

**MINUTES
ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 21, 2016**

Minutes have not been approved.

Attendance

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

Absent: -----

The meeting was taped by OGAT & Sound View TV

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Ms. Sierakowski, Mrs. Byrd, Mrs. Arterbery, Mr. Gray, Mr. Carbone, Mrs. Slowik, Dr. Russo, Joe Cole, PTA Representative

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Board Chair Kraut at 7:31 p.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Pucillo.

Public Participation

Mrs. Jody Dietch, former BOE member expressed her concerns about a board member's recent comment on a Facebook page. Mrs. Dietch ended by saying she hoped the board member who made the comment has been held accountable for their remark..

Correspondence

There was no Correspondence.

Presentation(s)

None

Mr. Kraut thanked Mr. Cap, Mrs. Hadlock, Mr. Ziman and Ms. Riccio for attending the DARE graduations with him. Mr. Kraut told Mr. Carbone that his DARE graduation speech was very inspiring and he hoped that he would share it with the entire board. Mr. Kraut also welcomed Mrs. Slowik, the Director of Special Services who will now be sitting at the BOE table during board meetings.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Riccio and seconded by Mr. Cap to approve the Consent Agenda items. Items in the Consent Agenda included the minutes from the February 8, 2016 regular BOE meeting and the minutes from the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop meeting held on February 4, 2016. Unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Scarpetti started his report by informing everyone that the last day of school is currently June 15th. The following students received the SCASA (South Central Area Superintendents' Association) Award - Fisher Bejnerowicz & Daniela Abreu from Turkey Hill, Ryan Cohutt & Anna Varholak from Peck Place and Levi Huss & Hadley Boguniecki from Race Brook School. Students are selected based on their community service and services to others; academic prowess and leadership to the school community. A luncheon was held at Cascade in Hamden on Friday, March 11th. Their principals and parents were in attendance. The second phase of the

district's lock-down drills have been completed. Officer Sean Murphy has just been assigned the district's resource officer. Officer Murphy is replacing Officer Kosh who has received a promotion. Superintendent Scarpetti, Ms. Sierakowski and Dr. Russo attended all of the monthly PTO/A meetings to discuss the proposed 2016-2017 budget. On Tuesday, March 22nd the BOE will be presenting the proposed 2016-2017 budget to the Town Board of Finance, the budget has a 1.99% increase over the 2015-2016 budget.

Ms. Sierakowski reported that 17% of the budget includes key drivers like general liability insurance, health insurance, worker's compensation, rubbish pick-up, these items fall under the town umbrella. The new bus radios have been installed and next week there will be a meeting between administrators and the police department to go over the entire system. The solar projects at Turkey Hill & Peck Place are almost complete, the solar project at Race Brook School should be completed by the end of April. The LED project at Mary L. Tracy is 90% complete, the LED project at Turkey Hill and Race Brook School will be completed during the April vacation.

Dr. Russo thanked the principals, reading & math consultants, teachers and students, she has observed over 30 small reading groups. Dr. Russo is working with Marie McPadden the Director of Curriculum & Development at Amity who has designed learning for our specials teachers making sure we have alignment with the middle and high school. For the PD on Thursday, each teacher will receive three two-hour sessions geared to grade level needs. Areas of study will include math, science technology and reading. A synopsis of each session is available. Dr. Scarpetti and Dr. Russo will be visiting the Amity Middle School in Orange tomorrow.

Mrs. Slowik shared that additional professional development will be provided for the special services staff also on March 24th. The paraprofessionals will have support training, a behavioral based approach to prevent inappropriate behaviors, a comprehensive program of strategies to reduce escalating behaviors. The Speech & Language Pathologist will participate in language intervention utilizing level story books. The School Psychologists will participate in multicultural counseling strategies as well as assessments for English language learners.

Dr. Scarpetti ended by requesting that the Board think about creating an Ad-Hoc Committee regarding enrollment in the district and class sizes. Class size enrollment is a moving target. Currently, a larger class size is expected for kindergarten next year. This year there are 134 kindergarten students, to date, 143 kindergarten students have enrolled for next year. Too early to consider impact on district, more students may enroll through the summer. Dr. Scarpetti thinks Board should get together to discuss guidelines and wishes for class size and have discussion on what does fair mean, does fair mean equal. Principals should be included in discussions. Dr. Scarpetti thanked all the Board Members for their service, CAFE recognizes March as Board Appreciation Month.

Chairman Kraut called for a short recess at 7:53 p.m Refreshments were provided in honor of Board Appreciation Month. Meeting resumed at 8:09 p.m.

Board Business

First Read - Policy 3240 Tuition

In their packets, Board Members received Policy 3240 Tuition as a first read. There is no motion required tonight, the policy will appear on the April agenda as a second read and a motion will be sought. If adopted, Policy 3240 will be a new policy for the district, tuition was a negotiated benefit in the Teacher's Agreement.

Teacher Personnel Matter *

This matter will be discussed in Executive Session.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Insurance Ms. Riccio

Committee met on February 29th and went to the budget. Proposed 2016-2017 budget will be presented to Town Board of Finance on March 22nd.

Personnel/Policy Transportation – Mrs. Saccente

Committee met on February 29th and approved policy 3240. Committee also met on March 14th, but didn't have a quorum. At the March 28th sub-committee meeting policies 5144.1 Physical Restraints/Seclusion, 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect, & Sexual Abuse and 5141.3 Health Assessments & Immunizations will be discussed. All are current board policies that need to be updated.

Building & Grounds / Safety & Security – Mr. Young

Committee met on February 29th, Fire Marshall Smith and Mr. Luzzi attended meeting. Discussion took place on inter-department communications, school security, Fire Marshall Smith gave committee status of the schools from his opinion. At the next sub-committee meeting landscaping and school security will be discussed. A webinar from Fairfield Schools concerning security has been shared with the committee.

Long Range Planning Report Mrs. Pucillo

Dr. Scarpetti and Mrs. Pucillo met with ACES to discuss the Strategic Plan. ACES will share their proposal which will be discussed at the next sub-committee meeting.

Curriculum / Instruction- Mrs. Browe

The focus of the sub-committee meeting on February 29th was technology. The big effort underway now is the 1-1 computer model for grades 3-6. This would increase the number of computers from 1200 to 1500 machines. The committee questioned whether more staff would be needed due to the increase in computers; programs are automated, no additional staff required.

ACES Report

No report.

Adjourn

A motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Teacher Personnel Matter was made/seconded by Mr. Ziman//Mrs. Pucillo at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Young needed to leave meeting. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Mrs. Saccente, Mrs. Browe, Mrs. Pucillo, Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs. Bunnell, Mr. Ziman, Ms. Riccio voted in favor of.

Chairman Kraut invited Dr. Scarpetti & Dr. Russo to attend Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn meeting was made by Mr. Ziman and seconded by Ms. Riccio at 9:21 p.m. Unanimously approved.

INFORMATIONAL – Next meeting – **April 11, 2016** at 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Conference Room located in the BOE Offices.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Acampora