



**Approved Minutes  
Orange Board of Education  
March 15, 2021  
OBOE Conference Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
7:00 PM**

***Attendance***

Present: Chairman Kraut, Mr. Ziman, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Cap, Ms. Riccio, Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs. Browe, and Mr. Young joined the meeting at 7:24 pm.

Absent: Ms. Rodriguez

Also Present: Dr. Scarpetti, Dr. Russo, Mr. Gray, Ms. Koch, Mrs. Edo

***Call to Order***

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Kraut at 7:04 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and then the BOE Mission Statement was read by Mr. Cap.

***Public Participation***

None

***Correspondence***

Chairman Kraut read a thank you note to the Board from Betty and Kevin Hadlock for the cookies and fruit sent for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

***Consent Agenda***

A motion was made by Mr. Ziman and seconded by Ms. Riccio to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 BOE meeting. The motion passed 8/0/0. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Ziman, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Cap, Ms. Riccio, Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs. Browe voted Aye.

A motion was made by Ms. Riccio and seconded by Mrs. Hadlock to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2021 BOE Budget 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop. During discussion Mr. Flynn asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect a motion that he had made for an additional FTE to which there was no second and the motion failed. Ms. Riccio will amend the minutes to reflect the failed motion. The minutes were accepted as amended; the motion passed 8/0/0. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Ziman, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Cap, Ms. Riccio, Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs. Browe voted Aye.

A motion was made by Mr. Vitale and seconded by Mrs. Hadlock to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2021 BOE Budget 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop. During discussion Mr. Flynn wanted to confirm that Atty. Young had voted no, and Ms. Rodriguez had voted yes to the motion that failed. Neither was present to confirm their votes. Chairman Kraut asked for a motion to table the minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Ziman and seconded by Ms. Riccio to table the minutes from the February 8, 2021 BOE Budget 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop. The motion passed 8/0/0/ Mr. Kraut, Mr. Ziman, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Cap, Ms. Riccio, Mrs. Hadlock, Mrs. Browe voted Aye.

***Superintendent's  
Report***

Dr. Scarpetti began by asking the board for a moment of silence for Raymond Heenie, a young man who passed away who was a former student at Race Brook School. March 19<sup>th</sup> will be a professional development day. In support of the staff there will also be a vaccine clinic for school personnel on that day. He thanked Dr. Mohamed and the Orange Health Department as well as Mary Shaw and Matt Ullring for organizing the clinic. There have been close to 40 applicants for the principal position at Race Brook School, and at the end of the month a survey will be going out to staff and parents asking for their input on the qualities they would like to see in the next principal. Dr. Scarpetti thanked Sharon Weirsman for her time as interim principal, due to rules of retirement she is not able to finish the school year. The new interim principal is Elaine Watson. Negotiations are about to begin with three bargaining groups the custodians, administrative assistants and paraprofessionals, and central office staff. Information will be going out soon to the committee. Last Monday the BOE budget was presented to the BOF and Dr. Scarpetti was asked what has led to the success they have had in the district. There were many people to thank for the success because no one knew at the time the pandemic would last over a year, but he did want to express his gratitude to the Board for their support in making the system work in these challenging times. He concluded his report stating March is Board Appreciation month and as a token of appreciation the board members were given a travel mug, and again he thanked them for their dedication to the school system.

***Finance &  
Operations  
Report***

Mr. Gray started off with his Finance Report stating that the audit was concluded in December and a qualified report was received and sent to the state. The audit is now completed. Grants that have been received include the Corona Virus Relief Fund and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds. These grants have been committed and spent. A second entitlement was also received which must be used for learning loss among students, purchasing educational technology, providing mental health services, and school facility repairs and improvements. They are in the planning phases of how to spend these funds. Mr. Gray gave a MUNIS update stating that they are fully live with the payroll module and will soon be introducing the Employee Self Service Module. The Board adopted the budget of \$22,353,196 on February 8<sup>th</sup>, which represents a 4.38% increase over the prior year. Mr. Gray encouraged all families to take advantage of free school lunches for the remainder of the year. In his operations report Mr. Gray stated that during the winter break all air filters in the HVAC system have been replaced, and one more filter change is planned for the spring. In conclusion Mr. Gray reported that additional card reader access points are being installed in all the schools to increase access points for staff.

***Curriculum  
Report***

Dr. Russo reported that they engaged in their first SRBI-Scientific Research Based Interventions in math. They have created a timeline and hope to have it completed by the end of August for the next school year. At the upcoming professional development day, the staff will be engaging in professional planning and learning sessions. They have three goals: 1) Assess grade level unit anticipated gaps with school grade level teams 2) Increase teacher knowledge about district resources 3) to work on district projects.

Mrs. Edo gave an update on the capacity to provide in-house services based on children's needs. The Registered Behavior Technicians provide training to the paraprofessionals. On March 19<sup>th</sup> a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst will be providing professional development to our school psychologists to provide behavior assessments and writing behavior intervention plans. Special Education staff and speech pathologists will be working on district digital resources. Mrs. Edo concluded her update with information on the Primary Mental Health Project Grant. Currently there are 3 part-time child associates who work with our district social worker to identify a play-based way for children in grades K-3 to personally connect to a caring adult.

**BOARD  
BUSINESS**

1. **Contingency Committee Final Report:** Mr. Ziman gave an overview of the committee's goals when the committee was formed. The goals were based on a study done by Rose-Tiso in 2012 and updated in 2016. The plan was to have the then facilities manager start to review the studies, but due to time off by the facilities manager and then his leaving the school system a year or more had passed and the committee ceased to function. Mr. Ziman apologized for his handling of the committee. In reviewing the reports, the schools would need over 15 million in updates, the average age of a school is 45 years and ours are well past that, our average student population is 1,155, and the last charge was to propose a contingency plan if one of the schools was not able to be used. This information will be forwarded to the building and grounds committee as this will now become part of their long-range plans. Ms. Riccio and Mr. Kraut felt Mr. Ziman did a fine job with the committee. Mr. Kraut concluded that the committee had concluded its job. Mr. Kraut had one final comment that he would like to investigate taking Amity Middle School under their umbrella.

**STANDING  
COMMITTEES**

***Finance***

*Ms. Riccio*

The committee met prior to tonight's meeting. Ms. Riccio reported they reviewed January and February expenses as well as profit and loss, everything is on track. She encouraged families to use the free lunch program. She thanked Mr. Gray for completing the audit. She gave an update on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program, the enrollment is down due to the pandemic which has created a deficit and the need to reduce the staff. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century program is there to help families and hopefully next year it will be in a better place.

***Personnel/Policy  
Transportation***

*Mrs. Browe*

Mrs. Browe thanked everyone who read through the policies. The policy related to medical reimbursements is still tabled. The committee will be meeting later this month.

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

*Mr. Flynn*

Mr. Flynn reported the committee did not meet last week. The next meeting is scheduled to be at Peck Place, he will provide the information soon.

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

Mr. Ziman reported that teachers have endless resources available to them and the last professional development day allowed letting our teachers work with and become more comfortable with using these programs. Fellow teachers ran the prior professional development day which teachers found very meaningful. The March 19<sup>th</sup> professional development day will continue using this model. Also, on that day all staff has the chance to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Dr. Russo reviewed a list of the district utility software, the curriculum software, and library automation and how they are used by students and teachers. Many teachers request their use. SRBI has been used successfully with the reading program and it will now be used for mathematics.

***ACES***  
*Ms. Riccio*

Ms. Riccio reported ACES met March 11<sup>th</sup>, and they are operating at a surplus. They are continuing to manage costs and monitor pandemic costs. Eight more budgets were approved for ACES. Ms. Riccio has tickets for the Annual Gala being held virtually this year, if anyone is interested please contact her the tickets are \$100 per person.

***Adjourn***

Mr. Ziman made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Ms. Riccio seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Denny