9 students in the eighth grade who had various suggestions. Larry Fliegelman was waiting for additional guidance from the administrations and the board before principals met at the end of the year and the gift card was brought up as a solution. While he emailed his eighth grade class about the gift cards, none have been purchased and all of the money is still available. The board asked the principals from Barton, Orleans, and Brownington to make more efforts to reach parents and students to reach consensus on a plan to bring to the board. The board also asked for more details on the Glover plan from both Angelique Brown and the administration to clarify how a potential scholarship would work.
  - b. Irasburg Asphalt Plant Party Status Update. Joe Houston ran through what he has learned about Act 250. A conference to determine party status took place May 25 and the district could petition to obtain a party status after the fact because of mitigating circumstances. Party status allows you to present evidence and appeal any decision/permit. Party status can allow for a stance to be taken on the permit but is not required. Joe got some background on permits. Vermont requires testing and inspections on a regular schedule. An expert Joe talked to shared that testing is done at the stack and not done environmentally except at 5 set locations. Joe detailed the history of the Irasburg plant's permitting history. A new plant was constructed this winter and it is in the process of being tested. The permit does not require testing away from the stack. The requirement that the plant seek an amendment to the Act 250 permit is under appeal. The amendment does not deal with hours of operation, traffic, and other things that are already permitted. Becoming a party will probably incur the district legal fees around \$15K according to our attorney although we may not need to hire an attorney. Paul shared that no air quality testing has been done at the school. Joe also shared that testing at the school may be hard to pinpoint to the plant (ie. may be due to other trucks passing by). Linda Michniewicz motions to apply for party

status and concurrently as a friend of the process based on our concern for students and staff at Irasburg School without hiring outside counsel and Joe Houston as our representative. Debbie Brunelle 2nd. All in favor.

- c. Debbie Brunelle motions to approve the superintendent's recommendation to hire Gisele Gardner as a 1.0 FTE teacher with a one year, temporary, non-renewable contract for the 2020-2021 school year. Angelique Thomas 2nd. All in favor.
  - d. Debbie Brunelle motions to approve the superintendent's recommendation to hire Dennis Royer as a 1.0 FTE teacher beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Linda Michniewicz 2nd. All in favor.
  - e. Debbie Brunelle motions to hire Ashley Cook as a 1.0 FTE teacher beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Angelique Thomas 2nd. All in favor.
  - f. Debbie Brunelle motions to hire Pam Enterline as a 1.0 FTE school counselor. Angelique Thomas 2nd. There was discussion about where this position is located. A few school counselors have been hired and they will be assigned once the full staffing picture becomes clear. All in favor.
  - g. Debbie Brunelle motions to hire Bridget McCallum as a 1.0 FTE school counselor. Angelique Thomas 2nd. All in favor.
  - h. Debbie Brunelle motions to reduce Karen Deveraux's position as interventionist at Brownington to 0.6 FTE. Angelique Thomas 2nd. This will mean there are three people to fill 2.0 FTE interventionists in Brownington. Larry is comfortable with this arrangement. All in favor.
  - i. Additional Principal per diem pay. Bev is concerned that principals will not have time to adequately prepare for school resuming in the fall. The principals' contracts are not year round and do not have days to work in July. Phil Roberts motioned to approve 10 per diem days for the principals to be scheduled by Bev. Angelique Thomas 2nd. This will cost at least \$26K if all 10 days are used and may be eventually reimbursed by the state if there are funds to aid school's reopening. There was discussion of why 10 days were needed and the high cost of this. 7 voted in favor, 2 against. Motion carried.
  - j. Linda Michniewicz motions to accept the resignation of Gerry Piette. Angelique Thomas 2nd. Mr. Piette has been a long time teacher in Glover and is a big loss. Angelique Brown is working with staff to reorganize into 5th/6th and 7th/8th teaching teams. There is a position for a new 4th grade teacher advertised. All in favor.
  - k. Kim Hastings Sick Days. Since Kim is moving from being principal at Orleans to a 0.4 FTE interventionist in Brownington, she is requesting to retain her sick days. She has 120 that have been accrued from many years as a teacher predated the current limit of 90. The board will discuss this further at the next meeting.
  - l. Review of bids for Glover Snow Plowing. Joe received one bid for plowing next year at Glover School. JP Sicard bid to do all the plowing for the year for \$8K. This is slightly above the budgeted amount of \$7K but is a savings of the roughly \$13K that was spent this year when the contract called for being paid for each plowing. Board supports Joe accepting the bid.
8. Administrative Requests, Reports & Information (Discussion & Possible Action)
- a. Parent and Staff Surveys. Bev shared the results from staff and family surveys that were sent out to assess concerns about reopening school in the fall. There are many concerns and strong feelings on many issues. Some parents are also expressing interest in home schooling. The surveys took place before the Agency of Education released the draft guidelines. The guidelines are very detailed and do not allow the use of cafeterias or gyms, temperature checks before contact at school, scheduled cleaning throughout the day, creating an isolation space in every school, and nursing requirements among other issues.

This will require a lot of planning. Bev is meeting with other superintendents in the coming days to receive more guidance.

- b. Planning for Fall Opening of Schools
  - c. Facilities Director Update
  - d. Staffing Update (and possible hires)
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. School Choice Guidelines
  - b. Update on PreK and K Entry Age
12. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Demaine