

MINUTES
ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 21, 2018

Minutes approved at the June 18, 2018 BOE meeting.

Attendance

Present: Chairman Kraut, Mr. Cap, Ms. Riccio, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Browe, Mrs. Bunnell, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Welander, Mr. Young

Absent: Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs. Slowik

The meeting was taped by OGAT

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Dr. Russo, Ms. Sierakowski, Mr. Gray, Mr. Carbone, Mrs. Arterbery, Mrs. Lasto & her family, Mrs. Moffett, Mrs. Capecelatro, district teachers, 6th grade students receiving the Superintendent's Award and their family members.

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Kraut at 7:08 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Mission Statement was read by Ms. Riccio.

Superintendent's Award Ceremony

The following sixth grade students received the Superintendent's Award: Luciana Dottori, Sarah Ginsberg and Devin Maroney from Race Brook School, Vivian Cain, Meghan Kirck and Justin Palmer from Turkey Hill School, Jeslyn Jacob, Suhail Mohammed, Dana Pletter & Emily Russo from Peck Place School. Superintendent Scarpetti outlined CAPSS (Connecticut Associate of Public School Superintendents) criteria for the award. Awards are based on community service and service to others; academic prowess; and leadership service to the school community. Each school principal read a short bio on their students and presented them with a certificate.

Reception - New Principal - Mary L. Tracy School

Chairman Kraut announced that Mrs. Tricia Lasto was selected as the new principal of Mary L. Tracy School. Dr. Scarpetti read a short bio of Mrs. Lasto's accomplishments/education. Mrs. Lasto will replace Mrs. Byrd as principal on July 1st.

Reception

Chairman Kraut recessed the meeting for a short reception (7:26 p.m.). Refreshments were served.

Meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Correspondence

In their packets, Board Members received two resignation letters, two retirement letters, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Newsletter, a copy of policy 6151 (Class Size) and a sheet listing the dates/times of the the promotion ceremonies.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Flynn and seconded by Ms. Riccio to approve the minutes from the April 23rd, 2018 BOE meeting. Unanimously approved. (Mrs. Hadlock absent this evening).

Presentation(s)

No presentations this evening.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Scarpetti began his report by announcing the students who received the SCASA (South Central Area Superintendents' Association) award on April 27th at Cascades in Hamden. The students are: Benjamin Wilson and Kayleigh Fitzpatrick from Race Brook School, Luke Chang and Raegan French from Turkey Hill School and Haseeb Chaudhry and Angelina Li from Peck Place School. Dr. Scarpetti recognized our first responders, Brad & Beth Cohen from B&B Transportation (one of the district's owner/operators), Mr. Luzzi, Mr. Gray & Mrs. Byrd for their quick response to the bus accident which occurred a few weeks ago. Dr. Scarpetti also recognized the bus driver, Gary Carvello, Dr. Scarpetti rode the bus the next day to be sure everything went well. Policy 6151 - Class Size requires the Superintendent to publicly informed the Board at the May BOE meeting the projected class size numbers for the following school year. Dr. Scarpetti attended the Relay for Life, Mr. Ziman thanked those who purchased balloons to sponsor Paint the Town Purple. At their places, Board members received a list of upcoming school activities. The district has the following positions posted, Art Teacher and Part-Time Reading Aide at Peck Place, Speech/Language and School Psychologist and 3rd Grade Teacher at Turkey Hill School and two 2nd Grade Teachers, a 4th Grade Teacher and a Long-Term Special Education Teacher at Race Brook School. Dr. Scarpetti acknowledged Mr. Ronai and all the volunteers who help with the Olympic Festival which will take place on May 23rd. Orange's Referendum will take place on Wednesday, May 23rd.

Ms. Sierakowski reported that school finances are in good order and expenditures were reviewed prior to the BOE meeting with the Finance Sub-Committee. The auditors started this week, they are doing some prep work for when they come in over the summer after the fiscal year has closed. Due to a food services retirement at Peck Place, one general worker was promoted to manager and a general worker from Race Brook was moved to Peck Place. The district has posted the general worker position at Race Brook. At the Town Board of Selectmen meeting last week, the Selectman approved the bid recommendation for the Race Brook School parking area, drainage, lighting and new driveway. The bid was awarded to Prindle Hill Construction. Some clearing has already taken place on the grounds but the project will go forward after school dismisses for the summer. Ms. Sierakowski also reminded the public that voting will take place from 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m on Wednesday, May 23rd at High Plains Community Center.

Dr. Russo shared the excerpts from the May professional learning calendar, highlights included preliminary identification of contexts for math units, some movement to phase 4: adding relevance to make the learning stick with real world experiences; district designers are learning how to connect with real world experiences from standards that rely on application. There is a minimum day for professional learning on May 23rd and the district is hosting Curriculum Boot Camp on May 29th, 30th and 31st.

Board Business

Second Reads - Policies

The following policies were presented as first reads at the April 23rd BOE meeting. A motion was made/seconded by Ms. Riccio/Mrs. Browe to adopt Policy 3542.43 Lunch Charging. Unanimously approved. A motion was made/seconded by Mrs. Browe/Mrs. Welander to adopt Policy 5141.3 Health Assessment & Immunizations Unanimously approved. A motion was made/seconded by Ms. Riccio/Mr. Ziman to adopt Policy 4131 Staff Development. Unanimously approved.

First Read Policies -

The Personnel/Policy/Transportation sub-committee met on April 30 to discuss the following policies: Policy 5118.1 Homeless Students, Policy 5136.6 Alcohol Use, Drugs & Tobacco, Policy 6164.11 Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco. The policies were shared with the full board for review. There is no action required this evening since the policies are being presented as a first read. Board members were encouraged to reach out to Mrs. Browe or Dr. Scarpetti with any questions they may have. The policies will be presented at the June BOE meeting as second reads.

Healthy Food Certification Statement/Form

Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that each local board of education or governing authority for all Connecticut public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must take action annually to certify whether all food items sold to students will or will not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. This includes all public schools, regional educational service centers, the Connecticut Technical High School system, charter schools, inter-district magnet schools and endowed academies. A motion was made/seconded by Mrs. Welander/Ms. Riccio to approve consideration 1 of the Healthy Food Certification Statement. Consideration 1 certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards for the 2018-19 school year. Unanimously approved. A motion was made/seconded by Ms. Riccio/Mr. Ziman to approve consideration 2 of the Healthy Food Certification Statement. Consideration 2 allows for food items to be sold to students that don't meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; the sale must be at the location of the event and the food items will not be sold from a vending machine or school store. Unanimously approved.

Solar Contract Update *

This discussion will take place in Executive Session.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Operations Ms. Riccio

Finance & Operations Sub-Committee met prior to tonight's BOE meeting and discussed the expenditures, profit & loss, line items are in order. Cafeteria number are up.

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

The sub-committee met on April 30th. Committee is hard at work. Chairperson Browe thanked the committee for the behind the scene work/time they have been putting in reviewing policies. The sub-committee narrowed down the list of foods for the healthy celebration implementation. Sub-Committee will not meet in May.

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

Mr. Young reported that the sub-committee met on May 10th. ADA project is proceeding. The cafeteria steamer at Race Brook School is not working, it is the original steamer. Mr. Luzzi was quoted \$11,000 to repair the steamer and \$21,400 to remove and place the steamer. Steamer is old and parts are hard to come by. Some discussion followed on whether the district should replace or repair, what happens if the unit needs to be repaired again and would parts be available. A motion was made/seconded by Mr. Flynn/Mrs. Browe to approve the purchase and installation of a new steamer not to exceed \$22,000. A question was asked about the warranty of a new steamer. Ms. Riccio reported that the budget at RB and cafeteria can cover cost of steamer. Unanimously approved.

***Curriculum /
Instruction /
Technology -
Mr. Ziman***

Sub-Committee met on April 30th. Dr. Russo informed the sub-committee about what was going on with Music. A professor from Eastern Michigan University, Dr. Heather Shouldice was in district for three days. She worked with the district music teachers to develop musicianship in our students through audiation (thinking in musical sounds). The Orange School district hosted a New England Music Theory Conference, which Dr. Shouldice presented at. Digital citizenship, this involves the norms of appropriate, responsible technology use. Teaching digital citizenship involves a positive culture which supports this safe and responsible technology use. Mr. Ziman said that Dr. Scarpetti and Dr. Russo will be looking to determine if and how we could incorporate this concept into the district's curriculum.

***21st Century Ad-Hoc -
Ms. Riccio***

Ms. Riccio thanked the Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee members, Ad-Hoc will continue for a little longer. Over the last two years the sub-committee has done a lot of detail analysis into the finances, expenses, how the program operates, is there a need for a program lead, staff needs, student to staff ratio, etc. Sub-Committee now has a great handle on what the program needs. Over the past five years, there hasn't been much investment into the spaces at 21st Century. All three sites will have two rooms each that will accommodate robotics, lego league, flexible space, computers, space where kids can kick back and read. Some of the 21st Century budget will be used to create these rooms. When not in use for 21st Century, the rooms may be used by the schools. Ms. Riccio also mentioned that Mrs. Lasto has expressed an interest to remain as the Program Lead.

ACES Update

ACES' budget is in the positive, there is a surplus. The cost to the district will go down. There has been a lot of growth in transportation services. Transportation for special education students is very high, ACES has started to consolidate runs. Magnet school cuts is not as significant as previously thought. Leeder Hill School construction is progressing early and under budget. Early Head Start in Middletown enrollment has increased.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session was made by Ms. Riccio and seconded by Mr. Flynn. No discussion. Unanimous vote to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. Dr. Scarpetti and Attorney Marino were invited into Executive Session.

Executive Session

Entered Executive session on 5/21/2018 at 8:25pm

Attendees: William Kraut, Jeff Cap, Susan Riccio, Christian Young, Kim Browe, Ken Ziman, Chantelle Bunnell, Charles Flynn, Mary Welander, Vince Scarpetti, Atty Vincent Marino

Solar Contract Discussion

Motion to exit executive session by Charles Flynn, 2nd by Kim Browe. Motion passed by unanimous vote to exit out of Executive session at 8:57pm

Return to 5/21/2018 Board of Education session at 8:57pm

Susan Riccio asked for a “motion for the Board to accept the Amended and Restated Solar Power Purchase Agreement created by Cohen and Wolf. In addition, the Board authorizes Dr. Scarpetti to sign the final agreement”.

Christian Young made the motion, Charles Flynn 2nd, Motion passed unanimous.

Motion to adjourn Ken Ziman, 2nd by Susan Riccio at 8:59pm

Executive Session minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Riccio, Board Secretary

INFORMATIONAL – Next meeting – **Monday, June 18, 2018** at 7:00 p.m. in the Upstairs Conference Room located in the BOE Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Acampora

