

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL & SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP
April 29, 2009**

Chair Sharri MacDonald honored the request of the School Board to meet with them on issues of financial matters relative to schools including reviewing data related to the current status of the 2009-2010 school budget and a strategy to address budget concerns. School Board Chair, Deborah Evans, called the School and Town Council Workshop to order at 7:03 p.m., Wednesday, April 29, 2009. The following were in attendance:

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**Chair Sharri MacDonald
Councilor Robin Dayton
Councilor Mike Tousignant
Councilor Laura Bolduc
Councilor Shawn O'Neill
Town Manager Stephen Guntz
Assistant Town Manager V. Louise Reid
Superintendent of Schools Jack Turcotte
School Chair Deborah Evans
School Vice Chair Kay Dutton
School Board Member Gary Curtis
School Board Member Jim Boisvert
Dick Descoteaux
Jay Kelley
Donna Moutsatsos
Eric Reintenbach
Jack Trull**

Also present Liz Gotthelf from the Journal Tribune.

Superintendent of Schools, Jack Turcotte, introduced the purpose of the workshop and thanked the Town Council for their willingness to join in this Workshop on important issues of the School.

Superintendent Turcotte spent the first few moments reading an information letter from the Department of Education and the Commissioner of Education explaining what will happen if a Maine Public School identifies an active case of the flu. If a confirmed case is found he indicated we may very well have to close our school for a minimum of seven days; and indicated that should a second case appear confirmed it would be an additional seven days from that determination, etc. He indicated that the School continues to coordinate with Chief John Glass, the Town's Emergency Management Head, as well as taking the lead from Dr. Dora Anne Mills of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) as they make preparations for the possibility that in the coming days there were be a determination of more cases in the State. A plan is being arranged for school closure in the event such incidents happen.

The Superintendent gave an update on current finances and indicated that additional funding of approximately \$95,000 on the revenue side but can't be spent without voter approval. It can be carried over as a balance. It was asked if the Town could use it for facilities upgrades and the answer provided was that it could not. The extra funding came from Maine Freeze Women's Football Fund in the Amount of \$10,000; Pay to Play and Recreation Reimbursement of \$10,000; and State Agency Client Reimbursement in the amount of \$75,000. The Superintendent also indicated that the Town Council had authorized the \$170,000 from a reserve account to pay for fuel for the School and that invoices in the amount of \$124,104.83 was paid on March 24th; \$11,316 on March 24th; and then seven more invoices were provided to the Finance Director on April 27th in the amount of \$40,802.40 making a total payment by the Town of \$40,802.40 (\$5,503.23 over the amount authorized by the Town Council.) The Superintendent indicated that \$5,503.23 would be paid by the school and refunded to the Town.

The Superintendent then presented a list of Old Orchard Beach School Department to the Town Council. This was something that had been requested by the Council during the previous School and Council Workshop that was held in March. The following was presented and discussed and the process was also described as to how they got to this point and the evaluation of the importance of each area of presentation.

The Superintendent presented the following:

**List of Old Orchard Beach School Department
Projects Presented to
OOB Town Council and OOB School Board
Wednesday, April 29, 2009**

<u>Priorities by:</u>	Principals	3
	Asst. Principals	2
	Maintenance Dir.	1
	Athletic Dir.	2
	Superintendent	1
	Technology Dir.	1

Guiding Principals to consider when prioritizing:

- A. Health & Safety
- B. Save money – conservation
- C. Impact on Students
- D. Facilities Upkeep

Code: **RED** – **Most Important**
 GREEN - **Very Important**
 BLUE - **Important**
 YELLOW - **Least Important**

Project by Priority:

1. Loranger Middle School – Gym & Locker Room ROOF
2. *Loranger Middle School – Windows & Walls – Front of Building
3. Tractor/Snow blower
4. ✓Tennis Court Repair (See #12)
5. A/C various locations
6. ✓Bleachers- Football field
7. ✓Track repair
8. Security System – Entrance doors & cameras
9. Inside bleachers refurbish – Loranger & High School
10. Stage curtain & floor – High school & Loranger
11. Structural seam/roof leak at Jameson
12. ✓High School Tennis court replacement (See #4)
13. Outside Paint at Jameson
14. Locker room refurbish at Loranger & High School
15. Heat Pipe repair at Jameson
16. Electrical outlets

Note: * = Not financially feasible

✓ = Repair vs. replacement? #4 +12, #7, #6

Maine Freeze Women's Football Fund \$10,000

Pay to Play & Recreation Reimbursement: \$10,000

State Agency Client Reimbursement \$75,000

Other Projects Reviewed for Consideration

- A. New Minor Projects:
 - LMS Gym painted
 - Painting projects
 - Air quality testing
- B. New Major Projects:
 - Central Office roof – budgeted (2009-2010)
- C. Major Repairs
 - All exterior doors & repairs
 - Floor replacement
 - Outside lighting
 - LMS – Driveway reconstruction
 - Renovate “Dungeon” at LMS
 - Floor drain at Jameson
- D. Minor Repairs
 - District fencing
 - Wiring closet – LMS
 - Refurbish 2nd floor equipment room at OOB HS Personnel
- E. Purchases
 - Smart Boards
 - Field Hockey goals
 - Three (3) walk in freezers

- Gym curtain at OOB HS
- Telephone System (district wide)
- Score Boards for outside athletic fields
- Update technology servers
- Floor cleaners & vacuums

Many of the items were discussed individually but it appeared that the roof concerns were very high on everyone's thinking. There was a consensus that the Council should approve the School moving forward and fix what it could with the available \$348,000 funds although there was discussion that this would leave none of those funds to pay for the transition funds going into the RSU. Questions were also raised about the Charter requirements and the suggestion that whatever is decided we move cautiously based on the budget constrictions of this year.

It was expressed that the School Board had not been presented with this list of projects and had not had the opportunity to weigh in on them and the Council recommended that the next step would be for the School Board to make their recommendation to the Town Council in another workshop setting scheduled for May 12, 2009 in the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. The School Board Chair, Deborah Evans, asked the Council for input on how the Council felt whether it thought all the money should be spent, or if some should be rolled over to the RSU. The recommendation that was provided by the Council was that the School Board would come up with some decisions about whether it wants to spend the entire amount of the money; how it should be spent; and if not spending it all what portion would go into the RSU transition costs. Although there was strong support by some Council members to spend the entire amount in some of the projects, in collaboration to include all options, it was decided that the School Board would present to the Town Council whatever options they felt were in the best interest of the School and the children

School Board and RSU Board Member, Gary Curtis, when asked if there was a hint of the school budget total that might be coming through, indicated that the RSU Board would be meeting the next evening to talk about the real numbers of the budget. There are still some outstanding figures at which to be arrived, but it appears that the budget will be well in line with last year's figures. He also mentioned that there are some additional costs to the RSU as they establish themselves; the \$100,000 for a new accounting software package and training to be compliant with State guidelines; and the arrival of three new residential special needs clients whose tuitions amount to over \$100,000. It was expected that they would receive more than \$400,000 additional monies from the State. He also indicated that as far as the projects on the table this evening, since the School Board had not seen them previously he did believe that the RSU could afford to fix some of the smaller problems.

The many issues that were discussed this evening presented enormous challenges to both the School Board and the Town Council. The opportunity to meet in this fashion and again on May 12th affords both the opportunity to share up-to-date information which makes the budget process work more smoothly.

The School Board and Town Council Workshop ended at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**V. Louise Reid
Town Council Secretary**

I, V. Louise Reid, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of five (5) Pages is a true copy of the original Minutes of the Workshop held on April 29, 2009.

V. Louise Reid