

**MINUTES
ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 20, 2017**

Minutes approved at the Monday, April 17, 2017 BOE Meeting.

Attendance

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

Absent: -----

The meeting was taped by OGAT

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Ms. Sierakowski, Dr. Russo, Mrs. Slowik, Mrs. SceneWargo, Mrs. Ciambriello, Mrs. Khachane, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Arterbery, Mrs. Byrd, Mr. Carbone, Mrs. Michel, Melissa Millman, Ann Fleming, Denise Aquilina, Ellen Townsend,

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Board Chair Kraut at 7:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Pucillo.

Public Participation

Mrs. Ciambriello addressed the Board saying she was grateful to be able to give a statement concerning the allergy policy being presented as a second read on tonight's agenda. Mrs. Ciambriello thanked the staff at Race Brook School for keeping her child safe. She is glad to hear that follow-up correspondence and policy meetings did include conversations about implementing changes towards food free celebrations. Mrs. Ciambriello listed a number of other reasons (obesity, cavities, onus on teachers to police) why food free celebrations should be considered.

Correspondence

In their packets, Board Members received a copy of the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) / Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Science Parent Notification Letter.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Riccio and seconded by Mrs. Saccente to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2017 BOE meeting. Unanimously approved.

Presentation

Parent Literacy Night Recap - Mrs. Michel, Mrs. Millman, Ms. Fleming, Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. Aquilina and Dr. Russo presented a recap of the information/tools shared with parents at Parent Literacy Night. Information Sessions were held for Comprehension Conversations, Independent Reading, TESOL, Phonemic Awareness and Genre. Areas of literacy addressed were phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, speaking & listening, language and digital literacy. The Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark assessment is a formative assessment used in our schools.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Scarpetti began his report by wishing everyone a Happy Spring. He then informed the Board that BOW (Bethany, Orange & Woodbridge) held a parents meeting on Tuesday, March 7th to present the Sexual Abuse & Awareness

*Superintendent's
Report (continued)*

Prevention Program. The Milford Rape Crisis Center personnel was on hand to answer any questions that parents had. Dr. Scarpetti has asked Mr. Vitti, Executive Director to attend his next PTO/A Council meeting to share the information with the PTO/A Officers. Dr. Scarpetti shared a Community Awareness Program that is being offered to help recognize abuse, drug addiction, mental health issues, suicide prevention, gambling, the program is being offered on March 22nd and March 29th. Dr. Scarpetti thanked Mike Luzzi and the Maintenance/Custodian staff for their hard work in getting the schools ready during and after the snow storm. Orange was ready for school the following day, but our constituents were not. Dr. Scarpetti thanked the Central Office Staff and the Food Services department for staying late and making any arrangements necessary since school would not be in session due to the storm. The last day of school is now Wednesday, June 14th. BOE presented to the 2017-18 budget to the BOF on February 27th, The Town BOF are meeting tonight and will update the BOE on information/requests that come out of that meeting. The SCASA awards luncheon was held on Friday, March 17th, the students recognized were Nicholas Massey & Anna Saccente from Peck Place School, Lucas Ketchian & Emma Kirck from Turkey Hill School and Kwesi Asiedu and Grace Mahon from Race Brook School. March is Board Member appreciation month, Board Members were presented with a keychain to thank them for all they do to serve the students/staff in Orange.

Ms. Sierakowski reported that the town is proposing a 15M Bond for Capital Projects for both the town and school. There are 12 projects; three include paving at TH, RB & MLT and ADA improvements to TH. A public meeting is scheduled for April 5th at High Plains at 7:00 p.m. The Board engaged the services of the UI to conduct an Energy Star energy and benchmarking audit of the four school buildings. The Finance Sub-Committee has raised some questions about the district's electricity expenses. The analysis will provide building energy usage and cost comparison for the past three years. After presenting their findings, the UI will offer further steps that the district might consider to continue to improve its energy efficiency. The BOE will have access to apply for grants for small projects in the 10K range, this is a no-cost service provided through UI's Energy Star division.

Dr. Russo gave the Board an update on Friday's professional learning; all teachers had an opportunity to engage in learning about curriculum mapping. There are four phases of curriculum mapping, professional learning focused on two phases. On Friday the district will continue on that work and will build the ELA units. There are currently 21 units. The second official curriculum writing for science will take place tomorrow (Tuesday). Two Tuesdays every month have been set aside for science curriculum writing.

Mrs. Slowik shared that on the professional development day, the Resource Room Teachers and the Speech & Language Pathologists joined the group learning curriculum mapping. The Pre-K Teachers participated in a professional development related to play in language, the roots to literacy. The School Psychologists and Social Worker joined BOWA they attended a workshop from the Yale Child Study Center entitled Anxiety Disorders & How They Affect Students. Wednesday night is the pre-k orientation. A posting for a Special Education Teacher will be posted soon.

Board Business

Second Read - Regulation 5141.26 Food Allergy Plan & Guidelines

Board Members received Regulation 5141.26 Food Allergy Plan & Guidelines as a first read at the February BOE meeting. After the February BOE meeting the Personnel/Policy/Transportation Sub-Committee received feedback from parents administrators and the nursing staff. Mrs. Saccente thanked all those who gave feedback. The feedback was also taken into consideration when reviewing policy 5141.25 Food Allergies which caused the committee to open policy 6142.101 Student Wellness. Mrs. Saccente would like to table Regulation 5141.26 Food Allergy Plan & Guidelines so that changes and some grammatical corrections can be made. A motion was made/seconded by Mrs. Pucillo/Ms Riccio to table the regulation.. Unanimously approved.

First Read - Policy 5141.25 Food Allergies & 6142.101 Student Wellness

The Personnel/Policy/Transportation Committee continues to meet to create and revise policies. These policies, 5141.25 Food Allergies & 6142.101 Student Wellness are being presented as a first read, therefore, there is no action required.

Board of Education Attorney

Attorney Marino from Cohen & Wolfe gave a presentation at the December BOE meeting. The Board's agreement with Cohen & Wolfe was for a sixth month trial period. The Personnel/Policy/Transportation Sub-Committee has met twice (January 20th & March 13th) to discuss renewal of the agreement. The BOE has never had an attorney on retainer. In February the BOE solicited requests for attorney services, the Personnel/Policy/Transportation sub-committee reviewed the requests received and it is their recommendation to continue with Cohen & Wolfe. A motion was made/seconded by Mr. Ziman/Mrs. Browe to retain Cohen & Wolfe for a period of one year starting on 3/1/17, with a cost analysis provided at the end of the term. Discussion followed, Mrs. Pucillo asked if the cost analysis could be provided in February before the term of the agreement is over. A new motion to amend the previous motion to include February as the cost analysis date was made by Mrs. Saccente and seconded by Ms. Riccio. Unanimously approved.

Personnel Matter*

This agenda item will be discussed in Executive Session.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Operations - Ms. Riccio

Finance Sub-Committee met prior to tonight's BOE meeting to review the expenditures/profit and loss information. The cafeteria was also discussed. Ms. Riccio thanked Ms. Sierakowski for her diligence and attention to detail, giving the sub-committee more than they ask for.

Personnel/Policy Transportation - Mrs. Saccente

The sub-committee met on March 13th, Mrs. Saccente thanked the committee members for their time. They reviewed policy 5141.25 Food Allergies which was presented as a first read this evening. Policy 6142.101 Student Wellness was also opened for revisions, also presented as a first read this evening. There will be a special meeting to discuss class size. Also there was a vote tonight concerning the Board Attorney.

Building & Grounds / Safety & Security – Mr. Young A lot of snow removal, a minor electrical issues fixed and damaged door at Peck Place was replaced and installed.

Long Range Planning Report - Mrs. Saccente Sub-Committee hasn't had time to meet due to all other sub-committee meetings and the weather. A Doodle will be created to set a meeting date for April.

Curriculum / Instruction- Mrs. Saccente Focus of February was on technology, all the phones have been installed in the schools, training on the phones will be soon. Sub-Committee hopes to schedule a meeting soon.

21st Century Ad-Hoc - Ms. Riccio Ad-Hoc Committee has met again and are continuing to review the program. Ms. Riccio has met with all the site managers. Progress is being made. A report will be presented to the Board next month.

ACES Report - Ms. Riccio ACES meeting took place on March 9th, former speaker Brendan Sharkey gave legislative updates and his perspective. ACES has come to an agreement with their teacher's association. ACES is looking into additional areas of revenue due to the state cuts. They are looking into an insurance collaboration, there are currently five districts interested in joining the collaboration.

Adjourn A motion to adjourn into Executive Session was made/seconded by Mrs. Saccente/Mrs. Bunnell at 8:50 p.m. Unanimously approved.

Exited Executive Session at 9:17 a.m.

Motion to grant additional paid leave to a certified staff member through March 31st in accordance with the current leave policy.

Motion made/seconded by Mrs. Pucillo/Ms. Riccio

Discussion

Vote was unanimous

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:18 p.m. was made/seconded by Ms. Riccio/Mr. Ziman

Vote was unanimous

INFORMATIONAL – Next meeting – **Monday, April 17, 2017** at 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Conference Room located in the BOE Offices.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Acampora