

MINUTES
ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 13, 2017

Minutes approved at the March 20, 2017 BOE Meeting.

Attendance

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

Absent: Mrs. Browe, Mrs. Pucillo

The meeting was taped by OGAT

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Ms. Sierakowski, Dr. Russo, Mrs. Slowik, Mrs. Wargo, Mrs. Ciambriello, Mrs. Khachane, Mrs. Tenney, Parents

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Board Chair Kraut at 7:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Mission Statement was read by Ms. Riccio.

Public Participation

Mrs. Ciambriello, Mrs. Khachane & Mrs. Tenney all spoke about the allergy policy being presented as a first read at tonight's meeting. Mrs. Ciambriello & Mrs. Khachane have children with severe food allergies and hope the Board will consider food free classroom celebrations. Mrs. Tenny, Chair of the Healthy Lifestyles Committee, also supports food free celebrations, while the children are given a option of a healthy snack when a sweet one is presented, she feels that no food celebrations helps support those children with severe food allergies.

Ken Ziman mentioned the TEVAL presentation that took place at the November BOE meeting by Mr. Gray and Mrs. Moffett, Mr. Ziman sited the minutes of the November meeting which says the changes were made with the paperwork and not the process. Mr. Ziman wanted to acknowledge that what the committee accomplished was so much more than changes with paperwork. Mr. Ziman said the entire country is currenting wrestling with making teacher evaluations a tool to improve teaching which would benefit the students. In the past teacher evaluations have been the source of frustration and angst for administrators and teachers. Mr. Ziman said those on the committee should be recognized for their efforts.

Correspondence

In their packets, Board Members received a resignation letter from Mrs. White, Pre-K Teacher at Mary L. Tracy, a letter from Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner of Education, concerning the Administration of Statewide Summative Assessments for Spring 2017 and the Sexual Abuse & Assault Awareness Program Parent Letter & Flyer for Parent Night being held on March 7, 2017.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Riccio and seconded by Mrs. Saccente to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2016 BOE meeting and the minutes from the Budget Workshop/Special Meeting held on January 25th. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Mrs. Saccente, Mrs. Bunnell, Mrs. Hadlock, Ms. Riccio, Mr. Young voted in favor of, Mr. Ziman abstained, motion carries. (Mrs. Browe & Mrs. Pucillo absent)

Presentation

None

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Scarpetti's report began with him announcing the arrival of winter, the district has had five delayed openings, one early dismissal and one school closure due to inclement weather. The 2016-2017 School Calendar has been updated and has been loaded on the website. Dr. Scarpetti thanked Mr. Luzzi and his staff for the wonderful job they have done with snow /ice clean-up. The VOIP project is on track, the wiring at Race Brook School is almost complete and the installation should be starting on President's Day. Dr. Scarpetti outlined the following activities/dates, DARE graduation and the next Budget Workshop will take place on February 15th; There will be no school on Monday, February 20th and Tuesday, February 21st for President's Day and Winter Break; DARE graduation for Race Brook school will take place on February 23rd; the band will play at the Sound Tigers game on February 26th; DARE graduation for Turkey Hill will take place on February 27th; the Board of Education will be presenting their proposed 2017-2018 budget to the Town Board of Finance at 6:30 p.m. on February 27th; parent/teacher conferences will be held on February 28th and March 2nd; the Sexual Abuse & Assault Awareness Parent Program will be held on March 7th, Smarter Balance Assessments will begin in March and Literacy Night will take place on March 8th for Peck Place parents and on March 9th for Race Brook parents.

Ms. Sierakowski began her report by assuring the Board that the town and board of education are working cooperatively to determine what impact Governor Malloy's budget might have on Orange. The Governor is proposing significant changes to how the state allocates education dollars, along with a significant reduction in funds, a fairer ECS grant; and a more transparent distribution of special education funding. Ms. Sierakowski said one of the district's' challenges will be that it will need to develop a budget and go to referendum without final answers from the state. The Finance Sub-Committee met earlier in the night and reviewed all expenditures and line items. There was nothing of concern and the expenditures are tracking along budget lines.

Dr. Russo reported that math mini workshops are scheduled for this month with grade level teams, these sessions will be facilitated by the math specialists at each of the schools, STEAM training at ACES on February 14th, Friday is a minimum day, Kindergarten teachers will work together to align their word study work to match their small group instruction, 1st grade teachers now have some students ready for the F & P comprehension, in addition to the Smarter Balance Assessments, the CMT science will be administered on April 5th.

Mrs. Slowik shared that on the professional development day, the special education staff will be working in groups of similar discipline and will work to collaborate and calibrate procedures and protocols throughout the district ensuring continued compliance with individual student IEPs and state regulations. Names were pulled for the pre-k lottery for the 2017-18 school year, the pre-k program is a special education based program but includes a small number of general ed community peers creating an integrated environment for the students.

Board Business

First Read - Regulation 5141.26 Food Allergy Plan & Guidelines

Board Members received Regulation 5141.26 Food Allergy Plan & Guidelines as a first read. There is no action required for a first read, the regulation will be presented at the March BOE meeting as a second read. If board members have any questions, they should reach out to Mrs. Saccente, the chair of the Personnel/Policy Sub-Committee or Dr. Scarpetti for clarification. Mrs. Saccente informed the board that the policy concerning food allergies will be revised soon. Mrs. Saccente thanked the parents, administrators, Amy Wargo & Dr. Scarpetti for attending meetings and for working together to revise the guidelines.

Appointment of Nurses

Due to State Statute 10-212 the Board of Education is required to appoint School Nurses. A motion was made/seconded by Mrs. Saccente/Mr. Ziman to appoint the following nurses, Amy Wargo, Cheryl Mingione, Kathleen Malone, Kari Watkins. Unanimously approved.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Operations - Ms. Riccio

Finance Sub-Committee met prior to tonight's BOE meeting to review the expenditures/profit and loss information. Everything is in order and is running smoothly. 21st Century budget is tracking appropriately. Cafeteria numbers are continuing to be running high, meaning more demand for school lunches.

Personnel/Policy Transportation - Mrs. Saccente

The first read for regulation 5141.26 was on tonight's agenda. There will be a sub-committee meeting prior to the end of the month. Class size will be a discussion at the next sub-committee meeting. No transportation issues.

Building & Grounds / Safety & Security - Mr. Young

Sub-Committee was updated by Mr. Luzzi on January 30th, where a periodic update on the conditions of the buildings, grounds & security was given. There are ongoing security drills with law enforcement, discussing/identifying an app that would enhance communications with police. ADA projects and possibly bonding bathrooms at TH was also discussed. Mr. Young outlined a current list of repairs/projects: sewer line fixed at PP, broken door at PP, bathroom locks installed at RB, garage door modified at RB, TH lighting was addressed.

Long Range Planning Report - Mrs. Saccente

Sub-Committee met on February 2nd and started reviewing outstanding items, discussed those items that have been achieved and those that are still being worked on. Sub-Committee will meet again soon.

Curriculum / Instruction- Mrs. Saccente

Sub-Committee met on February 2nd, VOIP project is currently underway, a detailed update of all the professional development was provided and cost savings was discussed.

21st Century Ad-Hoc - Ms. Riccio

The ad-hoc committee members met prior to tonight's BOE meeting. The Ad-Hoc Committee continues to meet and will be able to make recommendations concerning the program soon.

For the record, Mrs. Saccente spoke to some parent concerns about activities that take place in the buildings and after school hours. The BOE can't dictate to the PTO/As what is done at those events, the BOE will however be reviewing a separate policy concerning foods being brought into the buildings.

ACES Report - Ms. Riccio

ACES' Board Meeting was postponed due to the snow storm, meeting took place today, regular board items and the budget were reviewed. The school's budget was approved. ACES will be joining a consortium with five other towns for insurance.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made/seconded by Ms. Riccio/Mr. Ziman at 8:12 p.m. Unanimously approved.

INFORMATIONAL – Next meeting – **Monday, March 20, 2017** at 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Conference Room located in the BOE Offices.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Acampora