



**Approved Minutes**  
**Orange Board of Education**  
**January 19, 2021**  
**OBOE Conference Room - 2nd Floor**  
**7:00 PM**

Approved 3.15.21

***Attendance***

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

Absent: Mrs. Browe

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Dr. Russo, Mr. Gray

***Call to Order***

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Kraut at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited, and then the BOE Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Hadlock.

***Public Participation***

Resident and private citizen, Charles Flynn, 376 Ridge Road, gave his historic and reflective thoughts related to the events that took place on the day democratic transfer of power was taking place in our nation's capital. He condemned the violence and terrorism that transpired and that our country should never be defeated by ignorance.

***Correspondence***

Chairman Kraut read a letter addressed to the BOE from student Helene Flynn expressing her happiness to be back at school for full in person learning.

***Consent Agenda***

A motion was made by Mrs. Hadlock and seconded by Mr. Ziman to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2020 BOE meeting. The motion passed 7/0/1. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Hadlock, Mr. Cap, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Flynn voted aye, Mr. Young abstained.

***Superintendent's  
Report***

Dr. Scarpetti began his report recapping the facts that determined the decision to extend another week of remote learning. He received calls from parents questioning the decision and what the factors are that support the decision for remote learning. Due to the feedback received, a Covid19 Dashboard was created and is now available on the district website to enhance the communication to our community. The dashboard will be updated every Friday. Dr. Scarpetti acknowledged the timing of types of decisions can be frustrating for our parents and apologized for the challenges they create. Dr. Scarpetti gave an overview of the current phase on how vaccines are being distributed. At this time, educators are not part of phase 1B even though they originally were included. The concentration is on the 75 or older population. Dr. Scarpetti stated that Kindergarten registration is in full swing and names are being taken for the Pre-K Lottery. Dr. Scarpetti spoke about the Capital Planning presentation on January 7th thanked Chairman Ralph Okenquist. He concluded his report with a reminder of the Budget Workshop coming up on January 28th and reminded all to stay vigilant adhering to mitigating strategies in the fight against Covid19.

***Finance &  
Operations  
Report***

Mr Gray started off his Finance Report stating that we are halfway through the current budget year on track. He and his colleagues are busy preparing for the budget workshop scheduled for January 28th and will be meeting with our health insurance consultant next week and should have some conservative estimates for budget purposes. Mr. Gray gave a status report on our audit and shared some detailed information pertaining to the submission to the State. Members of the Central Office Staff, Angela Booth, Cindy Matlais, Connie D'Amico, Matt Ullring and Christine continue to work very hard on the Munis conversion. The first payroll went well with the HSA deposits dispensed on the 2nd payroll of the month. Mr. Gray recapped the Capital Planning presentation for the BOE and reminded all that free lunches will continue to be offered for the rest of the year. Mr. Gray reported that the custodians used the time during the holiday break and remote learning weeks to complete extra duty cleaning in the buildings. The HVAC work being done for the BOE office is complete and training will take in the near future. He continued with a status report on the Turkey Hill School loading dock project which is close to being completed. Office Carolyn Bailey from the OPD was contacted to schedule lock dock drills at all the schools in February. Mr. Gray wrapped up his report with a reminder about the next filter changes in the air handling systems coming up in February for all the buildings.

***Curriculum  
Report***

Dr. Russo started off her report talking about the commencement of mid-year benchmark testing starting with STAR Math and Reading. The results will tell us if we need to dig a bit deeper and other assessments are needed. Additional training has been conducted by our Library Media

Specialists on technology and distance learning on the resources that are available. Dr. Russo concluded her report stating that they will be engaging with the Connecticut Department of Education Workshops on testing that will be coming up this spring.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

1. **Committee Assignments:** Chairman Kraut spoke briefly about the Committee Assignments for the upcoming year. The Board received a document outlining the assignments prior to the start of tonight's meeting.
2. **Dissolving Long Range Planning Ad Hoc Committee:** Chairman Kraut spoke about dissolving this committee as a whole but transferring the responsibility to each standing committee to report a long range plan each November. BOE Policy 9130 will need to be updated to include this change and Chairman Kraut will discuss it with Mrs. Browe who is chair of the Personnel & Policy Sub-committee. Chairman asked that a final report be given by Mrs. Hadlock on behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee.
3. **2nd Read - OBOE Policy 2151 Hiring School Administrators:** Ms. Riccio made a motion to approve OBOE Policy 2151 Hiring School Administrators as presented, Mr. Ziman seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
4. **2nd Read - OBOE Policy 3152 Spending Public Funds for Advocacy:** Ms. Riccio made a motion to approve OBOE Policy 3152 Spending Public Funds for Advocacy as presented. Mr. Vitelli seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
5. **2nd Read - OBOE Policy 3160 Transfer of Funds Between Categories:** Mr. Ziman made a motion to approve OBOE Policy 3160 Transfer of Funds Between Categories as presented, Mrs. Hadlock seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
6. **2nd Read - OBOE Policy 3231 Medical Reimbursement for Special Education Students:** This policy was tabled for discussion until the next BOE meeting.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### ***Finance*** *Ms. Riccio*

Ms. Riccio stated that the Finance Committee met prior to this meeting. They reviewed and discussed the financials for December 2020, cafeteria, 21 Century, Munis and the audit. All is in order. Ms. Riccio did report openings in the 21st Century Program if families have a need and encouraged the use of the free lunch program currently being offered.

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

Mrs. Hadlock spoke on Mrs. Browe's behalf. The committee didn't meet last month due to the holiday break but will try to plan a meeting next month if schedules allow.

***Building &  
Grounds / Safety  
& Security***  
*Mr. Flynn*

Mr. Flynn gave a brief recap on the Buildings & Ground/Safety Committee meeting that took place on December 14th. He reminded the members of this Committee that he is looking to have the next meeting on February 8th.

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

Mr. Ziman shared that the Curriculum Committee didn't meet last month so he had no report.

***ACES***

Ms. Riccio shared that she attended a meeting on January 14th. Patrice McCarthy from CAFE gave a legislative update. ACES audit was submitted on time and a Covid update was given. The financials were discussed as well. They expect to have a surplus by the end of the year but the reports are not showing it at this time due to Covid funds received. A search for a new school building continues since Meriden is taking back Thomas Edison Middle School. There is a possible prospect but nothing has been finalized as of yet.

***Adjourn***

Ms. Riccio made a motion to adjourn at 7:43pm. Mr. Ziman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Shaw*  
Mary Shaw

