

ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

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

Location: Google Meet

Date: August 17, 2020 Time: 6:00pm

meet.google.com/zmn-szpr-amz

Join by phone

1 -224-424-0975 PIN: 782 116 500#

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; Amy Leroux; Neil Urie; Heather Wright, Business Manager; Mike Moriarty, Curriculum Director; Kelly Locke, Director of Special Services; Matt Kittredge; Sherrie Gentry, OES principal; Joe Houston, Facilities Director; Paul Simmons, IVS principal; Linda Michniewicz; Angelique Thomas; Phil Roberts; Dan Demaine; Jenna Lawrence, BAGS principal; Josh Webber; Larry Fliegelman, BCS principal; Debbie Brunelle

- 1) Call to Order 6:04, interrupted at 7:25, resumed 7:44
- 2) Additions and Deletions One Addition
- 3) Focus on Learning Middle School Institute. Several teachers came to present. Sam Carbonetti from Irasburg presented on the Identity and Education focus at the Middle Grades Institute. Other teachers from OCSU were in this cohort and they came together after the institute to work on these issues. They had several meetings over the summer and made a commitment to work on these issues this school year. Teachers from all schools in OCSU are represented and they will be involved in auditing their programs and developing and implementing curriculum that safely introduces topics on identity. Mike Moriarty also shared guidelines that the admin team has developed to promote anti-bias. Linda asked how this effort fits in with the letter to the board from parents about the OCSU statement on equity. Sam shared that the middle school teachers had started working on this before the letter was written. Renee Piernot from Glover shared that she has been working on curriculum this summer. Linda expressed an interest in taking a systems approach. Renee shared that she is also focused on discipline and hazing and using responsive classroom to address things beyond curriculum. Kyle Chadburn shared that part of the letter of commitment includes things that the teachers need from administration that supports this work.
- 4) Privilege of the Floor
  - a) Becky from Irasburg discussed the Black Lives Matter flag and doesn't think it is a good idea to display at school. She also believes it is against a school policy.
  - b) Kurt Labor from Irasburg also is against putting up a Black Lives Matter flag because he feels it is pushing a specific agenda that is not appropriate for a public school.
  - c) Roderick Owens from Barton is a substitute teacher and shared that Black Lives Matter is a slogan not just a movement. He also shared that he is concerned about the status of the Identity and

Education workgroup that included community members. He also shared his long term concerns with lack of progress on racism in OCSU over a series of years.

- d) James Webb from Irasburg spoke against the Black Lives Matter flag because of his concerns over what he views as its background.
  - e) Tyler from Glover is also against flying the Black Lives Matter flag because he doesn't think it belongs at the school.
  - f) Brandon Perron from Glover is also against the Black Lives Matter flag and believes that the flagpole should be for the United States flag and the Vermont flag.
  - g) Sam Carbonetti shared that as an educator he wants to provide students with accurate information and is concerned that some of the comments about Black Lives Matter are not accurate. He also shared part of his work is to help students work through issues and confront conflicts even when they are uncomfortable.
  - h) Renee Piernot shared that her understanding is that Black Lives Matter started as a tweet between two black women who were upset over a black man who was shot.
  - i) Brandon Perron asked whether the board would have any more discussion before a flag was flown.
- 5) Consent Agenda Linda moved, Angelique 2nd. All in favor.
- 6) Business of the Board
- a) FY20 end of year report. Heather shared a report on the end of year financial report. We ended up with 600K more in reserve at the end of the year than budgets due to decreased spending and increased revenues. About \$126K in savings was from guidance that was transferred from local funding into SWP because the guidance offered was above that required by the Education Quality Standards. There was 108K in savings from maintenance and other areas.
  - b) Letter to Board on Racial Justice. The Board received a letter in June from community members and has not had time to discuss. Linda shared that she asked to have it added to the agenda because she wanted to make sure the board acknowledged the receipt of the letter and began addressing the issues brought up in the letter. Bev shared some of the things that have happened at the SU level with professional development and harassment. Jenna Lawrence from Barton shared that she has been doing a lot of investigation in this area this summer. Angelique Brown from Glover has made this a priority from her Ed goals this coming year. Sherri Gentry from Orleans shared that she is on a statewide group of administrators that is focused on this issue and identifying inequities. Angelique Thomas asked for examples and Sherri responded that some policies may affect people of poverty unfairly and also that some texts may not be inclusive. Phil is concerned that the letter from the community members was fairly vague and that he feels it is hard to keep track of things that are not reported to the board. Angelique Thomas shared that she is concerned that this issue can get very ugly and that the board needs to tread carefully. A question was asked about whether investigations reach the board. Bev shared that there is a prescribed method for dealing with incidents and that the discipline is reported to the board in aggregate numbers by principals.
  - c) Debbie motions to hire Sue Cloutier as a 1.0 FTE for the 2020-21 school year. Phil 2nd. This is a one year transfer for Sue from the preschool to EMS. Sue will be covering for a teacher who is teaching in the virtual school. She wants to make sure she can transfer back to the preschool next year. All in favor.
  - d) Middle School sports. The guidance from the state says that schools may offer sports but can only practice with all players wearing masks. Games may be allowed later in September. So far no coaches have been hired but the board supports hiring coaches and maintaining the sports programs for the fall.
  - e) Remote teaching staff. Some of the interventionists that were hired with titles funds are now teaching in the virtual learning academy because of health concerns. These teachers may not be allowed to be funded with titles funds now. The total budget change is \$175K that may need to be

funded some other way. There are some other sources including Medicaid. There are lots of moving parts to this but Bev wanted the board to be aware of this potential issue going forward. Bev is working with the union to address the movement of teachers into the remote school and guarantee their return to their original job in 2021-22.

- f) Esser funds. There is concern that the legislature may claw back any Esser funds that are spent. EMS is using the funds to purchase PPE and other items needed to make schools safe. Matt asked how much COVID cost EMS so far. Since we ended with a positive fund balance there wasn't a net hardship but there were several specific additional costs (ie. childcare for essential workers, busing for meals).
- g) Part time custodian. Additional cleaning will be required in the middle of the day to follow the guidance from the state. Irasburg and Brownington do not have part time custodians and this extra cleaning will be hard to achieve. Joe anticipates that it may take 1.5 hours at each school and travel time in between (3.5 hours/day total). Linda moves to create part time custodian positions not to exceed 4 hours a day for FY21. Phil 2nd. All in favor.

7) Facilities Update.

- a) Foundation project in Barton is done. Some extra paving was done to finish the project (cost \$2500 more).
- b) Irasburg school needed a handicap bathroom for a student and the project is nearly complete.
- c) Irasburg's new doors have been installed.
- d) Orleans roof is due to be completed by Aug 26th.
- e) The custodian interviews have been happening.
- f) Joe has also been working on COVID related tasks (esp. isolation rooms, barriers, sanitizer stations, HVAC).
- g) Remediation testing for faucets replaced due to lead contamination is under way.
- h) Testing results of air quality in and around Irasburg came back and there were no high results although the asphalt plant was running that day. At this point no further tests are planned. Joe hasn't heard back from the District Commission on the board's Act 250 party status application. Justin Veysey, Irasburg parent, encouraged the board to continue monitoring air quality at the school.

8) Reopening plans.

- a) An informational meeting is planned for parents in the remote academy coming weeks. Larry shared that the staff for the remote academy are really excited. There are lots of logistics (computers, meals). The plan is for the remote school to stay distinct for the whole year whether or not in person school needs to be suspended.
- b) To give Larry and Angelique time to work on the remote school, other principals are picking up other activities.
- c) Currently, there are no nurses in Brownington, Glover and COFEC. Because of in person learning 5 days a week, additional families are moving into the district.
- d) Leave requests and resignations are coming in.
- e) Staff and parents are being reminded of the restrictions on out of state travel (need to quarantine 14 days).

9) Executive. An executive session was planned to discuss negotiations. Because there is another EMS meeting before the next negotiating session, that executive session did not take place.

10) Adjourn Debbie motions 8:42, Angelique 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Demaine