

MINUTES
ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 18, 2017

Minutes approved at the Tuesday, January 16, 2018 BOE meeting.

Attendance

Present: Chairman Kraut, Mr. Cap, Ms. Riccio, Mr. Young, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Bunnell, Mrs. Browe, Mrs. Hadlock, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Welander

Absent: -----

The meeting was taped by OGAT

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Ms. Sierakowski, Dr. Russo, Mrs. Michel, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Pucillo, Mrs. Saccente

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Kraut at 7:06 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Mission Statement was read by Mr. Young.

Reception

Dr. Scarpetti & Chairman Kraut spoke briefly about Mrs. Saccente's & Mrs. Pucillo's dedication and service to the students and community. Dr. Scarpetti said Mrs. Saccente and Mrs. Pucillo were both very special people and he will miss working with them. Chairman Kraut recessed the meeting at 7:12 p.m. for refreshments.

Chairman Kraut resumed the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Correspondence

None

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Riccio and seconded by Mrs. Hadlock to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2017 BOE meeting. Mr. Cap, Ms. Riccio, Mr. Young, Mrs. Bunnell, Mrs. Browe, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs. Welander and Mr. Flynn voted in favor of, Mr. Kraut abstained.

***Presentation -
District Process
Writing - Mrs.
Michel***

Mrs. Kelly Michel the Reading Consultant from Race Brook School gave the Board an update on the district's process writing initiative. Mrs. Michel presented the workshop approach that is being used to teach process writing. All teachers throughout the district are learning through the same structures of a lesson. Students work independently and/or with a partner, students are allowed to pick their own writing topic, they draft, write, revise/edit and then publish their writings. Student writing samples were shared with Board Members. Mrs. Michel thanked the Board Members on behalf of herself and other teachers for the investment, resources, time and support given to teachers for the new initiative.

*Superintendent's
Report*

Dr. Scarpetti started his report by wishing everyone a happy holiday season. The Weather Advisory letter has been sent home to parents twice and will be sent again in mid/late January. Dr. Scarpetti thanked Mr. Luzzi and Mr. Foyer for their help in keeping the children safe when the district experiences inclement weather. Dr. Scarpetti thanked parents and staff for their understanding and support. The pre-k 3 year old blind lottery notice has been published in the local newspapers and on the district's website. The Lions Club (with the help of Mrs. Hadlock) screened 172 students in kindergarten and pre-school. The club has access to a state-of-the-art camera, by taking a photo of the child's eye, the camera is able to diagnose nearsightedness, farsightedness, lazy eye, detached retina, astigmatism, corneal deformity and other issues which may impact a student's learning. Twelve students were referred, it is recommended that these students see an eye doctor, Mrs. Wargo is going to see if the entire district can be screened next year. The Capital Projects meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall's Lower Conference Room. The first budget workshop (for the 2018-19 school year) is set to take place on Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Scarpetti thanked the students and the music departments, they are all working very hard in preparation for their Winter Concerts. Dr. Scarpetti closed by wishing everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanzaa.

Ms. Sierakowski met with the Finance Sub-Committee prior to the BOE meeting and reviewed the November expenditures and confirmed that the district is still within the approved budget for this fiscal year. So far, the district has done well with snow removal. There was only one day where all custodial staff had to come in early to plow and clear walk ways for a delayed opening. Last Friday two staff came in after the snow stopped to plow and clear for basketball scheduled on Saturday. The Town reported that bids came in for the clearing and prep work for Race Brook School parking lot. The Selectman approved the recommended vendor, Northeastern Clearing for \$18,500. Clearing and prepping will start soon, the paving for the driveway will be done over the summer. Mike Luzzi, Ms. Sierakowski and the district's architect will be going to Hartford on Wednesday for the initial meeting for the ADA project at Turkey Hill School. The goal is to have the project approved, out to bid, and everything set for a start date right after school dismisses this year. The BOE will present their capital requests to the Okenquist Committee on January 11th, the district continues to inform the town of BOE needs.

Dr. Russo reported that there will be two weeks of Camp Invention this summer, June 18th - 22nd and June 25th - 29th. Greg Tang Math Camp will also be offered this summer on alternate weeks. Professional Learning had great opportunities for teachers to analyze test items with proficiency skills with their grade levels at Race Brook and Turkey Hill Schools. This professional learning will take place for Peck Place and Mary L. Tracy Schools in February. Last Wednesday there was an ELA Design Team curriculum workshop, work was for stage 2 of the curriculum process on the Rubicon Atlas. A similar workshop is scheduled for the Math Design Team this coming Wednesday (December 20th).

***Superintendent's
Report (cont.)***

Mrs. Slowik reported that the Special Education Department has posted on the district website and in the local newspaper its annual call for community peers to participate in the Orange Pre-School Program for the 2018-19 school year. The district provides preschool programming for children identified with special needs. In order to create an integrated program, students not identified with special needs are invited to participate in the program. There are a limited number of spaces available. The State budget includes legislative language requiring all public LEAs to participate in the CT School Based Child Health (SBCH) Program which requires the district to enroll as a provider in the state medical assistance program and submit billable service information to the Department of Social Services. Mrs. Slowik, Ms. Sierakowski, Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Byrd attended a seminar at the State last week to learn more about the program. The program will require the district to identify and obtain written consent from parents whose children qualify for Medicaid, submit claims to the State's Medicaid School Based Child Health Program, file quarterly administrative claims, and file annual costs reports. Related services such as speech/language, counseling, OT, PT, BCBA, audiological, nursing and some transportation costs may qualify as billable services.

Board Business

Election of Officers

Chairman Kraut turned the Board Meeting over to Dr. Scarpetti. Dr. Scarpetti informed the Board Members of the election rules, with no questions, the floor was opened for nominations for Board Chair. Mr. Ziman nominated Mr. Kraut for Board Chair. With no further nominations, voting took place. Ten paper ballots counted. Mr. Young, Mr. Cap, Mr. Ziman, Ms. Riccio, Mrs. Browe, Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs. Bunnell, Mrs. Welander, Mr. Flynn and Mr. Kraut voted for Mr. Kraut as Board Chair. Mr. Kraut is Board Chair.

Mr. Kraut took over meeting. The floor was opened by Mr. Kraut for nominations for Vice-Chair. Mr. Young nominated Mr. Cap as Vice-Chair. With no further nominations, voting took place. Ten paper ballots counted. Mr. Young, Mr. Ziman, Ms. Riccio, Mrs. Browe, Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs. Bunnell, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Welander, Mr. Kraut and Mr. Cap voted for Mr Cap as Vice-Chair. Mr. Cap is Vice-Chair.

The floor was opened by Mr. Kraut for nominations for Secretary. Mrs. Hadlock nominated Ms. Riccio. With no further nominations, voting took place. Ten paper ballots counted. Mrs. Hallock, Mrs. Bunnell, Mrs. Browe, Mr. Ziman, Mr. Cap, Mr. Kraut, Mrs. Welander, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Young and Ms. Riccio voted for Ms. Riccio as Secretary. Ms. Riccio is Secretary.

***Out of State - Field
Trip Requests -
Turkey Hill School***

Mrs. Arterbery, Principal of Turkey Hill school is requesting permission for fifth grade students to visit Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts and for sixth grade students to travel to Newport, Rhode Island in May. A motion was made/seconded by Ms. Riccio/Mrs. Hadlock to approve the request. Unanimously approved.

*Discussion -
Non-Union Staff &
Special Education
Needs.*

This agenda item will be discussed in Executive Session.

***STANDING
COMMITTEES***

*Finance &
Operations -
Ms. Riccio*

Finance & Operations Sub-Committee met prior to tonight's BOE meeting and discussed the expenditures, profit & loss. Cafeteria numbers are up again for the month of November. The 21st Century budget was discussed in the Finance meeting.

*Personnel/Policy
Transportation – Mr.
Young*

The sub-committee did not meet in November due to the transitional stage and the forming of new sub-committees. Union negotiations are wrapping up. Looking forward to meeting with new committee soon.

*Building & Grounds
/ Safety & Security –
Mr. Young*

Ms. Sierakowski has already informed the Board about the Race Brook tree removal, making room for the new driveway at Race Brook, Turkey Hill's ADA project is being presented in Hartford and solar is still in negotiations and is under advisement of council, no public comment at this time concerning the solar.

*Curriculum /
Instruction /
Technology - Mrs.
Browe*

Committee met on November 27th, Mr. Ullring provided a technology update. Wireless project is complete, PowerSchool will be updated over the summer, electronic reports went out in November, district switching to Office 365. Mr. Ullring is updating the long-term technology plan. Mrs. Browe said when she left the last curriculum meeting all she could say was WOW, wow to what the teachers are doing, wow to how it benefits out students and wow to what an amazing leadership team the district has. Mrs. Browe is amazed at how much work the district is doing.

*21st Century Ad-Hoc
- Ms. Riccio*

Ad-Hoc committee met in the beginning of December. Mrs. Lasto attended the meeting. Mrs. Lasto will be presenting at the January BOE meeting.

*ACES Report - Ms.
Riccio*

Ms. Riccio reported that the State budget has impacted ACES' budget, their budget was cut by 10% , they are however projecting to break even by the end of the year. Ms. Riccio shared some of the art work of ACES students in the form of a shirt, cards and a coffee mug. Most artwork was done by special education students. ACES approved their 2018-19 school calendar. Whitney North/East/West Schools will all be going into the Leeder Hill project. Ground breaking was held on December 14th. Project came in 11 million dollars under budget.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session was made by Mr. Ziman and seconded by Ms. Riccio. No discussion. Unanimous vote to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. Dr. Scarpetti, Dr. Russo, Mrs. Saccente and Mrs. Pucillo were invited into Executive Session.

Executive Session

Attendees: All BOE members and Dr. Scarpetti

Entered into Executive Session at 8:11pm

Motion to exit out of executive session by Charles Flynn, 2nd by Chantelle Bunnell. All in favor.

Exit out of executive session at 9:36 pm

Returned to December BOE meeting at 9:38pm

Motion for the Board of Education to authorize the Board Officers using the guidelines discussed, to finalize compensation for non-union staff and/or union positions.

Motion made by Susan Riccio, 2nd by Betty Hadlock. All in favor. Motion Passed

Motion to adjourn December BOE meeting by Ken Ziman, 2nd by Susan Riccio. All in favor.

December BOE meeting Adjourned at 9:39pm

Executive Session minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Riccio, Board Secretary

INFORMATIONAL – Next meeting – **Tuesday, JANUARY 16, 2018** at 7:00 p.m. in the Upstairs Conference Room located in the BOE Offices.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Acampora