

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL
DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting Held Remotely
MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 2020

PRESENT Committee Members: Cary Humphrey CHAIRPERSON, Heather Burke VICE-CHAIRPERSON Tina Rood, Joseph Pires, Michelle Smith, Suzanne Tseki, James Muse, Stefan Gabriel, Michael Nelson

ABSENT Committee Members: Paul Goulet

ALSO, PRESENT Dr. Douglas White SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, Vanessa Harvey, ASST. PRINCIPAL ORR HIGH SCHOOL, Silas Coellner, PRINCIPAL ORR JUNIOR HIGH, Kelly Chouinard, ASST. PRINCIPAL ORR JUNIOR HIGH, Gene Jones FACILITIES DIRECTOR, Lori Walsh, RECORDING SECRETARY,

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER The Old Rochester Regional District School Committee and Administration meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES – April 15, 2020

James Muse made a motion to approve the April 15, 2020 minutes.
Michelle Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Foreign Exchange Student:

Dr. White stated that it is a great program. Deborah Dyson said that she just needs to give the Student an answer whether we are going to participate in the program this upcoming year. Dr. White stated that the Committee needs to give some guidance as to whether they would like to participate this year. Deborah Dyson stated that they met the girl six years ago and promised her that she could come in six years but she thinks that they should postpone it this year and have her come the following year. Dr. White needs to take a position first at this point. James Muse also stated that with the COVID-19 around, it should be put off this year.

Tina Rood said to the Board that this year is a really tough year for students to join us at our Schools. Suzanne asked how many students participate in the program. Dr White said 4 or 5. Discussion ensued with the Committee Members.

MOTION

Tina Rood made a motion to postpone with the enrollment for the Student from Denmark to join us a year from now knowing that we're not in the same situation that we are in today.
Jim Muse seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Stefan made a motion to suspend the Foreign Exchange Student program due to COVID-19 for the 2021 year. Heather seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

FY2020 BUDGET AUDIT

Tony Roselli did an audit on the whole District. This should be an annual event for the District. Tony Roselli spoke to the Committee about the Audit.

He spoke of the overview of what he did. This is the first year he has done this for the District. The District should invest in Network Security Mr. Roselli suggested. He also stated that an Analysis will be done next week on the Network Security.

Joseph Pires mentioned about the phone systems that need upgrading.

Mr. Roselli stated that there was 4 deficit that popped up and the largest was in the Athletics fund and it was about \$150,000. There were some small ones, pre-school was \$10,000, Summer School was about \$7,000 and Building rentals was about \$4,000. Pre-School and Summer School is about adjusting them. Mr. Roselli stated that the problem with the Athletics Fund of \$150,000 is it has accumulated in a few years over a period of three years. When you calculate your END at the end of the year, the DOR Division of Local Services will take that deficit and reduce your END by it. Where you would of probably had around 50 or 60 thousand, you will now be in the negative. Your District does not have a Stabilization account and your bond rating has been reduced.

Tina Rood spoke and asked Tony Roselli how the District can become stable in the Budget.

Tony Roselli stated said he'd like to see a Capital and a Revenue Stabilization Fund and those are the main ones he's like to see.

Mr. Roselli stated that he will be coming back next week to do a more in depth dive into the progress and will type up a memorandum and will need to look at inventory, ordering, gate receipts, and registrations for Athletics.

Tina Rood asked Tony Rosseli asked how could they get the things that they need to become Financially stable.

Tony Rosseli stated that the Committee needs to authorize stabilization funds and you need 2/3 vote of the Committee. Mr. Roselli stated that he'd like to see the Committee have General Purpose, Capital, Revenue, and Stabilization funds and it's a great financial practice. They act like circuit breakers. Heather spoke to Mr. Rosseli and thanked him. She also stated that this is something that needs to be on the docket for Fall Town Meeting right away.

Tina Rood asked if they could establish a General Stabilization account tonight.

Mr. Rosseli stated that they couldn't if it's not on the Agenda.

Mr. Rosseli stated that moving the fees, and the Coaches stipends moving them into the operating budget should hopefully cover that deficit. There was also a lot of stipends going through that account also that led to the deficit.

Link stated that historically, the Coaches budget came out of the operating budget and over time, that \$15-20,000 per year has grown into about \$85,000 and that adjustment was made in last years budget and that was increased by \$85,000 and there will be no increase in the budget next year.

Tony Rosselli said that the other things were housekeeping and they were talked about and not worth talking about tonight.

REMOTE LEARNING:

Michael Nelson stated that he has four Students at the meeting tonight.

Ceceila Prefontaine spoke and said that it is much better to be in class but she feels that what they are working with is the best they can do. Has a better appreciation of her Teachers. Remote learning worked well for her.

Autumn Tilly spoke to the Committee stating that they are doing the best that they can under the circumstances. The Teachers are doing a great job. Remote Learning worked well for her but she knows it doesn't work well for everyone.

Allison Ward stated that she feels that the synchronis and a-synchronis meetings are good. She feels fortunate to do remote classes.

Edward Gonet spoke to the Committee and stated that the emotional support and the Education is great. There is a food bank and Yoga on Friday, Alumni Presentations. He also stated that they are weeks ahead.

Ceceila Prefontaine said that there was a student advisory Group meeting and our School is handling well and is ahead of everyone.

Michael Nelson stated that Edward Gonet forgot to mention about his morning announcements that he does with his students each morning. I look forward to them.

Weekly remote plans. Summer Planning is still on hold for now. We are planning for remote planning right now but also planning for in person if we get the word that it is going to happen. But we will be ready for both.

Dr. White stated that with the different phases, training has been completed and PPE's have been bought. Buildings are still not open to the public. Dr. White stated that we will continue to look at the phases as they continue to evolve. We are waiting for guidance from the State.

Michael Nelson said that at the end of this week or next week we should get guidelines for the fall. We meet with the Presidents of the Union for upcoming information.

Joseph Pires asked what the timeline is for the School to open in the Fall.

Dr. White stated that we have spoken to the Presidents from the Union and we are waiting for guidance from the State on what we need to do and what is the protocol for the kids. Like gloves, Masks, hand sanitizers, or whatever else they are going to require.

GRANT APPROVAL:

Heather Burke made a motion to approve the donation of 3,000 From Project Bread.

Suzanne seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

PRESS BOX DISCUSSION:

Dr. White said that all money for the Press Box has been secured. Would like to thank Justin and Bill. Engineers have looked at three phases to put that project together. We need the Town to give us a permit.

GRADUATION UPDATE:

Mike Duvall stated that he put together a plan for Graduation

The seniors will want to come in to get their Year books so that will be tomorrow and they will be coming in by home room.

June 4th is awards night and we will debut a video.

June 15th decision day, asked them to think about a decision in their lives that they have made.

June 19th Missing our Senior Walk but with Fun 107 and led by Police in cars for a parade around Campus.

No Senior prom in Rhode Island. But have secured the YMCA and its local so we'll follow the guidelines and be ok.

August 8th Graduation. Change time from 12:00 to 10:00 A.M. and a rain date of August 9th at 10:00 A.M. The Students in the Bleachers and the Families in the Fields.

Discussion ensued with the Committee Members.

REVIEW CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Dr. White stated that by June 1st they have to file a 112 budget. Link put it together today.

Link stated that the Dept. of Education is going to look at our Schedule 19, our budget for this year and how much we have allocated and our requested budget for next year. They will probably end up somewhere in the middle to determine a 112 budget. There will be some new traditions that will emerge. We need to be in compliance with this and a motion needs to be made to accept the 112 Budget.

James Muse made a motion to approve the 112 Budget.
Tina Rood seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Dr. White said that there are two packets on two Capital projects and how the Committee would like to fund them or put them on hold. Phones for the High School and the Junior High in Centre office, we have bids and quotes at \$70,000 we received E-Rate funding at \$40,900, we need \$29,100 that we have to come up with to fund that project. Dr. White also stated that the other project we have a need is auditory lighting in the safety rigging, that comes in at \$74,512.00, donation from Ford of \$10,000.00 and we had a reimbursement of \$22,000.00 so the balance now is \$42, 512.00 for the Auditory Lighting. There is money available to us for both those programs. Also money is needed to offset those deficits. Dr. White also stated that the money that is encumbered is just for contracts. Looking at the Financial Report this evening \$454, 513.00. Looking at the last page in Column 2 you see \$189,601.00 Dr. White said that he had to put money aside to offset costs that were maybe going to come during the year. This reduction was done in September by \$180,000.00. Once we take all that into consideration then we take other things that we have to encumber like Retiree's Health Insurance, we are at \$561,785. We heard a report tonight from Tony Roselli about a deficit in our Athletic Department and we have to certify a negative balance of \$147,033 so now we have \$421,052. At that time, we have taken consideration all of the things we need to take care of in FY20. At that point, the Committee needs to decide if they want to fund projects or hold on to the money.

Link stated that it would be prudent to wait until the Governor level funds Chapter 70 but not more than a year and the Auditorium is a priority also. Potential to carry over some money and expects A healthy balance in rentals.

Discussion ensued with the Committee Members...

MOTION:

James Muse made a motion for new phone systems and new light Rigging.
Tina Rood seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

HANDBOOK REVISIONS:

Vanessa spoke to the Committee about the proposed Handbook Revisions and the first revision would be to add Traffic Regulations - Due to space limitations, parking tags will go to first come first serve basis and will be issued to Junior Students only due to space limitations.

Backpack policy stating – Pilot language to make it official and put it in the book for next year.

Electronic Media and communication devices – adding smart watch devices can be worn in the classrooms at the discretion of the Classroom Teacher.

Category II – Offenses no. 17 - Multiple students in a bathroom Stall

Category III – No. 13 - Eating food or anything in the bathroom

Saturday School – omit the 8-10 A.M.

Michael Duvall spoke about daily attendance and said that daily attendance talks about how that works.

The second section is class attendance and the definition of class attendance. It's an important time for the Students, Mr. Duvall also changed the wording for in-School suspension. He also talked about the pass/fail and defined that for the Students.

Discussion ensued with the Committee Members

Heather Burke made a motion to approve the changes to the handbook.
James Muse seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE DATES:

James Muse made a motion to approve the School Committee dates.
Michelle Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.
Stefan Gabriel obtained from voting.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT MHOA:

Dr. White stated that the Teachers Association came up with the Memorandum of Understanding for the Teachers Contracts.
Tina Rood made a motion to accept the MHOA as presented.
James Muse seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVES:

James Muse made a motion to approve up to 4 early retirement incentives.
Stefan seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

Michael Nelson stated that he worked with Michael Duvall on cultural proficiency. Two students spent two hours listening to another student talk about racial issues and Student issues.
Michael Duvall spoke and stated that the speaker that he had could have been a Student from our school. The issues she spoke about her said that he has heard a number of times from his Students.
Mr. Nelson stated that he received some positive feedback from Teachers and Parents.

PRINCIPALS REPORT:

Silas Coellner stated that they had a lot of Q&A from the parents of the Students. We've also been working on videos and virtual tours for the remote learning.
Michael Duvall said that they have 200 new Students next year. There will be a virtual remote step up day, Historical events social distancing.
Michael Nelson stated that there is a new Teacher Induction Program.
Heather Burke made a motion that due to special circumstances that arose during the School choice lottery that we raise the cap from 20 to 21.
James Muse seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

SMEC

Suzanne - Nothing to report

LOCAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Michelle said that they met last week. Would like to commend the Teachers and had a virtual vocabulary day.

TRI-TOWN FOUNDATION:

Suzanne waiting for grant committee to get together.

BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE: Nothing to report.

FACILITEE COMMITTEE: Nothing to report

POLICY COMMITTEE:

Have not met.

DISTRICT AGREEMENT COMMITTEE:

Meeting soon

ADJOURNMENT:

James Muse made a motion to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Tina Rood seconded motion. All in favor. Motion passed