

**APPROVED MINUTES
ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

June 15, 2020

7:00 PM

Minutes Approved on 7.20.20

NOTICE: In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7B Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting will be held remotely with no in-person attendance. A live stream of this meeting was available via OGAT YouTube Channel. A link was posted to the OESS.org website

Attendance

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

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

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Kraut at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited and the Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Hadlock

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Kraut took a moment to speak to the Board about the OVFD 50K Challenge. As a result of the Firemen's Carnival being cancelled due to the COVID19 Pandemic, this will lead to a significant loss of revenue for the OVFD. A 50K Challenge has been established to help support the volunteer fire department and Chairman Kraut asked the Board if they had any objections for Dr. Scarpetti's Office to get a message out to our school community with information on how they can support this effort. There were no objections.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Hadlock and seconded by Ms. Riccio to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2020 BOE meeting. Unanimously approved.

***Superintendent's
Report***

Dr. Scarpetti opened his report with some reflection on the past 3 months and the challenges that were faced and accomplishments made all during a constant environment of change. End of year ceremonies took place on Friday at each school. He thanked Mr. Zeoli and Dr. Amir who collaborated with the schools to help make the ceremonies happen. Dr. Scarpetti gave a big shout out to the principals and staff who made these ceremonies creative, fun and exciting for our students and families. Dr. Scarpetti invited Board Members who attended the ceremonies to share what they saw during these special events. Mrs. Hadlock, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Vitelli and Mary Welander said they witnessed many excited students seeing their teachers and that a sense of closure was felt in the school community that day. Dr. Scarpetti went on to speak about end of the year surveys that were being conducted with families and teachers. This collection of information will be analyzed this summer. Dr. Scarpetti reported that a common theme he is hearing, as discussions are taking place about reopening of schools, is forming committees to address this topic. He feels confident that our established sub-committees align nicely with the topics that need to be addressed. He continued to express his heartfelt gratitude to families who have shared important feedback as challenges were faced and tackled during the school closure. Dr. Scarpetti concluded his report announcing the retirement of two teachers: Mary Rose Corkindale, 33 years of service and Anne Fleming, 54 years of service. He wished them well and looks forward to celebrating these significant career milestones for these two dedicated educators at a later date with the Board.

***Business
Administrator
Report***

Ms. Koch reported that the Finance Committee met prior to this meeting and expenditures reviewed were mainly routine despite that it was a 3 payroll month and we continue to remain well in budget. Unexpected costs related to distance learning and the safety and cleaning measures taken at schools were also discussed. At this time, she stated that we are in a net savings position due to some of the savings brought forth from school closures which will be carried forward in a non lapsing account to meet our budget targets for next year. Lunches at the middle school will continue to be distributed until June 30th. The number of lunches being distributed has gone down. Ms. Koch concluded her report with a Munis update. The go live date of July 1st is still set as well as October 1st for payroll. Auditors will begin their work next week on the 2019 -2020 plan year and the Central Office will be starting the annual state reporting package.

***Director of
Curriculum
Report***

Dr. Russo began her report by sharing that teachers met last week with their district planning teams to talk about and how to address our learning gaps. She explained how they went about identifying these gaps and how they plan to address them by counting those particular skills as prerequisites to related skills in the next grade. She went on to report there were close matches in math and writing but discrepancies in science. She spoke about solutions to address these discrepancies. Dr. Russo stated that they are busy analysing and coding a post distance learning survey done with our teachers. Dr. Russo concluded her report by stating that the Governor's Reading Challenge was announced and the title is "Imagine Your Story".

***Director of Special
Services Report***

Mrs. Edo opened her report talking about the Extended School Year which is a summer educational program intended to help students who receive special education to maintain skills. The district will be providing distance-learning this summer for ESY. She explained the many factors involved in making this decision. Among them has been the challenge to secure an adequate number of special education teachers and related service staff to properly support the implementation of a live in-person program and meet the requirements stated in the rules of operating summer school during COVID-19 established by the state of Connecticut. Families provided the district feedback as to whether their child will participate in the virtual distance learning program. Families were offered summer materials to support student learning if they choose to accept that. Thus far, 75% have accepted Virtual ESY.

Mrs. Edo continued her report recapping the district's efforts to support the social emotional needs of our students, families and staff. She explained the Primary Mental Health Project allowed for a subscription to PEACE AT HOME parenting Solutions. She continued to explain that this is a year long subscription provided to all Orange Residence and Orange Staff. The flyer and information is located on the district website, has been promoted by our principals and shared with the Town and our community partner, Bridges. In addition to building level staff efforts, every family in the district received a call from our district social worker or Child Associate with the primary purpose being to identify ways to support families around social emotional needs. Ms. Edo wrapped up her report encouraging families to check out the variety of sessions offered.

BOARD
BUSINESS

1. Policy First Read: 5131 Student Conduct - Chairman Kraut explained that that policy will be discussed at the July meeting for a second read and action will be taken.

2. Policy 3240 - Tuition Fees: Dr. Scarpetti explained to the Board this policy addresses tuition fees for administrators or staff who are not residents and would like to pay a tuition fee for their children to attend Orange Public Schools. The recommendation is for the cost to remain the same at no less than 50% of the per pupil cost. This is an annual discussion. Chairman Kraut said that action will be taken at the July meeting.

3. Director of Business & Operation Position: Dr. Scarpetti reference Policy 2151 - Hiring Administrators as he explained its relevance to hiring a Director of Business & Operation Position which is currently underway. Dr. Scarpetti requested permission, from the Board, to work on his own or through the Executive Board in order to avoid an executive session to hire a Director of Business & Operations. The Board had no objections with Dr. Scarpetti's request.

STANDING
COMMITTEES

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

Ms. Riccio reported that the committee met before this meeting and had not much to add that Mrs. Koch didn't mention her in her report. She commended the hard work of the Finance Department during this past year and is impressed with all the pre-planning that has been done already for next year.

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

The Personnel/Policy/Transportation Committee held a meeting on June 3rd. Policy 5131 Student Conduct was discussed and presented to the Board for a first read tonight. Mrs. Browe pointed out that this policy would cover both 5114 and 5144 if adopted according to CABA but they would remain on our website as a reference point directing readers to Policy 5131. Mrs. Browe noted that CABA recently provided highlighted policies that may come into discussion related to COVID19 and schools. Mrs. Browe concluded with a brief comment on the policy audit conducted

by CABE and that the committee will be looking more closely at policies that were recommended for review.

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

Mr. Flynn explained that the committee was scheduled to meet on June 8th but due to very busy schedules on that day it was decided it would be postponed. He anticipated that the committee would re-group and some time late June or early July.

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

Mr. Ziman commend the hard work of administrators and staff over the past few months. He spoke about responses from a survey done with the teachers. He was very pleased with the information provided and how much teachers grew, learned and worked together during the evolution of distance learning. Mr. Ziman thanked the parents for their partnership during this unique situation as well.

ACES

Ms. Riccio met on June 4th and they discussed their fiscal report and they will be ending the year with a slight surplus. She reported on some facility changes that affect the location of their tech services program. Several school and program budgets were also reviewed and approved.

Adjourn

Ms. Riccio made a motion to adjourn at 7:56 PM. Mr. Ziman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shaw

Mary Shaw

