



**Unapproved Minutes  
Orange Board of Education  
May 17, 2021  
OBOE Conference Room - 2nd Floor  
7:00 PM**

***Attendance*** Present: Chairman Kraut, Mr. Vitelli, Mrs. Hadlock. Ms. Riccio, Mr. Cap Mr. Flynn, Mr. Young, Mrs. Browe, Ms. Rodriguez

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

Absent: Ken Ziman

***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 then the BOE Mission Statement was read by Ms. Rodriguez.

***Public Participation*** None

***Correspondence*** Chairman Kraut was pleased to announce the birth of Ken Ziman's granddaughter who arrived today which is the reason for his absence. He wished Ken's family all the best. He also thanked the Board for the get well card he received for the recent surgery he had undergone.

***Consent Agenda*** A motion was made by Mr. Vitelli and seconded by Ms. Riccio to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2021 BOE meeting. Unanimously approved.

***Superintendent's Report*** Dr. Scarpetti opened his report explaining the reasons for creating the COVID 19 Dashboard located on our website as a source of up to date communication for the district. He was happy to report that at this time there are no students or staff that have contracted the virus and no classes need to be quarantined at this time. Dr. Scarpetti gave an update that Field Days will take place this year along with 6th Grade Promotion Ceremonies at each school. These events will take place outside and students will continue to follow the mitigating strategies that have been in place since

the beginning of the school year. He concluded his report with a personnel update and where the District stands with upcoming union negotiations.

***Finance &  
Operations  
Report***

Mr. Gray gave a thorough update on the federal grants received to date. Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) and Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER I) grants have been fully spent and committed. ESSER II Grant was received and is to be spent on addressing such things as learning loss, purchasing education technology, mental health support, facility repairs to improved such things as air quality in buildings. These funds will be available until September 30, 2023 so there is time to plan accordingly. Mr. Gray went on to explain that the District was just notified of the allocate received from the American Rescue Plan (ARP ESSER III) to be used for similar purposes mentioned for the ESSER II Grant but 20% must be set aside and dedicated for learning loss via evidenced based interventions. Mr. Gray continued his finance report with a detailed recap of the 2021-2022 budget timeline beginning with the date the BOE approved the budget leading up to the Town Reference which is scheduled to take place this Thursday, May 20, 2021. Mr. Gray concluded his report with a facilities update. HVAC training was recently provided by Connecticut Temperature Control to authorized district staff which will provided a better understanding the maintenance of the HVAC systems in buildings. Lastly, Mr. Gray continues to encourage families to take advantage of the free lunch program being offered until the end of the school year.

***Curriculum  
Report***

Dr. Russo began her report with an update regarding summer learning. As mentioned at the last meeting, summer learning opportunities will be supported by the ESSER Funds which Mr. Gray mentioned in his report. The District shared a summer learning interest survey with all families two weeks ago. She went on to explain that traditionally summer learning is scheduled for 3 hours a day Monday - Thursday. They wanted to be flexible and asked families if they were interested in 1 hr, 2 hrs, or 3 hour sessions. In addition to reading and math instruction, the surveyed course interest in art, technology, physical education, inventions, yoga and more. The interest survey closed this past Friday and Dr. Russo stated that 300 students are interested in summer learning. The District feels that they have a good handle on community summer needs and interests and will do their best to design a program to meet these needs. Dr. Russo reported in about two weeks the District will invite our incoming kindergarten students to meet with a team individually and provide us with the information we need regarding kindergarten, reading readiness, and our early reading success initiative to hit the ground running in September. Dr. Russo provided a Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) update. They anticipate to wrap up this up soon and the remote proctoring went better than expected, with only 2 small glitches. She reminded the Board, once again, that scores do not count for a Connecticut State Department of

Education (CSDE) accountability report. Lastly, Dr. Russo shared that our library media specialists are working to update all our collections.

***Special Services  
Report***

Mrs. Edo opened her report speaking about the preparations taking place for the Extended School Year (ESY) program which is based on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for who qualify for type of service. This program runs from July 6th - August 5th. She announced that coming soon the Connecticut Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS) will be launched. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will be offering a comprehensive statewide Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS). She explained that it will be available to all school districts beginning July 2022. CT-SEDS adaptive electronic Individual Education Program (IEP) document is being designed to improve format and flow of information with intuitive, easy to use displays. The new system will include a parent portal for families to access their student's IEP and other important information as well as a language translation feature to ensure that parents receive information in their native language. The new and improved document will also assist planning and placement teams (PPTs) in navigating the special education process, which will assist in the team's development of high quality IEPs.

**BOARD  
BUSINESS**

**1. Policy Second Read: 3232 IDEA Fiscal Compliance:** A motion was made by Ms. Riccio to approved 3232 IDEA Fiscal Compliance policy as presented. Mrs. Hadlock seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**2. Policy Second Read: 3326 Board of Education Credit Card:** A motion was made by Mrs. Hadlock to approved 3326 Board of Education Credit Card policy as presented. Ms. Riccio seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**3. Policy Second Read: 3516.11 Hazardous Materials Communication:** A motion was made by Ms. Rodriguez to approved 3516.11 Hazardous Materials Communication as presented. Ms. Hadlock seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**4. Policy Second Read: 9130 Committee Policy:** A motion was made by Mr. Flynn to approved 9130 Committee Policy as presented. Ms. Riccio seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**5. Class Size Policy 6151 Discussion:** The up to date projected enrollment numbers were shared for the 2021-2022 school year and the recommended class sections for each school were outlined as well. There was consensus among the BOE members that Class Size policy is an going conversation and can be addressed at any time throughout the school year. The BOE requested that Class Size be part of the June 2021 BOE agenda for further discussion since there are some sections that may need to be

re-evaluated due to any changes with the enrollment numbers that may occur going forward.

**6. Superintendent's Recommendation - Race Brook School Principal\***

- Discussed during Executive Session. Minutes are on the last page.

**7. Update on Tim Smith Sign:** Ms. Riccio presented a proposed design and a quote for a sign to honor Fire Marshal Tim Smith. The suggested location is between the Orange Center Road Fire House and Mary L. Tracy School. Mrs. Hadlock offered a suggestion that the BOE look into plaques that would be located inside schools in order to be visible to students instead of a sign in the proposed outside location. Ms. Riccio offered to research this idea and bring her findings back to the BOE for discussion.

**STANDING  
COMMITTEES**

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

Ms. Riccio stated that the Committee met prior to this BOE meeting and finances are in order with no significant changes to report. The cafeteria numbers are improving and 21st Century Program sent out interest letters for next year.

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

Mrs. Browe reported the Committee met at the end of April and two main agendas items were discussed one being the Class Size policy, which led up to the discussion today during Board Business, and the Homework Policy. Mrs. Browe gave some background on the desire to re-look at the Homework policy and how the timing playing out over the past year or two. She went on to explain the recent changes to Curriculum now have led the educators, not the Board, to be in a better position to develop a Homework policy that will be more applicable.

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

Mr. Flynn reported the Committee met last Monday, May 10th in the Peck Place Library. The committee was given a thorough tour of the entire building and the playground as well. Updates and improvements that have taken place over the past year were noted and some upcoming improvement projects that are planned at PPS were presented. Improvements to the current district wide security system as it relates to personnel were also discussed. This topic will carry over to the next committee meeting planned at Turkey Hill School on June 14, 2021. Mr. Flynn stated that Mr. Gray shared researched numbers regarding air condition at Turkey Hill and Race Brook Schools. Mr. Flynn touched upon the Indoor Air Quality Bill recently voted out of committee at the State but noted that it may return again some time in the future. Mr. Flynn wrapped up his report listing Building & Grounds/Safety and Security Committee Long Term Planning highlights that Mr. Gray put together for the

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

Committee's review. Future committee meeting dates were noted at this time.

Mrs. Browe gave the Curriculum/Instruction/Technology report. One of topics the Committee spoke about was the report from Dr. Scarpetti that the District doesn't anticipate the need to offer remote learning next year. The cameras that were purchased for each classroom will be utilize in creative ways and possibly used for remote snow days in the future. Curriculum Committee also discussed the Homework policy during their meeting.

***ACES***

Mrs. Riccio stated that ACES met remotely on Thursday, May 13th. Financials were review and they are currently in a surplus. Tuition related projections are good and services continue to be positive. She gave an update on the Wintergreen School based in North Haven. They applied to the State to take over the building the school currently resides. It is looking favorable that the State will sign off on it. Ms. Riccio concluded her report with the status of the Thomas Edison Magnet School's move to Waterbury.

***Adjourn***

Ms. Riccio made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:05 PM and to convene into Executive Session and invited Dr. Scarpetti and Dr. Russo to join them. Mr. Flynn seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Shaw*

Mary Shaw

**Note: Next BOE Meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2021**

**Orange Board of Education  
Executive Session Minutes  
May 17, 2021 8:09 pm**

**Attendees:** Bill Kraut, Jeff Cap, Ken Vitale, Charles Flynn, Christian Young, Betty Hadlock, Carmel Rodriguez, Kim Browe, Susan Riccio

**Invited:** Vince Scarpetti, Evelyn Russo

Recommendation of Principal for Race Brook School by Dr. Scarpetti, Superintendent and discussion of candidate

Exit out of executive session at 8:48pm

**Resume Orange Board of Education meeting at 8:48pm**

(Kim Browe left prior to voting)

Motion to accept the Superintendent's recommended candidate for Principal for RBS, made by Betty Hadlock and seconded by Ken Vitale. Unanimous vote in favor of candidate.

Motion to adjourn 8:51pm by Charles Flynn and seconded by Susan Riccio.