

MINUTES
ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 11, 2016

Minutes approved at the May 16, 2016 BOE Meeting.

Attendance

Present: Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Mrs. Browe, Mrs. Saccente, Ms. Riccio, Mr. Young, Mrs. Hadlock, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Bunnell

Absent: Mrs. Pucillo

The meeting was taped by OGAT & Sound View TV

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Ms. Sierakowski, Dr. russo, Mrs. Slowik, Mrs. Byrd, Mrs. Arterbery, Mr. Gray, Mr. Carbone, Mrs. Gorry, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Kiley, Mrs. Horowitz, Mrs. Downey, Mr. Rothbart, Mrs. Bereski, Mrs. Lukianov, Ms. Lee, Ms. Alves, 2nd Grade Students from Peck Place & their Parents

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Board Chair Kraut at 7:33 p.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Fiona Curis & Marlee Lyons and the Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Browe..

Public Participation

None

Correspondence

In their packets, Board members received district retirement (2) /resignation (1) letters and a thank you note from the Lions Club.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Riccio and seconded by Mrs. Hadlock to approve the Consent Agenda items. Items in the Consent Agenda included the minutes from the March 21, 2016 regular BOE meeting and the minutes from the Special Meeting held on March 30, 2016. Unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report / Presentation(s)

Dr. Scarpetti introduced Mrs. Lukianov and Mrs. Bereski along with a group of 2nd grade students from Peck Place School. Their presentation focused on "Funny Numbers" a program that was introduced at the August Professional Development session by Greg Tang. A follow-up session was presented at the March 24th Professional Development. After the student demonstration, students worked with Board Members in practicing based ten and placed value practices.

Dr. Scarpetti continued by listing a lot of the activities that have taken place over the last month; talent show at Turkey Hill School, 21st Century family dinner at Turkey Hill School, father-daughter dance and talent show at Race Brook School, talent show at Peck Place School, art exhibit at the Case Memorial Library for all schools, opening day at Orange Little League, BOWA districts attended the Amity presentation of "Into the Woods". The district held their first Unified Sports tournament on April 2nd.

Dr. Scarpetti introduced Diane Downey, Jaime Horowitz & Eric Rothbart so they could inform the Board about the creation of the Unified Sports program. Unified

Sports is the elementary division of the Special Olympics and is run by Connecticut Interscholastic Athletics Conference (CIAC). 26 athletes (13 special athletes and 13 peer mentors) competed on April 2nd at Hillhouse High School. Ten staff members volunteers. The program met on Mondays at Peck Place for six weeks preparing for the tournament. A bus would pick peer mentors up from their home school and take them to Peck Place for practices. The program was well received by students and parents and the district plan to run the program again next year.

Dr. Russo reported on the April 6th professional development and how teachers in grades 2-6 were able to apply the knowledge and develop lessons from the information they learned at the March 24th professional development. Teachers worked with colleagues to develop lessons. Dr. Russo presented a workshop titled 'Early Reading Success and the Science of Teaching Reading to Beginning Readers' for pre-k, kindergarten and grade 1 teachers. Dr. Russo shared that the district currently has postings opened for a TESOL Teacher, Special Education Teacher, Spanish Teacher, Music Teacher, and School Psychologist.

Dr. Scarpetti shared that he meets monthly with the PTO/A presidents to stay on top of parent concerns, currently there is a theme regarding non-tenure non-renewals. When the district is decreasing sections, the district needs to abide by state statute. The district may need to reduce three sections for the 2016-2017 school year. Nine teachers received non-renewal letters because the district has nine classroom teachers who are non-tenured. Dr. Scarpetti updated the Board on kindergarten enrollment, as of now, the district will have 145 kindergarten students for the 2016-2017 school. Dr. Scarpetti broke the class size down referencing 7 sections, 8 sections or 9 sections. The district will be watching this number closely.

Ms. Sierakowski reported that over the next month the community will see two very different percentages depicting the budget increase for the BOE. 3.73% & 1.99%, and both numbers are correct. The difference is because the town approved a supplemental increase (\$330,000) to the 2015-2016 budget in July so the district could hire more teachers due to the rising enrollment. Ms. Sierakowski informed the Board that on April 25th the BOF would be presenting the Town budget, the Amity budget and the BOE budget, May 9th is the Town Meeting and the Amity referendum will take place on May 3rd. The date for our referendum, if there is a referendum, has not been determined yet.

Mrs. Slowik shared that she attended the Unified Sports tournament and had a wonderful time. Summer school will take place at Mary L. Tracy School. There are two parts to the summer school program, the district summer school program and the special education extended year program. Meetings are taking place now to make sure that every student that is eligible is able to participate. Students who received tier 2 & tier 3 services will be offered to participate in the district summer school program

Dr. Scarpetti wished everyone a safe and happy spring vacation.

Board Business

Second Read - Policy 3240 Tuition

Policy 3240 Tuition was presented a first read at the March 21st BOE meeting. A motion was made/seconded by Mrs. Saccente/Ms. Ricco to adopt Policy 3240 - Tuition. Unanimously approved.

First Read - Policies 5144.1 - Physical Restraints/Seclusion & 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect & Sexual Abuse

These policies were presented as a first read. Board Members should contact Mrs. Saccente or Dr. Scarpetti if they have any questions. These policies will appear on the May agenda as a second read/adoption.

Contract Non-Renewals

At their places, Board Members received a list of non-tenured classroom teachers for contract non-renewals. In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-151 a motion was made/seconded for contract non-renewals for non-tenured teachers based on a reduction in force or loss of a position to another teacher by Mr. Cap / Mrs. Saccente. Some discussion followed concerning the need for the Board's approval if it is a state statute. Unanimously approved.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Insurance Ms. Riccio

Committee met on March 28th and went over the budget/bills. 21st Century budget was also reviewed, the 21st Managers are doing a great job of staying on top of things.

Personnel/Policy Transportation – Mrs. Saccente

Committee met on March 28th. Brought forward a few policies this evening as a first read. Waiting to hear back/review the changes from Dr. Robear on Policy 5141.3. Committee will continue to review policies and present them to the Board for updating.

Building & Grounds / Safety & Security – Mr. Young

Committee met on March 28th, Discussed buildings and beautification of the schools. Addressing some concerns with vegetation. Updating some safety drills.

Long Range Planning Report Mrs. Pucillo

Mrs Pucillo was absent. Dr. Scarpetti reported that the sub-committee met to review the current Strategic Plan. The Leadership group has also reviewed the plan, realizing that some things have not been accomplished yet. The sub-committee will be meeting again to discuss what hasn't been accomplished/completed.

Curriculum / Instruction- Mrs. Browe

Committee met on March 28th. Professional development already discussed. Dr. Russo met with BOWA colleagues and discussed vertical alignment between the different schools. BOWA is impressed with the district's math skills. Excited about the enrichment activities the kindergarten students are receiving. Role of Library Media Specialists will be discussed at the next sub-committee meeting.

Ms. Riccio has spoken to ACES and will be attending their next meeting.

*ACES Report - Ms.
Riccio*

A motion to adjourn was made/seconded by Ms. Riccio//Mr. Ziman at 8:31 p.m.
Unanimously approved.

Adjourn

INFORMATIONAL – Next meeting – **May 16, 2016** at 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs
Conference Room located in the BOE Offices.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Acampora