

MINUTES
ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 16, 2016

Minutes approved at the June 20, 2016 BOE meeting.

Attendance

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

Absent: Mrs. Pucillo, Mrs. Bunnell, Mrs. Hadlock

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. Ginsberg, 6th grade students receiving Superintendent Award, and their parents, PTA representative.

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Board Chair Kraut at 7:30 p.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Browe.

Superintendent Awards

The following sixth grade students received the Superintendent's Award: Faith Bernier, Alexandra Hurlburt, Colleen Shaw & Nolan Young from Race Brook School; Anika Agrawal, Jasmina Krehic & Liliana Restrepo from Turkey Hill School; and Claudia Homiski, Colby O'Connor, Liam Tassiello & Jayne Whitman from Peck Place. Students received this award based on their community service and service to others; academic prowess and leadership service to their school community. A short recess with refreshments followed the award ceremony. (Board meeting back in session at 8:02 p.m., students/parents and administrators left after reception).

Public Participation

None

Correspondence

None

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Ziman and seconded by Mrs. Saccente to approve the Consent Agenda items. Items in the Consent Agenda included the minutes from the April 11, 2016 regular BOE meeting. Unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Scarpetti reported that this is a busy time of the year and encouraged the BOE Members to attend one or more of the many activities taking place in our schools. Some of the events Dr. Scarpetti has recently attended include the 21st Century family dinner at Race Brook School, all the Screen Free Week activities, Town Board of Finance meeting, Peck Place Art Show, Musical at Peck Place. Dr. Scarpetti also reported that the district recently held professional development for new website which will enhance more communication between teachers/parents.

Dr. Russo reported that next Wednesday (May 18th) the reading consultants will be facilitating a PowerPoint on streamlining reading assessments for the first part of the session, the second part of the session, they will be collecting information for needs assessment for the ELA curriculum. Personnel update: the TESOL position has been filled, music interviews are underway and the district is still accepting applications for the Spanish position.

Mrs. Slowik shared that the district is losing three special education staff members, two will be retiring and one is relocating. Interviews has begun for a Special Education Teacher at Turkey Hill School, a part-time Special Education Teacher at Peck Place and a School Psychologist at Peck Place.

Ms. Sierakowski reported that since the Board's last meeting several important milestones have been taken place: the Town BOF presented the town budget to the public; Amity's budget passed on May 3rd. There was a great public turnout at Orange's Town Meeting and it was voted to move the Town's budget to a referendum vote on May 19th. In her report, Ms. Sierakowski mentioned one item of particular interest to school districts recently is ESC dollars. ECS (Educational Cost Sharing) is a State Grant which has been in existence since 1989. It was established primarily to equalize education within the state. The Town BOF stated that the unknown ECS revenue made budgeting difficult.

Dr. Scarpetti closed his report by reading a letter the district received from the State of Connecticut recognizing students from Race Brook School for their participation in the Governor's Reading Challenge. Three students, Principal Gray and Dr. Scarpetti will visit the State Library on Friday.

Board Business

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

These policies were presented as a first read at the April 11th BOE meeting. Mrs. Saccente made a motion to table the vote to adopt these policies. Mrs. Saccente, Chair of the Personnel/Policy/Transportation Sub-Committee would like to distribute redlined copies of these policies to the Board instead of scanned copies due to some editorial questions. Motion made/seconded to table Policy 5144.1 by Mrs. Saccente/Ms. Riccio. Unanimously approved. Motion made/seconded to table Policy 5141.4 by Mrs. Saccente/Mrs. Browe. Unanimously approved.

Healthy Food Certification Program

Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that each Board of Education or governing authority for all public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program certify annually to the Connecticut State Department of Education whether the district will follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards for all foods sold to students separately from reimbursable school meals. A motion was made/seconded by Ms. Riccio/Mrs. Saccente that the district will participate in the Healthy Food Certification Program for the 2016-2017 school year. Unanimously approved.

***Consideration/
Discussion Hiring
Law Firm***

Legal fees for the district are high. Chairman Kraut had a discussion with Vice-Chairman Cap, Secretary Saccente and Superintendent Scarpetti about how the district could lower their legal fees. One option is to tap into the town's resources and use the services of Vincent Marino and Cohen & Wolfe. The district has done some business with Cohen & Wolfe when the flood happened at Peck Place School. The district would save approximately 40% per hour using a lead attorney and approximately 50% per hour using an associate. Cohen & Wolfe are opened to entering in a contract that would consist of a retainer, the district's current attorney firm (Shipman & Goodwin) are not interested in a retainer. Chairman Kraut asked the Board to consider a 6 month trial with Cohen & Wolfe. Much discussion followed. This would allow the superintendent to have options on which law firm to call upon, depending on the situation, and with the hope of having a less of an impact on the budget. A motion was made/seconded by Mr. Ziman/Mr. Cap to allow Superintendent Scarpetti to negotiate a six month contract with Cohen & Wolfe with the monthly fee capped at no more than \$1,500. Dr. Scarpetti has been authorized to sign whatever documents are necessary. The Board will receive a report after the 6 months in order to make the decision to move forward or not. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Ziman, Mr. Cap, Mr. Young voted in favor of. Mrs. Saccente, Ms. Riccio voted against. Mrs. Browe abstained. Motion carries.

***Evaluation Process -
Superintendent***

The Superintendent's evaluation will take place in Executive Session.

***STANDING
COMMITTEES***

***Finance &
Operations -
Ms. Riccio***

Committee is trying to scheduled their next meeting.

***Personnel/Policy
Transportation –
Mrs. Saccente***

Committee will be meeting on Monday, May 23rd. Topics to be covered will be the two policies tabled this evening, review and discussion of policy 5113 – Attendance & Excused Absences, review and discussion of policy 5113.2 – Truancy Committee will also discuss setting tuition rates for policy 3240 - Tuition. Class sizes may also be discussed.

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

Sub-Committee will not be meeting this month, it's the end of the year, everything is going well. Mr. Luzzi has everything running well.

***Long Range
Planning Report
Mrs. Pucillo***

Mrs Pucillo was absent. Dr. Scarpetti reported that at the last meeting the committee reported that they met with ACES to facilitate a plan. In Dr. Scarpetti's meeting with his leadership team it was determined that not everything was accomplished on current three year strategic plan. Another sub-committee meeting will be scheduled soon.

*Curriculum /
Instruction- Mrs.
Browe*

Committee will be meeting on Monday, May 23rd. Role of Library Media Specialist and how they support curriculum will be on the agenda along with any other agenda items that Dr. Russo or Dr. Scarpetti add.

*ACES Report - Ms.
Riccio*

Ms. Riccio attended the ACES meeting last Thursday, topic for their meeting was high school foreign exchange students,

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made/seconded by Mr. Ziman//Ms. Riccio at 8:44 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of the Superintendent's evaluation. Unanimously approved.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:50 PM.

Chairman Kraut called for a motion. Based on the Board's positive review of Superintendent Dr. Vince Scarpetti a motion to renew and extend his contract.

Motion by Sue Riccio
Seconded by Kim Browe

Discussion - Members of the Board thanked the Superintendent for service thus far and hoped that he will be with us for years to come. Both the children and community have benefited.

Vote was unanimous

Motion to adjourn at 9:58 made by Sue Riccio seconded by Ken Ziman
unanimous

INFORMATIONAL – Next meeting – **June 20, 2016** at 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Conference Room located in the BOE Offices.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Acampora