



**Approved Minutes**  
**Orange Board of Education**  
**September 21, 2020**  
**OBOE Conference Room - 2nd Floor**  
**7:00 PM**  
Approved on 10.19.20

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

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Dr. Russo, Ms. Koch, Mrs. Edo, Mike Gray

***Call to Order*** The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Kraut at 7:15 p.m.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited and the Mission Statement was  
read by Mr. Young

***Public Participation*** There was no public participation.

***Correspondence*** There was no correspondence

***Consent Agenda*** A motion was made by Mr. Ziman and seconded by Mrs. Hadlock to  
approve the minutes from the August 17, 2020 BOE meeting. The motion  
passed 7/0/2. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Young, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Browe,  
Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs Welander voted aye, Mr. Cap and Ms. Riccio abstained.

***Superintendent's Report*** Dr. Scarpetti was happy to report that we have begun the 4th week of  
school. He thanked the Reopening Committee, Board Members, Board  
Sub-Committee members for all their hard work that was done over the  
summer which helped the district succeed to this point in the school year.  
He stated that reflection on what we did well and what can be done better  
are constant conversions. He thanked parents for their patience especially  
at drop off and pick up times at schools and with regards to remoting  
learning. Dr. Scarpetti extended gratitude to the various facets of the  
Orange Community such as the Congregational Church, several Town  
Departments, Health Director Dr. Mohammad who played a vital part in

the reopening of schools. He noted the support from the First Selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Education members meeting the needs of our students prior to the pandemic. As a result, projects like the redesign of the RBS school parking and recognizing the growing needs of our Technology Department made us better prepared to handle the unpredicted situations that have been faced. Policies and procedures set in place over the summer helped mitigate an event at THS that required our research and action. As a result, there was less of a transition for students and staff to switch to remoting learning as needed for a span of 5 school days before the class returned.

Dr Scarpetti emphasized the honor system for students and staff members to stay at home if they don't feel well which will continue to build on our success thus far. Dr. Scarpetti gave a personnel update. Two Math Aides and a SPED Teacher at PPS were recently hired. He shared a video created by our Technology Department to honor our retirees and years of service that was part of the remote Convocation that took place prior to the start of school with staff. Dr. Scarpetti shared the current statistics of remote learners in the district. At the beginning of the year, 13% of our student population were remote and it has since dropped to 10 - 10.5 %. He concluded his report reemphasizing what a tremendous job the teachers and staff have been doing as well.

***Business  
Administrator  
Report***

Ms. Koch explained that the end of August is about closing out the 2019-2020 year. The State reporting package was completed and submitted by September 1, 2020. Auditors have started the annual audit for the 2019-2020 financials and procedures. Expenses were ordinary in August besides the purchase of protective equipment such as hand sanitizer, masks, face and desk shields, gowns for nurses and gloves. Ms. Koch stated that we requested reimbursement for PPE purchases through FEMA and the District should hear their response by October. In addition, the Governor announced his commitment of \$130.8 million Coronavirus Relief Funds to aid in the costs of safely reopening schools that will go straight to districts to help offset additional unbudgeted costs related to health and safety such as protective equipment.

Ms. Koch continued to explain that the \$30,000 ESSER funds the district received will be used for academic purposes related to enhancing remote learning such as cameras in the classrooms. The State ordered 400 chromebooks for Orange and 65 mobile hotspots have been placed related to the State's "Every One Learn" initiative. Ms. Koch gave a food service report. She announced Seamless Summer Option for Lunch just began which will entitle all students, in the classroom or remote, to a bagged lunch.

***Curriculum  
Report***

Dr. Russo opened her report by thanking teachers and staff for their passion and dedication. She remarked on the wonderful enthusiasm she

has encountered with the students upon returning to school. Professional Learning, previously called Curriculum Wednesday, will take place once a month on Wednesdays after school and will focus on how to use and apply resources for distance learning and emotional health and well-being. The first one took place last Wednesday and focused on Mobilmind. Next month's Professional Learning will provide an opportunity to engage in the Social Emotional Learning in Times of Uncertainty and Stress course created by Dr. Marc Brackett, who happened to be the keynote speaker at the start of last year. Dr. Russo concluded her report on student assessments and a brief curriculum update.

***Special Services Report***

Mrs. Edo opened her report emphasizing what a great start it has been to the school year. Staff, students and families are working collaboratively to get student plans in order and back on track. This includes ensuring the students and families have reestablished with their in-person school community, holding any outstanding annual review meetings, conducting testing that was required during the school closure that could not be completed during that time while handling the normal business of starting a school year. She stated how proud she is of all our staff and went on to describe them as a dedicated team of professionals who clearly care about the community they serve.

Mrs Edo provided an update on grants. She went on to explain that this is year two of the Primary Mental Health Project grant which is a play based way for children to personally connect to a caring adult. Children at all four schools grades K- 3, will be considered for services based on teacher survey results and input as well as parental feedback. She continued to outline that the project is being led by the school social worker in conjunction with school psychologist. A Child Associate will be directly responsible for providing services to children who have been identified for these services.

Mrs. Edo wrapped up her report sharing that New Title IX regulations have been issued as of Aug. 14, 2020. As a result, Dr. Scarpetti and has asked that Mike Gray and her to review our Title IX practices and to create forms for staff and students to complete if they or someone they know is believed to have experienced sexual harassment. She noted that these forms will be posted on the District website as soon as they are available. She reported that the State is offering training in October related to Title IX and the new regulations and that all principles, Mike and herself will be attending the training.

***Facilities Report***

Mr. Gray expressed how extremely privileged he feels serving the community of Orange after witnessing the dedication of all the staff and seeing how well the children are doing following directions on washing their hands and wearing masks as we head into the 4th week of school.

He reported that the buildings looked amazing welcoming our students back. Landscaping was completed and the grounds were in great shape. He stated that HVAC systems continue to be addressed. New high efficiency rooftop units were recently installed at THS and RBS with another one scheduled for RBS in the near future. The next filter change is scheduled for the end October. This will involve all our univents, air handling units and rooftop units at each of our buildings. Mr. Gray reported that bike racks have been ordered for each school in their prospective school colors. Mr. Gray couldn't not emphasize the importance of being safe, especially wearing helmets at all times and following the rules of traffic, when students choose to ride their bikes to school. Mr. Gray shared that the district purchased (3) 20x30 outdoor tents for each school building to provide shelter for our students for not only mask breaks but instruction as well. The tents will be installed soon. Mr. Gray concluded his report on the district's stock of PPE that has been purchased and will be continued to be purchased as needed.

**BOARD**  
**BUSINESS**

**1. Policy Second Read: 5141.8 Face Masks/Coverings:**

Mrs. Browe outlined the slight wording changes the committee recommended along with the change to the number of mask breaks not to be a "set" number of breaks. The committee also clarified the difference between recess, lunch and physical education mask breaks and mask breaks throughout the day on page D. Mrs. Browe also noted that the word "clean" needs to be added in the face cover definition to a cloth since it was a change that was discussed during the committee meeting but not reflected on the written policy the Board had in hand. Mrs. Welander recommended a change to the Board during the meeting under the definition of face coverings/mask on page A. She stated the last line be removed due to recent CDC guideline changes on how the virus spreads that reads "which is currently by droplets when an individual coughs, sneezes or talks". Chairman Kraut asked for a motion to approve Cabe's policy 5141.8 Face Masks/Coverings with the two changes under Definitions of Face Coverings/Mask on page A: adding the word "clean" before the word cloth and to remove the definition on how the virus spreads of face coverings/mask. Mrs. Riccio made the motion, Mrs. Hadlock seconded. Unanimously passed.

**2. Recycling Discussion and Possible Action Required:** Chairman Kraut spoke to a representative from Simply Recycling since the August BOE meeting. Simply Recycling has a contract with the Town to place textile recycling collection containers within the community which includes school locations. He shared details of the program with the Board. Mrs. Welander spoke to Mitch Goldbatt from the Recycling Committee and shared information she learned about the schedule of when the content of the containers would be picked up among other things.

After much discussion and concerns shared on whether this program is a good fit for school locations, Chairman Kraut made a motion to deny the request from the Town to allow Simply Recycling containers to be placed at school locations and to provide a letter, written by Dr. Scarpetti and Mr. Ziman, from the Board of Education to the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen stating our concerns. Ms. Riccio seconded the motion. Unanimous passed.

**3. 2021 Board of Education Meeting Dates:** Suggested 2021 Board of Education Meeting dates were presented to the Board for discussion. With no concerns, a motion was made by Mrs. Hadlock, seconded by Ms. Riccio to accept the 2021 BOE meeting dates as presented. Unanimously passed.

**4. Turkey Hill School Loading Dock Discussion and Possible Action Required:** Chairman Kraut explained that the THS loading dock needs to be replaced. He spoke to the Chairman of the Board of Finance to see if the Town would be able to assist with the cost of replacing the dock. He just received confirmation that the Board of Finance approved \$24,000 for the replacement of the Turkey Hill School loading dock. Chairman Kraut asked for a motion to approve the installation of a new loading dock at THS. Mr. Flynn made the motion to approve the installation of a loading dock at Turkey Hill School, seconded by Mrs. Riccio. Unanimously passed.

**5. Discuss Pending Litigation in the Matter of JT vs. de Blasio - IDEA Class Action Lawsuit\***

*Agenda item 5 to be discussed during Executive Session*

**6. Discussion and Action on Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement with Orange Administrators Association\***

*Agenda item 6 to be discussed during Executive Session*

**STANDING  
COMMITTEES**

***Finance &  
Operations  
Ms. Riccio***

The Finance and Operations Committee met prior to the BOE meeting. Ms. Riccio reiterated both the 2019 - 2020 budgets are in order and we will end up breaking even. She reported nothing on additional expenses and the audit is currently underway which we will complete by the end of December.

***Personnel/Policy***

***Transportation***

*Mrs. Browe*

Mrs. Browe brought an issue to the Board's attention regarding the Mask Policy that was just voted upon. She discovered that the policy enclosed in the Board packet did not reflect the edits made by the Committee and that Mrs. Browe presented verbally prior to the vote. She immediately provided all the Board members the policy electronically as amended and listed the changes as well so they had a clear understanding of the edits.

In order for the Board to take action on the edited policy, it would need to be added to the agenda as a new item. Chairman Kraut made a motion to amend the BOE agenda to add the edited version of CAFE's Policy 5141.8 Face Masks/Coverings as item number 7 under the Standing Committees. Mrs. Riccio seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

***Building &***

***Grounds / Safety***

***& Security***

*Mr. Flynn*

Mr. Flynn stated that the Committee didn't end up meeting today as scheduled due to a lack of a quorum. They plan to meet again soon. He went on to share that he toured RBS and MLT on the Friday before school started with Dr. Scarpetti and Mr. Gray. He shared the wonderful details of both tours and all the positive things that are going on at each of these buildings.

***Curriculum /***

***Instruction /***

***Technology***

*Mr. Ziman*

Mr. Ziman recognized the leadership of the administration on reopening schools on time while many districts found themselves delaying the start of the year. He shared that district plans were thorough and they were prepared. He thanked parents who trusted the administration and teachers that did all things possible to achieve a successful beginning of the school year. He commented on Dr. Russo's contagious enthusiasm on how well teachers worked to meet the needs of their students. He commended our Technology Staff on the support they provided during this time as well.

***Long Range***

***Committee***

Mrs. Hadlock stated the committee will plan to meet with Dr. Scarpetti to discuss updating the long range planning documents in the near future.

**AT THIS POINT IN THE MEETING THE BOARD TOOK ACTION ON THE ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA:**

**7. Policy 5141.8 Face Masks/Coverings As Amended**

Chairman Kraut was looking for a motion to approve CAFE's Policy 5141.8 Face Mask/Covering as updated by Mrs. Browe. Mrs. Riccio made the motion to approve CAFE's Policy 5141.8 Face Mask/Covering as

updated by Mrs. Browe. Mrs. Hadlock seconded the motion. Unanimous passed.

***ACES***

Mrs. Riccio gave an ACES update and shared a copy of their annual report with the Board.

***Adjourn***

Mr. Kraut stated that Board of Education hereby moves to enter into executive session in order to review documents and discuss negotiations related to collective bargaining in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 1-200(6)(E) and 1-210(b)(9); and to discuss pending litigation in the matter of JT v. DiBlasi et al, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B). The Board further invites the Superintendent of Schools into the executive session.

Mrs. Hadlock made a motion to adjourn at the regular meeting and convene into the Executive Session invited Superintendent Dr. Scarpetti to join them at 8:43 PM. Ms. Riccio seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Shaw*

Mary Shaw

