



**Approved Minutes**  
**Orange Board of Education**  
**June 21, 2021**  
**OBOE Conference Room - 2nd Floor**  
**7:00 PM**  
Minutes approved on August 16, 2021

***Attendance***

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

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Dr. Russo, RBS Principal McNeil

Absent: Carmen Rodriguez

***Call to Order***

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Kraut at 7:08 p.m. Dr. Scarpetti requested a moment of silence for the recent passing of OBOE employee Nancy Schpero. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited and then the BOE Mission Statement was read by Ms. Riccio.

***Public Participation***

None

***Consent Agenda***

A motion was made by Mr. Vitelli and seconded by Mrs. Hadlock to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2021 BOE meeting. Motion passed 8/0/1. Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Ms. Riccio, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Browe, Mrs. Hadlock, Mr. Vitelli, Mr. Young voted aye and Mr. Ziman abstained.

***Superintendent's Report***

Dr. Scarpetti began his report acknowledging the 6th grade students who received Superintendent Awards this year. He explained students would normally be invited to a reception to honor their achievements during the June Board meeting but do to the mitigating strategies in place that could not be arranged this year. They were presented their awards at promotion ceremonies on June 10th. Dr. Scarpetti read the names of each student and wished them well as they move on to 7th grade. Dr. Scarpetti introduced the newly appointed Race Brook School Principal Katherine McNeil. He shared her past work experience and the educational degrees she obtained. He thanked all those who were involved with the selection process and expressed how much he is looking forward to working with Principal McNeil starting July 1st. Principal McNeil came to the podium to thank the Orange Board of Education for this opportunity is very excited to be part of the Race Brook School Community and the Orange School District. Dr. Scarpetti continued his report with a personnel update and mentioned that some teacher positions will be open. He plans to keep the Personnel Committee well informed over the summer. He concluded his report with a sincere thank you to all the stakeholders for their support this past year as the District navigated through the COVID19 pandemic. He credits their guidance and contributions with the accomplishment of site learning that took place which only 3% of districts in Connecticut were able to do. Board members

Ms. Riccio, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Young and Mrs. Hadlock took the opportunity to commend the administration, teachers, staff and students for their hard work and dedication throughout this challenging school year.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

**1. Draft of Continuity of Services Plan:** Dr. Scarpetti gave an in depth overview of this fluid document which will be submitted to the State, per their requirement, this Wednesday. He stated that Orange School Public Schools received \$326,000 through the ARP ESSER grants and the submission of this document will hold the District accountable for the monies received and how they are being spent. Dr. Scarpetti said you will notice the document reflects the same guidance established for this past year except for instruction which is expected to be 100% in person with remote learning not an option. He does expect some changes to be forth coming and expressed his hopes on what they might be. Dr. Scarpetti gave some background on how the Continuity of Service Committee was formed and the importance of their role. He emphasized, though grateful for the funds, \$326,000 will not go very far. He stressed the decision to hire permanent substitute teachers this past year proved to be a vital piece of what helped keep the District remain open. This will be looked at again for next year. The summer enrichment program is an essential part of the Continuity of Service plan. These funds will be used to support it. The enrollment numbers, which will be watched closely, will continue to change leading right up to the beginning of school in late August. If an additional teacher is needed, we want to make sure the funds are available. Dr. Scarpetti believes having the various stakeholders on the Committee will help bridge the necessary communication to our school community.

Dr. Scarpetti called Dr. Russo to the podium to give an overview of the Summer Learning portion of the Continuity of Service Plan. She highlighted, in detail, what the program aims to accomplish. Dr. Russo reported that 120 incoming kindergarteners were screened over the past month to see who could benefit from reading readiness before September. She also explained we are asking kindergarten families to volunteer to engage in a research study about early reading. More information will follow on this opportunity. Dr. Russo concluded her report on how the District worked to make the Summer Learning Program flexible for families and how it was very intensionally designed meet both needs and interests alike. She took the time to thank families for their patience as the program was being developed and the communication that took place to get this ready to launch in July.

**2. Policy 3240 - Tuition Fees -** Mrs. Browe explained the background of this policy. It pertains to BOE staff who do not reside in Orange and request their children to attend the Orange Public School District for a fee. The tuition fee amount is decided upon annually during the June meeting. The tuition fee, which would be no less than 50% of \$18,046.00, was set for the upcoming school year.

**3. Policy 6151- Class Size -** Dr. Scarpetti continued the discussion on class size, as request during the May BOE meeting, since the enrollment numbers tend to fluctuate during the summer months. He stated, as of right now, we are expecting 150 kindergarten students this fall. If this number remains true, he will entertain possibly moving a full time employee (FTE) from Mary L. Tracy to another school. He will continue to monitor the numbers for those few classes

with a higher number of students. As mentioned in the Draft Continuity of Services Plan, they are making sure the funds are in place in case we need to hire another teacher. He remains confident that our teachers are able to handle 24-25 students per class. Mitigating strategies, if needed, must be taken into consideration as well. Chairman Kraut requested that we put Class Size on the agenda for the next BOE meeting so Dr. Scarpetti can report the most up to date information on the enrollment numbers.

**4. July BOE Meeting** - Board members discussed the suggestion to cancelled the July 19, 2021 meeting due to summer related conflicts with many of the Board members. Chairman Kraut reminded them if there is a need, a special meeting can always be called between now and the August meeting. It was decided to move forward with the suggest to cancelled the July 19, 2021 BOE meeting.

**5. Superintendent's Evaluation** - This board business item will be discussed in Executive Session.

*At this point in the meeting, Chairman Kraut read a thank you note from former BOE member Mary Welander. She expressed her gratitude for the recognition and parting gifts she received from the Board at her last meeting earlier this year.*

**STANDING  
COMMITTEES**

***Finance***

*Ms. Riccio*

Ms. Riccio reported the committee met prior to this meeting. She acknowledged the new format now being used to report the financials. It is more of a summary of information than details. She reports the District is in a position to breakeven. She took the time to explain teachers salary payouts - 10 months vs. 12 months how the balloon payment is reflected in the payroll numbers at this time. Cafeteria took a loss but it was not as severe as expected. Ms. Riccio reported 21st Century will not increase prices for next year even though it took a loss this past year. She concluded her report mentioning there is still availability at 21st Century at all three schools in the fall.

***Personnel/Policy  
Transportation***

*Mrs. Browe*

Mrs. Browe reported that the Committee did not meet in May. The Homework Policy is still up for discussion will be addressed during an upcoming meeting. Mrs. Browe would like to have the next meeting prior to the August Board of Education meeting. This will be arranged in coordination with the Curriculum Committee meeting so the meetings can be back to back on the same night.

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

*Mr. Flynn*

Mr. Flynn reported the Committee met on June 14th at Turkey Hill School. They saw the new loading dock and thanked the Town for replacing a fire hydrant at this school. Mr. Gray gave a presentation on school security improvements he has been researching and three options on security staffing most commonly used across districts. Mr. Gray also touched upon the promotion ceremonies that took place on June 10th. He reported they were all live stream accessible for those who could not attend. Thank you to our Technology Department and our Custodians for their help with making live stream possible. Mr. Flynn reported the solar panel anchors on the roofs of our buildings are being assessed at time.

THS and RBS are being cleaned and a District wide filter change is scheduled to take place in the near future. Some of the ventilation units in the District will be looked at due their age and whether they need to be addressed. A draft comprehensive long range plan was presented by Mr. Gray. The committee is hoping to share this with the rest of Board in an upcoming meeting. The theme of this plan is to be more proactive than reactive when it comes to maintaining our school buildings. Mr. Flynn shared future committee meeting dates, his thoughts to consider air conditioning at THS and RBS and mentioned the plan for living units to be a part of the Firelight Plaza renovations recently approved by Planning and Zoning and how it could affect our school population numbers.

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

Mr. Ziman had no report since the Committee did not meet last month but noted that Dr. Russo's report did touch upon items related to curriculum.

***ACES***

Ms. Riccio gave an exciting updated on Thomas Edison Magnet School location change from Meriden to Waterbury. A press conference took place on June 8th announcing this news and will be known as ACES at Chase opening this September. It will be now be a STEAM school due to the additional amenities available at this campus. Enrollment is open for all students in the State of Connecticut for grades 6th - 8th.

***Adjourn***

Ms. Riccio made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:35 PM and to convene into Executive Session and invited Dr. Scarpetti to join them. Mr. Ziman seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Shaw*

Mary Shaw

***Note: The July BOE is cancelled and the next BOE Meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM.***

**Orange Board of Education**

**Executive Session**

**June 21, 2021 8:40 pm**

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

**Invited:** Vince Scarpetti

Entered into Executive session at 8:40pm

- Discussion of Superintendent's evaluation

Exit out of executive session at 9:39 pm

**Resume Orange Board of Education meeting at 9:39pm**

Based on the Board's positive review of Superintendent, Dr. Vince Scarpetti's. There was a motion by Susan Riccio to modify terms and extend Dr. Scarpetti's contract for one additional year with the modification completed by the executive board. Betty Hadlock 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. No discussion. Unanimous vote in favor. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn 9:42 pm by Susan Riccio and seconded by Ken Ziman. Unanimous vote in favor. Orange Board of Education adjourned at 9:42.