

Minutes approved at the August 15, 2016 BOE meeting.

Attendance

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

Absent: ----

The meeting was taped by OGAT & Sound View TV

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Ms. Sierakowski, Dr. Russo, Mrs. Slowik, PTA representative, Mrs. Marquis, Mrs. Melville, Mr. Costanzo, Mrs. Pergolotti, Mr. Ricciardi, handful of other Turkey Hill Parents.

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Board Chair Kraut at 7:32 p.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Pucillo.

Public Participation

Mrs. Kristen Marquis took the podium to discuss her concerns about bullying. She understands the district has an anti-bullying program but says she would like the district to institute a mandatory anti-bullying program for students, parents and employees. She has shared experiences with other families in the district and says bullying does happen in the schools. Mrs. Marquis feels that some school activities should be taken away from those students/parents take part in bullying behaviors.

Mrs. Melville read a letter signed by herself and ten other families in support of Mrs. Kranz, whose teacher agreement was not renewed. They hope that Mrs. Kranz will be called back should an opportunity become available. Mrs. Melville stated that she and the other families wanted to use this forum to express their gratitude for Mrs. Kranz' teaching excellence.

The following parents: Mr. Costanzo, Mrs. Pergolotti, & Mr. Ricciardi took to the podium to express their concerns with one section of third grade being eliminating at Turkey Hill School for the 2016-2017 school year. All parents make reference to the fact that they moved into Orange for its excellent schools and they would hate to see their child's education suffer because of the increased class sizes.

Mrs. Saccente addressed parents stating that she too grew up in Orange and attended Orange schools. She also wanted to raise her children in Orange because of the quality education they would receive. Mrs. Saccente mentioned that she too addressed the Board five years ago for the same reason; class sizes and the lack of any clear policy or written guidelines. She was proud that the district was able to secure six additional teachers last year keeping with the tradition of lower class sizes. As Chair of the Policy Committee it is imperative that the district have guidelines for class sizes.

Dr. Scarpetti thanked the parents for attending tonight's meeting and urged them to contact him further if necessary. All e-mails and phone calls he has received will be shared at the next Policy sub-committee meeting.

Correspondence

None

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Saccente and seconded by Ms. Riccio to approve the Consent Agenda items. Items in the Consent Agenda included the minutes from the May 16, 2016 regular BOE meeting and the minutes from the Special Board of Education meeting held on June 1, 2016. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Mrs. Saccente, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Bunnell, Mrs. Browe, Mr Young, Ms. Ricco voted in favor of. Mrs. Pucillo & Mrs. Hadlock abstained. Motion carries.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Scarpetti thanked the Board, the staff and the parents for his first year in district saying the district has a dedicated group of teachers and students who worked right up to the last day of school. Dr. Scarpetti and Dr. Dumais attended Race Brook's graduation while, Dr. Russo and Ms. Sierakowski attended Turkey Hill's graduation. Peck Place's graduation was attended by Mrs. Slowik & Mr. Luzzi. All graduations took place on the same day at approximately the same time making it impossible for Dr. Scarpetti to attend them all. Dr. Scarpetti also thanked Mr. Ronai for all his help/dedication to the Orange Olympics which were held on June 1st.

Dr. Russo thanked Mrs. Panico for her information on Camp Invention. Camp Invention was brought back to Orange this year. The students will attend for one week, June 20th - June 24th and will be creating a solar powered cricket. Curriculum is inspired by the inductees of the National Hall of Fame for Inventors. Summer School will run from July 5th - August 4th, from 8:30 - 11:30 Monday - Thursday, currently there are 97 students that will be attending summer school. First Lego League will also be returning this summer. Curriculum work for the summer will include ELA. In the fall one ELA unit and two Math units will be introduced coupled with professional development for teachers with an electronic curriculum mapping tool.

Mrs. Slowik shared that she has been coordinating with Dr. Russo & Principal Byrd coordinating staffing for summer school. Summer school will be a five week program, July 5th - August 4th. The Special Education department has hired a full-time School Psychologist for Peck Place, a full-time Special Education Teacher for Turkey Hill and a part-time Special Education Teacher at Peck Place. Over the summer, Dr. Russo and Mrs. Slowik will be discussing district plans for professional development for both certified and noncertified special education staff.

Dr. Scarpetti informed the public that Mr. Matthew Bruder will be leaving the district. The posting is open and interviews will take place soon. Dr. Scarpetti thanked Mr. Cap for his help with the posting and the interview process, Mr. Cap's expertise is in technology. Dr. Russo informed the Board that the district has hired a Tier 1 Tech to replace a tech that has resigned. A full-time Spanish teacher has been hired for Peck Place School.

Ms. Sierakowski reported that the LED project has been completed except for the outside lighting for Peck Place and a few transformers need to be set at the schools. All the solar panels have been installed and the UI has approved the installations.

The town building official will now come out to give his stamp of approval. Ms. Sierakowski gave thanks to Mr. Luzzi for a job well done. The usage meters will be visible to the students and will tie into curriculum. Ms. Sierakowski informed the Board that the Town has hired a new Finance Director who will start on July 5th. Mrs. Saccente asked Ms. Sierakowski about the summary provided a few meetings ago concerning the cost sharing the Town receives from the State. Mrs. Saccente wanted to know if the district had any sufficient cuts to those funds. Ms. Sierakowski will provide an update to the Board Members. Dr. Ken Anthony will provide Dr. Scarpetti with his report of the 21st Century program.

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 and tabled by Mrs. Saccente at the May 16th BOE meeting. Mrs. Saccente, distributed redlined copies of these policies to the Board instead of scanned copies due to some editorial questions. Motion made/seconded to adopt Policy 5144.1 Physical Restraints/Seclusion by Mrs. Saccente/Ms. Riccio. Unanimously approved. Motion made/seconded to adopt Policy 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect & Sexual Abuse by Ms. Riccio/Mrs. Saccente. Unanimously approved. Ms. Riccio pointed out some formatting issues which will be corrected.

First Read Policies - 5113 - Attendance & Excuses & 5113.2 Truancy

These policies are being presented as a first read. Red-lined copies of these policies were provided to Board Members. Board Members with questions or needing clarification should reach out to Mrs. Saccente, Chair of Personnel/Policy/Transportation or to Dr. Scarpetti. These policies will be presented at the next board meeting for approval.

Tuition Percentage for 2016-17 - Policy 3240 Tuition Fees

In April the Board adopted Policy 3240 - Tuition Fees allowing children of certified staff members to attend one of the district schools for tuition. The policy states that the tuition fee (not to exceed 50% of the per pupil cost) is to be established annually by the Board of Education. The Personnel/Policy/Transportation has met twice since the last BOE meeting and made a recommendation that the tuition fee be set at 40% for the 2016-17 school year. A motion was made by Ms. Riccio and seconded by Mrs. Pucillo to allow children of certified staff members to attend a district school for 40% of the per public cost for the 2016-17 school year. Unanimously approved.

Non-Union Hourly Rates/Salaries

The Non-Union Hourly Rates/Salaries sheet has been discussed in sub-committee meetings and was provided in Board Member packets. A motion was made/seconded by Ms. Riccio/Mrs. Saccente to approve increases provided. Unanimously approved. Committee feels that some of the hourly rates are askewed and they will try to bring payscale more in-line. This page will become part of the budget process in the future.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Operations - Ms. Riccio

Committee will be meeting on Monday, June 27th.

*Personnel/Policy
Transportation –
Mrs. Saccente*

Committee will be meeting on Monday, June 27th. Committee is working on allergy policy.

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

Sub-Committee will not be meeting this month.

*Long Range
Planning Report
Mrs. Pucillo*

A sub-committee meeting will be scheduled soon.

*Curriculum /
Instruction- Mrs.
Browe*

Committee will be meeting on Monday, June 27th. Role of Library Media Specialist and how they support curriculum was discussed at last committee meeting. VoIP project currently on hold until new IT Director is hired. A lot of curriculum work will be done this summer.

*ACES Report - Ms.
Riccio*

Ms. Riccio report that ACES had a lot going on; graduation, registration for summer academy. ACES is facing some obstacles due to the reduction in state grants. ACES may be considering the reduction in student days to compensate. There will be no meetings for the next two months.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made/seconded by Ms. Riccio/Mr. Ziman at 8:29 p.m. Unanimously approved.

INFORMATIONAL – Next meeting – **August 15, 2016** at 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Conference Room located in the BOE Offices.

Please note, the July 18th BOE meeting has been canceled.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Acampora