



**Approved Minutes
Orange Board of Education
December 21, 2020
OBOE Conference Room - 2nd Floor
7:00 PM
Approved on 1.19.21**

Attendance

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

Absent: Mr. Young

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Dr. Russo, Ms. Koch, Mr. 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 then the BOE Mission
Statement was read by Mr. Ziman.

***Public
Participation***

There was no public participation.

Chairman Kraut announced that Mary Welander has resigned from her
position as a Board Member and this would be her last meeting due to the
responsibilities of her new role as the newly elected State Representative
for District 114. Several Board Members and OBOE Administrators took
the opportunity to sincerely thank Mary for her service and wished her
well with her new endeavors. Mary thoughtfully expressed her gratitude
for the opportunity to serve the Orange Community as a member of the
Board of Education.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Hadlock and seconded by Mr. Ziman to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2020 BOE meeting. The motion passed 8/0/1. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Browe, Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs. Welander, Mr. Cap, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Flynn voted aye, Ms. Riccio abstained.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Scarpetti opened his report recapping that the District just completed our 16th week of school. 14 of those weeks were on-site learning, one was hybrid prior to the Thanksgiving break and one was remote after the Thanksgiving break. The hybrid and remote weeks were planned as a mitigating strategy to keep our students and staff safe from possible transmission of COVID19 due to holiday activities which could have resulted in quarantining classrooms and to also practice both of these models of learning. Remote learning will also take place from January 4th - 8th for those reasons as well. Dr. Scarpetti offered an update on the COVID vaccine. At this time, no information has been received regarding schools and what will be offered. Dr. Scarpetti also shared the details of the recent amendment to the Executive Order 9S executed by Governor Lamont on 12/18/20. It outlined the current travel restrictions for Connecticut residents, the decrease in the number of days to quarantine upon returning to Connecticut from any states other than New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island. Dr. Scarpetti outlined the latest protocols for testing. New guidance from the CDC were recently issued regarding 'close contact' and will be discussed at the next meeting of the BOWA Superintendents and along with the Orange and Quinnipiack Valley Health Directors. Dr. Scarpetti shared information regarding inclement weather that was recently sent to the school community. To recap, each situation will be handled on a case by case basis on whether schools will have a remote learning day or true 'snow day' when an inclement weather event occurs. On Thursday, December 17th, schools were closed due to the forecast of potential power outages which would have made remote learning a challenge. Dr. Scarpetti thanked our custodial staff and the Orange Highway Department for the clean up after this significant snow storm. Students were able to return to school, with a delayed opening, on December 18th. Dr. Scarpetti reminded that preparation for the 2021-2022 budget is well underway with the first workshop scheduled for January 28, 2021. Dr. Scarpetti concluded his report wishing the community a nice holiday season with hopeful thoughts for the year 2021.

Business Administrator Report

Ms. Koch opened her report stating that we are on budget as we are halfway through the 5th month of our current budget. The audit underway should come to a close by December 31st. The 2021-2022 budget is being consolidated and they are working closely with Dr. Scarpetti in preparation of the budget workshop scheduled for January 28th. The last payroll derived out of the system will take place at the end of this month with lots of attention taking place on the conversion to the new Munis system. Ms.

Koch wrapped up her report with a food service update. Lunches continue to be delivered to classrooms. Lunches can be ordered and will be available for pick up week during the week of remote learning taking place January 4-8.

***Curriculum
Report***

Dr. Russo stated that Hybrid and Full Remote Surveys were created and shared with faculty and parents. She explained that responses were reviewed and used to guide instructional planning for the remote learning week scheduled for the holiday break. As an example, parents requested more live instruction on remote Wednesdays and meatier choice boards without options. As a result of this feedback, teachers will kick off the morning with a live 10-20 minute morning session that reviews the day's learning experience and assignments. Special Subject Teachers will teach their scheduled live sessions as well. Dr. Russo shared that they are working with the Library Media Specialist to review current digital and non-digital library books, publications and collections to replace and update collections. A report will be shared with the Curriculum Committee when it is complete. Additional training was provided by the Library Media Specialist to all faculty on MobileMinds, Google Meet Tools, Kami Blocks, general tech help and interactive ebooks.

***Facilities
Report***

Mr. Gray started his report reviewing the improvements being done at Mary L. Tracy School and Central Office on the ventilation system in order to align with Covid protocols. He gave an update on the Turkey Hill School loading dock project and anticipates that it will be complete by early January. Mr. Gray thanked the custodial staff and the Orange Highway Department for the clean up after our first snow event of the year. Boiler checks have started at all the buildings and the next ventilation filter changes will take place early February. He concluded his report expressing his thanks to Mary Welander and wished her well.

**BOARD
BUSINESS**

1. **To consider and act on the 2021-2022 OBOE Student Calendar:** Discussion regarding the first week of school, August 30 - September 3rd, took place. Ms. Riccio expressed that she is not in favor of starting off the school year before Labor Day. Mr. Ziman made a motion to approve the 2021 - 2022 OBOE Student Calendar as presented. Mrs. Hadlock seconded the motion. The motion passed 8/1/0. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Browe, Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs Welander, Mr. Cap, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Flynn voted aye, Ms. Riccio voted nay.
2. **2nd Read - CAFE's Title IX Policy 4000.1/5154.44:** Ms. Riccio made a motion to approve CAFE's Title IX Policy 4000.1/5154.44 as presented. Mrs. Welander seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **2nd Read - BOE Policy Soliciting Prices/Bidding Requirements Policy 3323:** Ms. Riccio made a motion to approve BOE Policy Soliciting Prices/Bidding Requirements Policy 3323 as presented. Mr. Flynn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **2nd Read - CABE's Transportation Routes & Services Policy 3541.3:** A discussion regarding the maximum length of time a given bus route should transpire since it was stated in the policy. Mr. Fynn spoke of his concerns that 45 minutes is too long for a student to ride a bus. Mrs. Hadlock made a motion to approve CABE's Transportation Routes & Services Policy 3541.3. Ms. Riccio seconded the motion. The motion passed 8/0/1. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Browe, Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs. Welander, Mr. Cap, Mr. Vitelli, Ms. Riccio voted aye, Mr. Flynn abstained.
5. **1st Read - OBOE Policy 2151 Hiring School Administrators:** Chairman Kraut reminded Board Members to reach out to Mrs. Browe if they have any questions or comments on this policy prior to the January meeting in which a vote will be taken on this policy.
6. **First Read - OBOE Policy 3152 Spending Public Funds for Advocacy:** Chairman Kraut reminded Board Members to reach out to Mrs. Browe if they have any questions or comments on this policy prior to the January meeting in which a vote will be taken on this policy.
7. **First Read - OBOE Policy 3160 Transfer of Funds Between Categories:** Chairman Kraut reminded Board Members to reach out to Mrs. Browe if they have any questions or comments on this policy prior to the January meeting in which a vote will be taken on this policy.
8. **First Read - OBOE Policy 3231 Medical Reimbursement for Special Education Students:** Chairman Kraut reminded Board Members to reach out to Mrs. Browe if they have any questions or comments on this policy prior to the January meeting in which a vote will be taken on this policy.

**STANDING
COMMITTEES**

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

Ms. Riccio stated that the Finance Committee met prior to this meeting and everything is in order except for a few items that are over but were anticipated. Grant money that was applied for was received so that is good news. The Committee is looking at the 21st Century program since the enrollment is ¼ of what it typically is for a given year and this impacts the program itself not our BOE budget. Ms. Riccio wrapped up her report

expressing her hope that results of the audit will come back to us as scheduled.

***Personnel/Policy
Transportation***

Mrs. Browe

Mrs. Browe summarized the Committee's approach on policy compliance since receiving the CABA audit. She reiterated that quite a few of our current policies need to be revised and updated, most of them being minor changes. She concluded her report with a reminder that the Committee does not plan to meet this month.

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

Mr. Flynn

Mr. Flynn reported that the committee met on December 14th and focused most of their discussion on Safety and Security during Executive Session. Mr. Flynn thanked Detective Bailey from the OPD and Fire Marshal James Vincent for their participation during the meeting. Mr. Flynn offered clarification on how the committee plans to approach HVAC improvements at Turkey Hill School and Race Brook School. They plan to submit the request to the BOE to consider these improvements in the 2021-2022.

***Curriculum /
Instruction /
Technology***

Mr. Ziman

Mr. Ziman noted that the Committee didn't meet this month so he didn't have a report to share. He did offer his thoughts and encouragement for our community to do the right thing over the holiday break to help keep each other safe during this pandemic.

ACES

Ms. Riccio stated that she attended the December 10th ACES meeting. She noted that the Annual Gala on March 28, 2021 will be a virtual event. She shared a tee shirt and holiday cards designed by students. She reported that Thomas Edison School is looking for a new building and they are looking at two possibilities for their school to relocate. Ms. Riccio clarified that no Orange students currently attend any of the ACES schools. She wrapped up her report by stating that their audit was completed and sent to the State and that ACES has fingerprinting services.

Adjourn

Mrs. Welander made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Mr. Ziman & Ms. Riccio seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shaw
Mary Shaw

