

ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

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

Location: COFEC and Google Meet  
Date: Sept. 28, 2020 Time: 6:00pm

Location: COFEC (Board only)

Members of the public may join:

[meet.google.com/ffb-evxt-ben](https://meet.google.com/ffb-evxt-ben)

Join by phone

720-689-5257 PIN: 879 065 823#

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.

AGENDA
--------

PRESENT: Bev Davis, Superintendent; Sherrie Gentry, Orleans Principal; Mike Moriarty, Curriculum Director; Kelly Locke, Special Services Director; Steve Owens, Albany Principal; Angelique Brown, Glover Principal; Phil Roberts; Neil Urie; Jenna Lawrence, Barton Principal; Matt Kittredge; Paul Simmons, Irasburg Principal; Megan Valley; Joe Houston, Facilities Director Dan Demaine; Linda Michniewicz; Amy Leroux; Dave Martinez; Tabitha Armstrong; Joshua Webber; Heather Wright, Business Manager. Community: Stephanie Harper; Ed Barber; Justin Veysey

1. Call to Order 6:05
2. Vermont Open Meeting Law – Reminder that this meeting is being recorded
3. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** Two additions
4. **Equity – Equity Team Update:** Mike Moriarty spoke about the equity team. The team's first meeting was on September 20 and there were more than 20 people in attendance. Discussion topics included reviewing last year's activities including the work plan that was developed. Meetings will happen every other Monday with October 5th the next meeting. The team will be looking at the curriculum and will also tackle specific parts from the work plan. Members of Building Fearless Futures, a racial justice training group based in Hardwick, also attended and discussed work that they will be doing in the district this year. The group's work will be funded with Titles funds.
5. **Privilege of the Floor:** None
6. **Consent Agenda (Action):** Linda moved, Phil 2nd. All in favor.
7. **Business of the Board (Discussion and Possible Action)**
  - a. **School Choice Policy:** The policy was adopted by the board in July. The admin team has been working on guidelines and has accommodated some of the requests by parents for school choice for this year. In granting the requests, it has become clear that granting

requests is contingent on the class size policy which limits the amount of students that can move. Because of this, Bev was wondering if the board wanted to hold off on releasing the guidelines and an application process and just allow requests. There was discussion of how requests may not be fair since not all families would be aware that school choice is an option. Some discussion of the many issues already facing administrators and how this could be postponed. There was also discussion of how school choice could result in staffing changes and how the board was not in favor of allowing school choice to dictate staffing. Bev and the admin team will go back over the latest guidelines and report back to the board.

- b. Linda motions to appoint Bev as our proxy to vote at VSBIT and VEHI meetings. Phil 2nd. All in favor.
- c. **HHB Training:** The HHB training is happening on Nov 11, which is not a work day but a holiday and the Albany guidance counselor is agreeing to go on her day off. Phil motions to approve paying Johanna Petrycki her per diem rate to attend the 6 hr training. Neil 2nd. All in favor.
- d. **Budget Meeting Schedule:** Heather has provided a tentative schedule for review and feedback. Some discussion of the OCSU budget and when that budget will be approved. There is no annual meeting planned but the OCSU budget will be approved as EMS budget comes together.
- e. Phil motions to accept resignation of Dennis Royer. Linda 2nd. This was a new teacher in Irasburg this year who had to resign for medical reasons. Dennis was teaching 4th and 5th grade math and science. All in favor.
- f. Irasburg asphalt plant. The Act 250 district commission met and granted the district party status. There is a site visit scheduled for October 8, attendees must pre-register. There is a hearing November 19 on the permit and the commission is gathering information ahead of this hearing. All testimony and evidence must be submitted by November 6 so that parties have time to review it before the hearing. Joe wants to have more direction from the board on how to represent the board and would like a board member to act as liaison. There was also discussion of blasting. The current permit only allows blasting during the time when school is in session (between 8 am and 3 pm on weekdays) and any change requires an amendment to the permit which J Hutchins has not applied for. At this point, blasting occurs very infrequently (once a month for a short period of time with notice given to the school ahead of time) but it is disruptive when it happens. There was concern from the board that blasting could become more disruptive in the future. The blasting regulations are not up for review in this amendment and the board does not have power to appeal however it may be possible to reach an agreement with J Hutchins. Justin Veysey, an Irasburg parent, encouraged the board to stay involved and that the blasting was disruptive and could be triggering for young children. He also asked the board to consider the implications of the asphalt plant on the Irasburg faculty and staff. Joe plans to attend the walkthrough and Phil Roberts is willing to attend to represent the board.

#### **8. Administrative Requests, Reports & Information (Discussion & Possible Action):**

- a. **Facilities Director Report:** Joe is still working with Efficiency Vermont on air quality work. A contractor is about to begin in Barton to improve ventilation. There are also new air quality monitors that will be installed in the schools. Joe is also working on developing a longer range plan to prioritize the items each building needs. As Joe goes through this process, he wants to engage with the board to make sure long range plans for each building so that projects align with the intended uses going forward.
- b. **Staffing Updates:** There is still an opening for an assistant cook in Albany. There are several unfilled para positions in a few schools that are being covered by substitutes. Brownington is also short a classroom teacher because of unexpected new enrollments that necessitated splitting a combined classroom. One of the guidance applicants fell through so Glover is

without a counselor. There are issues with lack of substitutes and coverage of all the classrooms given the rules around quarantine and sickness. There are also issues with bussing and policing masking and distancing on the bus. There was also discussion of the health flow chart developed by the state to assess how to handle children who are sick and how helpful this is for families. Principals shared that they are beginning to gather assessment data and that students are presenting somewhat behind. The lack of paras has been challenging for delivering special education since one on ones take priority.

**9. Committee Reports**

**a. OCSU Board:**

- b. Negotiations:** We have only had 2-3 people showing up for negotiations. The board should consider appointing others who may be more available. Scheduling is challenging and it also is important that there be some continuity. There was also discussion of making the schedule of meetings more predictable.

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

**a. Post Executive Session Action (if needed)**

**11. Future Agenda Items**

**12. Adjournment** Phil moves to adjourn at 7:30, Linda 2nd . All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Demaine