



Approved Minutes
Orange Board of Education
August 17, 2020
OBOE Conference Room - 2nd Floor
7:00 PM
Minutes approved on 9.21.20

Attendance

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

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

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Kraut at 7:05 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited and the Mission Statement was
read by Mr. Flynn

***Public
Participation***

There was no public participation.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Hadlock and seconded by Mrs. Welander to
approve the minutes from the regular July 20, 2020 BOE meeting.
Unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Ziman and seconded by Mr. Flynn to approve
the minutes from the Executive Session that took place during the July 20,
2020 BOE meeting. Unanimously approved.

***Superintendent's
Report***

Dr. Scarpetti remarked on how especially fast this summer went by and
now we are two weeks away from the first day of school. He shared the
results of a survey that went out to families asking them about their
decisions on what they plan to do for the start of the school year. 90% of
families responded to the survey. 87% - 88% plan to have their children
participate with in person classroom learning and 11% - 12 % plan on
participate with remote learning. He spoke about the positive response
received regarding the Frequently Asked Questions that were shared to the

school community. One the common questions that has been asked was regarding how remote learning would look like and Dr. Russo would be speaking to that in her report. He stated that principals would be sharing information regarding class placements and bus numbers in the next day or two. He made a point of stating that a tremendous amount of time has been spent getting buildings ready and turned to Mike Gray for a facilities report.

Mr. Gray thanked all those involved from the Town for their help in cleaning up after Tropical Storm Isaisa. Mr. Gray gave an update on the duct cleaning and commissioning of the ventilating systems at all the schools. Both projects will be complete this week. He explained that we are very prepared with PPE items but will continue to order items to ensure we have plenty in stock. Summer cleaning at the schools is complete. Finalizing adjustments to classrooms for proper spacing is being done. Mr. Gray continued his report citing many webinars he has attended hosted by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Yale School of Public Health in order to gather as much information as possible in preparation for the reopening of schools. He is pleased to report that many items that were discussed during these webinars were already completed for the district. Mr. Gray stated that training is scheduled for all the custodians to review all the important protocols and procedures set forth to keep the buildings clean and safe for our students and staff.

Dr. Scarpetti wrapped up his report reminding families that if they wish to change from in class instruction to remote or vica versa during the year they can and to expect a short window of transition. Dr. Scarpetti shared a personnel update: An Interim Principal, Sharon Wiersman, has been hired at RBS. A Reading Consultant at MLT and Resource Room Teacher at PPS have been hired as well. He shared the list of the current open positions in the district. In conclusion, he stated that security monitors will be used as ancillary custodians to help maintain the cleanness of the building going forward so there would be no need, at this time, to hire additional custodial staff.

***Business
Administrator
Report***

Ms. Koch began her report by stating that since it is the first month of the new fiscal year the update will be short. The only expenditures were for payroll in July and no accounts payable checks have been cut against the 2020-2021 budget as of yet and they are still busy paying invoices related to the 2019-2020 budget. Ms Koch remarked on the simplified full budget P&L report the board received in the packets from Munis. The budget that is reflected in Munis is \$450,000 less due to the reduction from the Town and will be addressed with bringing forward some the COVID19 savings that has been mentioned in previous meetings. Ms. Koch concluded her report with a food service update. They are busy preparing for the upcoming year and required and dictated by the State of Connecticut to increase the price of meals by 5 cents beginning this school year.

Curriculum Report

Dr. Russo began her report by stating that teacher expectations have been created for full in person, hybrid and remote learning. These plans will be shared with families. She went on to outline the Professional Development opportunities taking place a week prior to the beginning of the school year to help prepare teachers to meet these expectations and to also address goals for the upcoming school year. Professional Development opportunities will address the goal to provide social emotional lessons for students. Another goal that will be addressed is providing lessons to address the new protocols and mitigating strategies with students. Dr. Russo highlighted the goal of being able to prepare students to work remotely if there is a need to shift to remote learning. Dr. Russo spoke about target and differentiated instruction that would take place prior to the start of the new year. Transition meetings will take place between a student's teacher last year and their assigned teacher for the new year. Dr. Russo expressed excitement on teachers using Mobile Minds which provides learning paths and micro courses with tasks that are engaging and they are able to receive feedback as well. Dr. Russo concluded her report speaking about another goal for the teachers which is to be very familiar with distance learning tools, one being conference webcams that will be used in the classroom. She gave an example on how a student participating in remoting learning would be provided a schedule on when to live stream lessons using google meet.

Special Services Report

Mrs Edo began her report by sharing that students and staff finished Remote Extended School Year services at the end of July. Mrs. Edo recognized Joanne Faughnan for her 30 years of service as a paraeducator for the children of Orange and went on to note that she has touched so many lives during her long career wish her the best of years to come.

Mrs. Edo was very pleased to report that the adaptive/accessible playground equipment has been installed at MLT and RBS and happy to say it will be accessible for school children upon their return to these buildings. These schools were selected for new equipment based on the district needs but they are looking to expand accessible equipment to our other schools.

Mrs. Edo stated that we would like everyone to know that we care about the Social Emotional Needs of our community members. Last year, the district was awarded a grant called the Primary Mental Health Project. Since this is a two year grant, she explained that eligible students in grades K-3 can benefit from this program. As a district, she stated that we will continue our work with Yale's Systems for Social Emotional support through the RULER tools. Lessons will be implemented by all staff

throughout the year. Professional training sessions the first week for staff will include work around RULER as well as and all staff will have the opportunity to participate in a professional learning around managing behaviors in the classroom.

Mrs. Edo reminded the community about the PEACE AT HOME parenting Solutions is a town-wide subscription. This subscription provides sessions that are live and interactive, online classes and on-demand recorded online classes. There is also a limited number of individual support services available through May 2021.

Mrs. Edo reported that communication from the Special Education Department regarding the reopening of school went out to all families in the district on August 8th. The plan addresses our full in-person, hybrid and full distance. Although expected to reopen in-person, plans for our hybrid and distance model are in place. She explained hybrid and distance for Pre-K: All pre-k students will have the option to attend in-person for both full in-person and the hybrid models. If the district moves to full distance learning, direct instruction will end for our typical peers as well as the tuition. Remote instruction will continue for our students with special needs. Our pre-k teachers may continue to provide resources for our typical peers. All hybrid: Orange students with Special Needs will have the option to attend in person for full in-person and the hybrid model.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. Second Read - Policy 5141.8 Face Masks/Coverings: Chairman Kraut asked for a motion post-phoning the vote on policy 5141.8 Face Masks/Coverings until the next Board Meeting on September 21, 2020. This would allow time for the Policy Subcommittee to review the most up to date guidance on mask types before submitting a policy to the BOE for adoption. A motion was made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mrs. Hadlock. Unanimously approved.

2. 2020-2021 Student Calendar: Dr. Scarpetti requested a revision to the 2020-2021 Student Calendar changing the first week of school to be minimum days with dismissal at 12:55 PM. This would allow for students and staff to adjust to the new protocols and procedures while giving time at the end of the school day for teachers to reflect on how these new protocols and procedures transpired in order to make adjustments, if needed, for the following days. Chairman Kraut stated the motion to modify the 2020-2021 Student Calendar to include minimum days August 31st, Sept 1st - 4th. The Board unanimously approved.

3. Recycling Discussion: Board Member Mary Welander explained that she attended the August Board of Selectmen and in which a company called Simply Recycling was approved by the BOS to collect textile and home goods to be recycled for Town of Orange at several locations

including schools. Since this is new information for the BOE, she thought it would be advantageous to bring this to a discussion during the BOE meeting. It was agreed upon that additional information would be necessary in order to ensure schools would be an appropriate location for these type of collection bins

**STANDING
COMMITTEES**

***Finance &
Operations***

Ms. Riccio

No report given at this time.

***Personnel/Policy
Transportation***

Mrs. Browe

Committee Chair Kim Browe remarked that she would like Sub-Committee meetings to get back on track meeting the last Monday of the month beginning with August 31st. She wanted to make sure committee members marked their calendars accordingly and expect a meeting to be scheduled on 8/31/20 for Personnel/Policy/Transportation.

***Building &
Grounds / Safety
& Security***

Mr. Flynn

Committee Chair Flynn reported that the Committee met on August 12, 2020 and toured both THS & PPS. Some of the highlights being the duct cleaning that was in progress, viewing a sample classroom designed for social distancing and the flooring project that was completed at Central Office. Mr. Flynn continued his report with expressing the thorough explanations given by Mr. Gray of the work that is being done to make the buildings safe for students and staff and how he is remaining informed on the most current guidelines. He remarked on the dedication and follow through of the team and the confidence he has that the buildings are prepared for the start of the school year.

At this time, Chairman Kraut asked that the Buildings/Grounds and Safety Committee look into recently proposed legislation that could touch upon not having police officers allowed in schools and if our DARE program would somehow be affected by this new legislation.

***Curriculum /
Instruction /
Technology***

Mr. Ziman

Committee Chair Ziman shared some important relative points of reflection on how the world of educating students and being teachers has

evolved over the past several months as they are about to embark on a new school year in the midst of a pandemic.

ACES

No report given at this time.

Adjourn

Mr. Ziman made a motion to adjourn at the regular meeting at 8:06 PM, Mrs. Browe seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shaw

Mary Shaw