

MINUTES
ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 15, 2017

Minutes approved at the June 19, 2017 BOE Meeting

Attendance

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

Absent: Mrs. Pucillo

The meeting was taped by OGAT

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Ms. Sierakowski, Dr. Russo, Mrs. Slowik, Mrs. Weirsmann (interim principal TH), Mr. Gray, Mr. Carbone, Mrs. Byrd, Mrs. Ginsberg, Mrs. Lukianov, students receiving the Superintendent award and their families, (RB - Emily Barretta, Grace Carrington, Francis Cavallaro, Caitlyn Smith, TH - Jessa Bohan, Nicholas, DiGiovanni, Gavin Storz, PP - Millicent Fuller, Si Ru Liang, Holly Thorndike, and Marc VanSchaick)

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Board Chair Kraut at 7:33 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Browe.

Superintendent Awards

Emily Barretta, Grace Carrington, Francis Cavallaro and Caitlyn Smith from Race Brook School, Jess Bohan, Nicholas DiGiovanni and Gavin Storz from Turkey Hill School and Millicent Fuller, Si Ru Liang, Holly Thorndike and Marc VanSchaick all received the Superintendent's Award of Excellence. Awards are based on community service and service to others; academic prowess; and leadership service to the school community. A short biography about each student was read by their school principal and a short reception followed.

Meeting reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

Public Participation

Ms. Karen Sim shared her opinions and thoughts on keeping food as part of school curriculum. While she is sensitive to those parents who have children with allergies, she feels that celebrations like Apple Day, 4th Grade Pow Wow and Colonial Day are activities with strong social aspects and opportunities for student learning. Ms. Sim said food in these settings are controlled and moderate and there are always alternatives for those students with allergens. Ben Cewe a fifth grader at Race Brook School spoke on behalf of food at school events. Ben said his favorite school events were Family Fun Day in 1st grade where they decorated cookies and Colonial Day where they made ice cream and corn bread. Ben said he enjoys classroom celebrations and he will remember them forever. Ben feels that food brings people together and getting rid of the food will have an impact on students. Ms. Amy VanZandt said she has been an educator for the past 20 years and the school district she current works in eliminated food from any classroom event or celebration about 10 years ago. The policy was changed for safety and health and wellness reasons however, most staff didn't agree with the policy change. Ms. VanZandt said the schools don't feel joyful, both students and staff feel the shift in the culture. A recent survey for professional development needs has elementary teachers overwhelming replying with comments about disengaged students and stressed out kids. Ms. VanZandt feels there may be a connection between special school events and student satisfaction with school. Ms. VanZant respectfully

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| <i>Public Participation (continued)</i> | requested the Board to consider all perspectives on this issue and to be mindful of unintended consequences that may result from the significant policy change. |
| <i>Correspondence</i> | In their packets, Board Members received a copy of an employee resignation letter. |
| <i>Consent Agenda</i> | A motion was made by Mrs. Saccente and seconded by Ms. Riccio to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2017 BOE meeting. A few corrections in wording will be made. Unanimously approved. |
| <i>Presentation - Transitions K-1 and 6 - 7</i> | Principals Gray, Carbone and Byrd gave a Powerpoint presentation on the district's transition process. Students are prepared for academic, behavioral and social demands of the next level and parents are acclimated to different or new expectations, methods for communication and contacts. The Powerpoint presentation showed the strategies taken each month to prepare both the students and parents. |
| <i>Superintendent's Report</i> | <p>Dr. Scarpetti wished those in attendance and those watching at home a Happy Belated Mother's Day. The month is full of acknowledgements with Teacher Appreciation Week and Nurses Day. Dr. Scarpetti thanked all the staff for their hard work with the physical and social needs of the students. It's a busy time of year for the teachers, there is an incredible amount of work going on with the day to day and in addition to all this work Dr. Scarpetti acknowledged the certified staff their dedication to all the professional learning staff are engaging in. The 2nd Screen Free Week just took place, each school had an individual night filled with events. Peck Place Panther Pounce took place over the weekend, which Mr. Ziman participated in. The Olympic Festival will take place tomorrow from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at High Plains Community Center. The district Spelling Bee will take place on May 24th at the BOE Offices beginning at 5:00 p.m. and June 14th will be 6th grade graduations at Peck Place, Turkey Hill and Race Brook Schools. The Music Teachers will present at the June BOE meeting. The district has posted for the following positions: Special Education Teacher for Pre-K at Mary L. Tracy School, a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) and a Library Media Specialist. The General Aide position for the Food Services Department was hired from within that union. Friendly reminder that the referendum for the Town Budget would take place on Thursday, May 18th at the High Plains Community Center between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Ms. Sierakowski reported that the district is closing in on this fiscal year, final invoices are being submitted allowing the district to focus on credible year-end balances. Ms. Sierakowski met with the Finance Sub-Committee prior to the BOE meeting where she reviewed a couple of line items that she is watching closely but currently the budget is in good shape and there are no concerns. Ms. Sierakowski expanded on Dr. Scarpetti's earlier comment about the referendum on Thursday, May 18th, the Town referendum also covers revisions to the town charter as well as the town budget. Open Enrollment for employees to make changes to their health and/or dental membership will be happening soon, notices went out today. Plans are effective fiscal year, so changes will be effective July 1st. On May 20th the UI will be completing an upgrade in Orange on Grannis Road from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Families impacted were notified. Race Brook School has no activities planned on Saturday and Mr. Luzzi will be on site.</p> |

Superintendent's Report (continued)

Dr. Russo gave the Board an update on professional learning Dr. Scarpetti mentioned; on April 26th, all certified K-3 Teachers completed a survey that assessed their knowledge of best practices in reading instruction. The results of this survey will be available at the end of June and will be used to guide professional learning. End-of-year universal screens were administered during the first two weeks of May, math the first week and ELA the second week, the screens help the district determine which students are on target. While K-3 teachers were taking the reading survey, teachers in grades 4-6 were involved in on-site math collaborations, focused on identified areas of need, Special education teachers and TESOL teachers were involved in process writing grade level conferences. On May 5th math specialists and classroom teachers from different grade levels engaged in a massive unpack of standards into precise content and skills. On May 17th all certified staff will meet at Peck Place for a curriculum communication.

Mrs. Slowik reported that the district posted for a Special Education Preschool Teacher. Applications are rolling in and the committee is beginning to identify qualified candidates. The interview process will not only involve questions and answers but top candidates will have the opportunity to conduct an actual PK lesson. Mrs. Slowik mentioned she is working closely with Dr. Russo and Mrs. Byrd in organizing staffing for the Extended Services Year (ESY), which is an IEP recommendation for special education students and the district's summer program for regular education students who receive Tier 2 and Tier 3 support. On April 26th Melissa Wriggley from Special Education Resource Center (SERC) provided professional development to all special education staff related to IEP writing.

Board Business

First Reads - Policy 5141.25 Students with Special Health Care Needs & Regulation 5141.26 Management Plan & Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies

Policy 5141.25 Students with Special Health Care Needs and Regulation 5141.26 Management Plan & Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies were included in Board Members packets and presented a first reads. There is no action required for first reads, Board Members were asked to contact Mrs. Saccente, Chairman Kraut or Dr. Scarpetti with any questions or concerns. Mrs. Saccente clarified that minutes from the Personnel/Policy/Transportation sub-committee meeting indicated that policy 6142.101 Student Wellness would be sent to the Board as a first read, that policy has not been completed, sub-committee minutes will be revised.

First Read - 21st Century Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendations

Ms. Riccio, Chair of the 21st Century Ad-Hoc Committee will present the Ad-Hoc's recommendations during her Standing Committee report.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Operations - Ms. Riccio

Finance Sub-Committee met prior to tonight's BOE meeting to review the expenditures/profit and loss information. Budget is in good shape. Students participating in the cafeteria program is at an all time high.

Personnel/Policy Transportation - Mrs. Saccente

The Personnel/Policy/Transportation Committee brought forward two first reads this evening. The sub-committee met last month to discuss class size, the sub-committee will meet again this month to continue the discussion. Feedback concerning food in the classrooms will be considered as the committee continues to discuss the topic of food in the classrooms.

Building & Grounds / Safety & Security – Mr. Young There were two unexpected repairs last month, a gas line meter repair at Peck Place School and a water pipe leak on the outside of Turkey Hill School.

Long Range Planning Report - Dr. Scarpetti There will be a sub-committee meeting on Monday, May 22nd, Mrs. Pucillo and Dr. Scarpetti have met several times but there needs to be a meeting with the entire sub-committee.

Curriculum / Instruction- Mrs. Browe Committee met on May 1st. Vendors presentations for new copiers took place. Sub-Committee will meet again on Monday, May 22nd for another vendor presentation (copiers) and for some curriculum topics.

21st Century Ad-Hoc - Ms. Riccio Board Members received the Ad-Hoc Committee's 21st Century recommendations as a first read. Ad-Hoc Committee has met many times, committee has received support from Dr. Scarpetti, Dr. Russo, Ms. Sierakowski, parents and 21st Century Site Managers and Principals. A very thorough investigation of the program was performed. Committee feels the 21st Century program is a successful program which needs to continue to grow. Key recommendations on how to enhance the activities ensuring that there is a Program Lead to support it. Program should stay under the BOE, overall program will have a direct line to Dr. Russo for curriculum as well as to Ms. Sierakowski for a business perspective. Ad-Hoc Committee is asking for Dr. Scarpetti to post for a Program Lead position. Committee would like to stay intact for the next 6 months. Program Lead position was discussed at the Budget Workshops. Position is in 2017-18 budget. No discussion followed, Dr. Scarpetti was given permission to post Lead position. Direction of Ad-Hoc Committee will be discussed at next Board Meeting.

ACES Report - Ms. Riccio ACES met last Friday. ACES' international program is with China, there will be four students coming over to stay with families. This program also sends teachers over to Japan. Early head start is continuing to do well, ACES has been doing reasearch on 28 students who have been in their birth to three program for the entire time. 18 of the 28 no longer needed special services due to the services they received. Tracking will continue for the next 3 - 5 years if possible. They updated the group on the insurance collaborative, (Ansonia, North Haven & ACES) information will be shared concerning the savings.

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

INFORMATIONAL – Next meeting – **Monday, June 19, 2017** at 7:30 p.m. in the Upstairs Conference Room located in the BOE Offices.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Acampora