



**Approved Minutes**  
**Orange Board of Education**  
**November 15, 2021**  
**OBOE Conference Room - 2nd Floor**  
**7:00 PM**  
Approved on 12/20/21

***Attendance***

Present: Chairman Kraut, Mr. Vitelli, Mrs. Hadlock, Ms. Riccio, Mrs. Tremper, Ms. James, Mrs. Mullen, Mr. Ziman, Ms. Carmen Rodriguez, Mr. Cap

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

***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 Ms. Riccio.

Dr. Scarpetti congratulated and introduced the newly elected Board Members: Ronnette James, Tatiana Messina Mullen and Liz Tremper. He also congratulated Jeff Cap and Carmen Rodriguez who were re-elected on November 2nd to the Board.

***Public Participation***

Bonnie Pelaccia, 419 Orange Center Road, shared her thoughts regarding people who are not vaccinated and their inability to be volunteers at school.

Michelle Alicki, 315 Ann Rose Drive, shared her thoughts, as a parent, regarding people who are not vaccinated and their inability to be volunteers at school.

Michael McDonough, 370 Grassy Hill Road, shared his concerns about the vaccine itself and the next phase of vaccinating children ages 5-12.

***Consent Agenda***

A motion was made by Mrs. Hadlock and seconded by Ms. Riccio to approve the minutes from the 10.18.21 2021 BOE meeting. Motion passed 7/0/3. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Mrs. Hadlock, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Ziman, Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Riccio voted aye, Mrs. Tremper, Mrs. James and Mrs. Mullen abstained.

***Superintendent's  
Report***

Dr. Scarpetti began his report speaking about Veterans Day Ceremonies that took place last week at High Plains Community Center and at Race Brook School to honor men and women who served our country. He stated the 1st trimester of the school year has passed and report cards will be coming out this Friday. Dr. Scarpetti reported our capital project requests have been submitted to the Capital Planning Committee and thanked all those involved with this process. He continued his report with an update on contract negotiations. There is a meeting scheduled for Administrative Assistants/Paraprofessionals on Monday, November 22nd and the Ratification of the Teacher's Contract will be discussed tonight in Executive Session. Dr. Scarpetti announced that on November 4th the State published the "Screen and Stay" which is an option not a mandate. It provides more flexibility for students and staff who are not vaccinated to remain in school after experiencing a close contact situation. He stressed that this doesn't mean a classroom will never have to quarantine. Each situation will be managed on a case by case manner. In addition, our District is currently discussing the protocol for those who are not vaccinated and how they can volunteer in our schools. Dr. Scarpetti closed his report, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, expressing his heartfelt gratitude to many of the community leaders, boards and commissions, various departments within the Town that have worked very hard during these challenging times. He especially acknowledged teachers, staff and students and thanked them for their amazing efforts and accomplishments over this past year.

***Finance &  
Operations  
Report***

Mr. Gray began his report with a grants update. As mentioned at the last meeting, the District received ARP IDEA (American Rescue Plan - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) Plan B grant for a total of \$72,921. The application is currently being worked on and will be submitted upon completion. Mr. Gray gave an update on both the ESSER I and ESSER II Grants. He outlined what has been allocated to date and outlined the purpose of the funds and how they are to be spent. He continued stating that Central Office is currently consolidating the 2022-2023 Budget for Dr. Scarpetti's initial review. Mr. Gray reported that Capital Project Requests have been submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee this past Friday. Mr. Gray gave an audit update with the goal of having everything submitted by December 31st. He concluded the Finance report with an update on Food Services. The current supply chain issues have impacted lunch menus at times. The cafeteria staff continues to be proactive to minimize the disruption with advanced ordering to help avoid changes to menus. If changes are necessary, they are quick to communicate this to our families. Mr. Gray thanked parents and guardians for their flexibility and understanding when changes do occur.

Mr. Gray then switched gears to give a Facility Report. He listed the BOE Capital Planning Requests and noted that each of the Board members were given the list of items for their records. The items included replacement of rooftop units at Mary L. Tracy School, replacement of ceiling tiles at Turkey Hill School, replacement of flooring for the 6th grade wing at Race Brook School, replacement of five Smart Boards throughout the District and replacing school furniture in three classrooms at Race Brook School. He went on to report that

routine boiler maintenance took place at each school, inspection of the sprinkler systems throughout the district are complete and roof drainage systems at each building continue to be cleared of debris during the fall months prior to the winter season.

### ***Curriculum Report***

Dr. Russo began her report with a recap on the Professional Development Election Day sessions which focused on actual operational curriculum data. Teachers worked in grade level and/or content teams to create grade level maps to capture school identity. In addition, all teachers identified student learning objectives for all their students and identified and entered those in our teacher evaluation platform, TalentEd. Dr. Russo stated that members of our Cabinet Team, Dr. Scarpetti, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Edo and herself began to secure resources and draft details for the topics of additional professional learning sessions which were already approved by members of our Professional Development Committee, or PDEC in September for a Curriculum Wednesday on January 19th and for Professional Learning on March 18th.

### ***Special Services Report***

Mrs. Edo opened her report sharing that the special education budget has been submitted for Dr. Scarpetti's review. She is pleased to share that we were approved for another two years for the Primary Project Grant. This cycle of the grant puts us into our 3rd year of implementation. The Primary Project allows for a play-based way for children to personally connect with a caring adult. Children at all four schools grades K- 3, are considered for services based on teacher survey results and input, as well as parental feedback. The project is being led by the school social worker in conjunction with the school psychologists. A Child Associate, under the supervision of the mental health team, is directly responsible for providing services to children who have been identified and agreed upon by parents for these services. She stated that the District currently has two child associates and is interviewing this week for one more. In addition to the child associate position, we will be posting for an aide position due to a vacancy. Mrs. Edo concluded her report stating that the Special Education Department is continually enhancing its instructional practices. This professional learning includes not only building the capacity of our teachers but also our instructional paraprofessionals. Eleven staff members engaged in 14-hours of literacy skills instruction. We will be following up with job-embedded training for staff, so that we are sure our teacher and instructional paraprofessionals have generalized these skills with students.

### **BOARD BUSINESS**

1. **Draft 2022-2023 Orange Public Schools Calendar** - Chairman Kraut asked the Board to review the draft calendar and if members have questions they should reach out to Dr. Scarpetti or Mr. Kraut prior to the vote of the proposed calendar which will occur during the December 20th meeting.

2. **Second Read: 4118.232/4218.232 - Drug and Alcohol Use and Possession Policy** - A motion was made by Mr. Ziman, seconded by Ms. Riccio to approve 4118.232/4218.232 Drug and Alcohol Use and Possession Policy as presented. Motion passed 7/0/3. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Mrs. Hadlock, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Ziman, Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Riccio voted aye, Mrs. Tremper, Mrs. James and Mrs. Mullen abstained.
3. **Second Read: 1412 - Fire Department Policy** - A motion was made by Mrs. Hadlock, seconded by Mr. Vitelli to approve 1412 Fire Department Policy as presented. Motion passed 7/0/3. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Mrs. Hadlock, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Ziman, Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Riccio voted aye, Mrs. Tremper, Mrs. James and Mrs. Mullen abstained.
4. **Second Read: 1700 - Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property Policy** - A motion was made by Ms. Riccio, seconded by Mr. Ziman to approve 1700 Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property Policy as presented. Motion passed 7/0/3. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Mrs. Hadlock, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Ziman, Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Riccio voted aye, Mrs. Tremper, Mrs. James and Mrs. Mullen abstained.
5. **Second Read : 3517- Security of Building and Grounds Policy** - A motion was made by Ms. Riccio, seconded by Mrs. Hadlock to approve 3517 Security of Building and Grounds Policy as presented. Motion passed 7/0/3. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Mrs. Hadlock, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Ziman, Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Riccio voted aye, Mrs. Tremper, Mrs. James and Mrs. Mullen abstained.
6. **First Read: 2131 - Superintendent of Schools** - Chairman Kraut reminded the Board that this policy will be a second read at the December meeting.
7. **First Read: 1212 - School Volunteers** Chairman Kraut reminded the Board that this policy will be a second read at the December meeting.
8. **First Read: 1250 - School Visitors** Chairman Kraut reminded the Board that this policy will be a second read at the December meeting.
9. **Ratification - Teacher's Agreement\*** Chairman Kraut will be looking for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss this agenda item after standing committees give their report.

**STANDING  
COMMITTEES**

***Finance***

*Ms. Riccio*

Ms. Riccio provided the Finance Committee Report. She reminded the Board that the committee met prior to this meeting. The current 2021-2022 budget is on track and the cafeteria numbers are doing well. Ms. Riccio reiterated the importance of the audit to be done on time. In closing, she stated that the 21st

Century program, which is a self-sustaining program, is also doing well with their numbers so far this year.

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

Mrs. Hadlock gave a general synopsis of what the Committee's responsibilities are when it comes to policy review. She reported that the draft version of the Long Range Plan for this committee was presented at the last committee meeting. Mrs. Hadlock also shared that we are in good condition with policy. She explained that CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) provides an audit the Committee uses for guidance on what policies need updating. She reminded the Board that policy is always changing but the procedures established by the Committee and Dr. Scarpetti will assist this committee to manage policies moving forward.

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

Mr. Cap reported that the Committee didn't meet but plans to do so once the committee itself is established next month or so.

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

Mr. Ziman recapped items discussed at their last Committee meeting. They discussed substitute teacher assignments. He explained the types of substitute teachers in our District. Mr. Ziman stated that the Committee was given an overview on how students who are quarantined at home, due to a Covid-19 situation, are provided educational services during their time out of the classroom. He concluded his report noting the significant work that is being done with Teacher Maps throughout the District.

***ACES***

Ms. Riccio stated that ACES didn't meet due to Veteran's Day last Thursday. She shared that she was recently elected Vice Chair of the Governing Board. She gave a general overview of ACES for the benefit of the newest Board Members.

***Adjourn***

At 7:49 PM, Chairman Kraut asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session and invited Superintendent Scarpetti and Mr. Gray to join them. Ms. Riccio made the motion. Mr. Ziman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Shaw*

Mary Shaw

**Orange Board of Education  
Executive Session Minutes  
November 15, 2021**

Attendees: Bill Kraut, Jeff Cap, Susan Riccio, Betty Hadlock, Carmen Rodriguez, Ken Vitale, Ken Ziman, Liz Tremper, Ronette James, Tatiana Messina-Mullen

Invited into Executive session:

- Dr. Vince Scarpetti, Superintendent
- Mike Gray, Director of Business and Operations

**9. Discussion on the Ratification – Teachers Agreement**

Exit out of executive session at 8:19 pm.

Resume Orange Board of Education meeting at 8:20 pm.

Motion that the Orange Board of Education hereby moves to provide funding for and to otherwise accept and approve the Agreement between the Board of Education and the Orange Teachers' League for a successor collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 20, 2025.

Motion made by Betty Hadlock, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Susan Riccio

In favor - Bill Kraut, Jeff Cap, Susan Riccio, Betty Hadlock, Carmen Rodriguez, Ken Vitale, Ken Ziman, Liz Tremper, Ronette James

Opposed - none

Abstain - Tatiana Messina-Mullen

Motion approved/passed

The Board further moves to delegate to the Board Chair the authority to execute the final contract document on behalf of the Board.

Motion made by Betty Hadlock, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carmen Rodriguez

In favor – Bill Kraut, Jeff Cap, Susan Riccio, Betty Hadlock, Carmen Rodriguez, Ken Vitale, Ken Ziman, Liz Tremper, Ronette James

Opposed – none

Abstain – Tatiana Messina-Mullen

Motion approved/passed

Motion to Adjourn made by Susan Riccio, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ken Ziman. In Favor – Unanimous. Adjourned @8:23pm

Respectfully submitted by Susan Riccio on 11/15/2021 at 10:53pm