

MINUTES
ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 18, 2019

Minutes approved at the April 22, 2019 BOE meeting.

Attendance

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

Absent: Mrs. Bunnell

The meeting was taped by OGAT

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Dr. Russo, Ms. Sierakowski, Mrs. Slowik, Mr. Paul Cavanna, Mr. Gray, Mr. Carbone, Mrs. Ronnette James, Mr. Ullring, Mr. Mongillo, First Selectman Zeoli, Mrs. Nardecchia

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Kraut at 7:08 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Mr. Ullring and the Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Welander.

Public Participation

Mrs. Ronnette James, PTA President of Peck Place School took to the podium to invite the Board Members to Peck Place's 50th Birthday celebration on Friday, May 31st from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (rain date is Saturday, June 1st).

Mr. James Zeoli, First Selectman took the podium to speak about his views on regionalization. First Selectman Zeoli is against regionalization to which he testified to in Harford recently. Mr. Zeoli named and spoke about the three bills that were recently passed (# 7319 - An Act Concerning Fiscal Independence of School Districts, # 457 - An Act Concerning the Size of School Districts & # 874 - An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut). Mr. Zeoli provided copies of the bills for any board member who wishes a copy of them.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence in Board Member packets, however, Mr. Ziman informed the Board that Paint the Town Purple material will be distributed through the schools soon.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Hadlock and seconded by Mrs. Welander to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2019 BOE meeting. Unanimously approved.

Presentation(s)

Mr. Matthew Ullring, Director of Technology for the Orange BOE and Mr. Paul Mongillo, Director of Technology & Information Service for the Town presented a PowerPoint presentation on Shared Hardware/Subscription Costs between the BOE and Town. The presentation outlined the savings if costs were consolidated. This topic will be discussed further at the next Curriculum/Instruction/Technology Sub-Committee meeting which is scheduled for Monday, March 25th.

*Superintendent's
Report*

Dr. Scarpetti began his report by mentioning that one of the questions he received while presenting the district's proposed budget to the Town Board of Finance was about Professional Learning. Principal Carbone and Principal Gray presented on one Professional Learning pertaining to Instructional Rounds. The principals shared how this learning assisted in the district's growth. Instructional Rounds are: descriptive, analytic, inferential, they are focused on teaching not on teachers, they are focused on patterns of practice not compliance, they are focused on collective learning and they are a collaborative practice designed to support an existing improvement strategy at the school or system level. Principal Carbone and Principal Gray shared the results of their round process and shared their plans going forward. Dr. Scarpetti continued his reporting by noting that he informed the Town Board of Finance members of the enrollment numbers at Mary L. Tracy School. Dr. Scarpetti shared that at the Budget Workshops the number of kindergarten registrations were in the low 140's, at the Board of Finance presentation the number grew to 165 and as of today (March 18th) the number of kindergarten registrations are 172. Policy 6151 requires the Superintendent to report the class size numbers to the Board of Education Members in May so the determination if the district will increase or decrease sections can be made. Dr. Scarpetti thanked those who participated in Read Across America. Dr. Scarpetti also thanked Chief Gagne, Assistant Chief Martins, Detective DePolo and Detective Bailey for their help with the DARE Graduations. In student news, the following students have won the Geography Bee at their schools and will be competing at the state level on March 29th - Griffin Welander for Race Brook School, Sean Lee for Peck Place School and Matthew Muravnik for Turkey Hill School. Robert Shea a 4th grader at Peck Place School was selected to present Orange for the Fire Prevention Poster Contest. Robert will represent New Haven County at the state level at a luncheon in Hartford on March 28th. Eleven 6th graders participated in band regionals this year. The students are: James Liu, Michael Audie and Mave Kneelan from Peck Place School, Ian Stoltenberg, Molly Emmens, Griffin Welander from Race Brook School and Alicia Cheng, Seth Glassman, Szofia Imre-Seres, Tulley Szost and Jenny Tang from Turkey Hill School. The 21st Century Family Dinner dates were shared with the Board: Monday, April 8th - Race Brook School, Tuesday, April 9th - Peck Place School and Thursday, April 11th- Turkey Hill School. The following Personnel items were mentioned: interviews are currently underway for a Technology Specialist, by the end of the week the district will post for a Math Consultant for Race Brook School and a Director of Special Services for the district. The district has received one teacher retirement letter. Dr. Scarpetti ended his report by thanking the Board Members for all their time and work, March is Board Member Appreciation Month. Board Members were given a pin as a token of appreciation.

Ms. Sierakowski reported that the Finance Sub-Committee met prior to the BOE meeting and reviewed both January and February expenditures. The expenditures remain within the budget. Ms. Sierakowski highlighted some areas where the district strategically avoided costs. The Board of Education made their budget presentation to the Town Board of Finance on March 6th. The district presented a 2.80% budget. The district is still working with the town, particularly with health insurance costs and hope to be able to bring that percentage down even more.

***Superintendent's
Report (cont.)***

Ms. Sierakowski shared the following dates: April 24th at 7:00 p.m. is the Board of Finance Budget Presentation in the High Plains Cafeteria, May 8th from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. is the Amity Budget Referendum in the High Plains Gym, May 15th at 7:30 p.m. is the Annual town Meeting in the High Plains Gym and May 22nd from 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. is the Town Referendum in the High Plains Gym. Security Monitors attended a Professional Development on Friday, March 15th. Ms. Sierakowski thanked Chief Gagne and Detective Bailey for running the professional development keeping our security staff well trained on security and safety.

Dr. Russo shared the March Professional Learning calendar with the Board Members outlining the Birds-Eye Views for Math - Volume & Measurement and Coordinate Plane. In ELA they are previewing the last unit.

Mrs. Slowik reported that the non-certified staff (special education paraprofessionals) participated in a half-day refresher course that re certified them in Psychological/Physical Management Techniques which is aimed at helping them to de-escalate students in need and to safely manage students in the case they become a danger to themselves or others. Certified Special Education staff participated in a full day training provided by Dr. Megan Goslin, a psychologist on the faculty of the Yale Child Student Center who specializes in testing and evaluation, trauma, PTSD and behavioral issues. Dr. Goslin's presentations was entitled: Building Trauma and Developmentally Informed Classrooms and Schools by Capitalizing on Educator/Student Relationships. The opportunity to attend the training was opened up to Bethany and Woodbridge elementary support staff. MLT's annual preschool parent orientation was held for parents of non-identified preschool students who will be new to the program next year. The meeting gave the district the opportunity to provide some general information about the program and a short tour of MLT. Mrs. Slowik reported that the Extended School Year program is expected to run July 1st through August 1st, Mondays through Thursdays. The location for ESY still needs to be determined and the postings for teachers and paraprofessionals will go out soon.

Board Business

First Read Policies

The following policies were presented as first read policies: Policy 5113 - Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal, Policy 5113.2 - Truancy and Policy 5125.11 - Health/Medical Records. These policies will be presented at the April BOE meeting as second reads. Board Members were told to contact Dr. Scarpetti or Mrs. Browe with any questions.

***Out of School Field
Trip Request - TH***

Dr.. Arterbery is requesting permission for the sixth graders at Turkey Hill School to visit Newport Rhode Island in June. A motion was made/seconded by Ms. Riccio/Mrs. Welander to grant permission. Unanimously approved.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Operations Ms. Riccio

Finance & Operations Sub-Committee met prior to tonight's BOE meeting and reviewed the expenditures. Financials are in order. Ms. Riccio made a motion that the Orange Board of Education recommend that the Board of Selectmen authorize the First Selectman to enter into a contract with Tyler Technologies for their Munis Government Accounting software for use by both the Board of Education and the Town Government to replace the current system in use. Mrs. Hadlock seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Personnel/Policy Transportation – Mrs. Browe

Sub-Committee met in January, there were three first read policies presented tonight. Sub-Committee is planning to meet on Monday, March 25th. The class size policy was also reviewed at the last sub-committee meeting. Dr. Scarpetti thanked Mrs. Browe for their meeting on Friday. Mrs. Browe reminded Board Members to leave comments in policies not to alter wording.

Building & Grounds / Safety & Security – Mr. Young

Mr. Young reported that the Sub-Committee would be meeting on March 25th to discuss the conditions of all four school buildings, the flooring quotes and to review the Capital Planning Projects. Mr. Young reported that a refrigerator condenser was replaced on the MLT freezer.

Curriculum / Instruction / Technology - Mr. Ziman

Sub-Committee will meet on Monday, March 25th. Music has shifted from recorders to ukuleles. Professional Learning is cutting edge. The Sub-Committee will revisit Mr. Ullring's request for Shared Hardware/Subscription Costs between the BOE and Town. The Kindergarten Benchmark will be revisited.

Contingency Ad-Hoc Committee - Mr. Ziman

A Contingency Ad-Hoc Committee has been formed and will be Chaired by Mr. Ziman. The purpose of the committee will be to propose a contingency plan in the event a school or a significant part of a school is rendered unusable. The committee will also make prediction for trends in school populations and create a prioritized list that addresses improvements that are needed for the infrastructures of the schools.

Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES)

ACES has met twice since our last Board Meeting. The Town of Hamden wants Wintergreen Magnet School back. ACES is looking for a building to host the 1school, Gateway is an option, negotiations are underway. The Leeder Hill project is on track. Thomas Edison & Wintergreen Magnet Schools have had their lottery. ACES is going through their budget process. A batch of bills were approved at the last meeting, currently ACES has a surplus of \$94,000 at this point, ACES is hoping to increase thier surplus even more. ACES provides technology servcies to Woodbridge. The 2017-18 audit should be done shortly (hopefully by April). The audit should have been completed in Decemnber, ACES has been assured that future audits will be completed in a timely fashion. ACES has swtiched their accounts from Wells Fargo to Key Bank. Education

*Area Cooperative
Educational Services
(ACES)*

Center for the Arts is holding a theater production this weekend, Ms. Riccio will share details with Board Secretary.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Riccio and seconded by Mr. Ziman.
Unanimous - 9:10 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL – Next meeting – **Monday, April 22, 2019** at 7:00 p.m. in the Upstairs Conference Room located in the BOE Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Acampora

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