

ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649
SPECIAL MEETING- BOARD RETREAT
Oradell Public School Auditorium

July 22, 2020

MINUTES

- I. *The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by Mrs. Nichols.***

- II. *The Flag Salute was led by Mrs. Walker.***

- III. *The Sunshine Law Statement was read by Mrs. Nichols.***

All requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met for this meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of Oradell. Notice of this meeting was filed with The Record and Town News and all persons requesting such notice.

- IV. *The Mission Statement was read by Mr. Derian.***

The Oradell Public School District is dedicated to the ongoing pursuit of educational excellence through comprehensive innovative curriculum and instruction. The District is committed to providing opportunities for social, emotional, and academic discovery to foster curiosity, courage, and character. Our goal is to prepare our students to become life-long learners who are self-directed, resilient, productive responsible citizens.

Adopted by the Oradell Board of Education March 27, 2019

- V. **ROLL CALL****

Present: Mr. Castro, Mr. Derian, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. Levy, Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Walsh.

Absent: Mrs. Shapiro

Also present were Barbara Longo, Interim Superintendent, John M. Marmora, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. Jeff Merlino, Board Attorney, and 1 member of the public.

VI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY - None

VII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

- Board Self-Evaluation - *Will take place at a future Board Meeting.*
- Restart Plan Update – *Mrs. Longo provided the Board with an update on the district's Restart Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.*
- Update/Setting of Board Goals – *Will take place at a future Board Meeting.*

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Mr. Castro asked for clarification on the School Calendar and Mrs. Longo responded.

A motion by Mr. Derian, seconded by Mr. Walsh, and carried by a roll call vote of 8-0 the Board approved A1. Mrs. Shapiro was absent.

- A1. **REVISE 01/06/2020** Approval of 2020-2021 School Calendar – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accepts and approves the 2020-2021 School Calendar.

B. FINANCE/ TECHNOLOGY- Mrs. Shapiro, Chairperson

A motion by Mr. Derian, seconded by Mr. Walsh, and carried by a roll call vote of 8-0 the Board approved B1. Mrs. Shapiro was absent.

- B1. **Approval of purchase from The Pizzuto Group, Inc.** – It is hereby moved upon, the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, that the Board approves the purchase of clear acrylic dividers for the reopening plan through the **New Jersey State approved Co-op #65MCESCCP. Purchasing Price of ESCNJ 20/21-01** bid prepared, advertised, and received by the ESC of Morris County School District for the NJ State approved cooperative pricing members in the total amount of **\$18,536.01**.

C. PERSONNEL- Mrs. Walker, Chairperson

Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Levy asked for clarification on C2 and Mrs. Longo and Mrs. Nichols responded.

Mr. Walsh asked for clarification on C1 and Mrs. Longo responded.

Mr. Griffin asked for a timeline on a replacement for Mrs. Distler. Mrs. Nichols commented that Mrs. Longo will begin the search for a replacement.

A motion by Mrs. Walker, seconded by Mr. Walsh, and carried by a roll call vote of 8-0 the Board approved C1 & C2. Mrs. Shapiro was absent.

C1. It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, that the Board of Education accepts with regret the resignation for the following individual be accepted on the date indicated:

Last Name	First Name	Position / Position Code #	Effective Date
Distler	Linda	Supervisor of Special Services / #0324	8/31/2020

C2. It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, that the Board approves the following Substitute Custodian:

Name	Duration	Hours not to Exceed	Hourly Rate
*Bova, Christopher	9/1/2020 - 6/30/2021	10 hours per week	\$20.00

**Pending receipt of appropriate required documentation*

IX. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - None

X. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Levy asked what the status was of having Virtual Board Meetings. Mrs. Longo responded that River Dell and many other districts are beginning to return to in-person Board meetings by late August/early September. Mr. Merlino reported on the legal implications of continuing to have Virtual Board Meetings. Mr. Merlino's legal opinion based on what the Supreme Court states and in the absence of an executive order from the Governor is there should be no more virtual meetings. Mr. Griffin asked if having a virtual meeting would be illegal to which Mr. Merlino responded no. Mrs. Levy noted that we are limiting our public engagement because many residents still do not feel comfortable or safe attending a Board meeting in person. Mrs. Levy also went on to state that parents have just recently been given the option to have their child attend school 100% remotely. The Board and Mr. Merlino continued to discuss the topic of Virtual Board Meetings and having a Virtual component (hybrid model) to future meetings. The discussion then turned to what to do for the next Board Meeting. After consulting

with Mr. Merlino, it was decided that a motion would be needed to determine how the next Board meeting would be conducted.

Mrs. Nichols allowed for public comment during this part of the meeting by Ms. Valerie Stewart. Mrs. Stewart inquired about the district's Reopening Plan and was hoping this information could be presented through a Zoom meeting. Mrs. Nichols responded that information will be sent out to the community once the plan is finalized and there will be webinars conducted by the administration to communicate the Reopening Plan. Mrs. Nichols also clarified the public comment portion of a Board of Education meeting. Mr. Griffin spoke about the impact the public comment portion of the Board meeting has. Mrs. Levy believes that public attendance at Board meetings should be encouraged. Mr. Castro expressed both the positive & negatives of having a virtual component to Board meetings. Mr. Derian would like to see this treated as fair as possible but does not believe this is a risk the Board should be willing to take.

At this time, a motion was made by Mrs. Levy and seconded by Mr. Griffin, and carried a roll call vote of 6-2, the Board approved that the next Board of Education meeting will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual meeting. Mrs. Shapiro was absent.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Levy noted that several policies need to be updated prior to the start of school. Mrs. Nichols explained that Mrs. Longo is still awaiting guidance from the state that would impact these policies. Mrs. Levy felt a meeting was needed to begin the discussion because the policies need 2 readings. Mrs. Longo felt that having the policies set with the guidance provided from the state prior to the August meeting would be more efficient. Mrs. Levy agreed and that a Policy meeting should take place prior to August's Board meeting.

Mrs. Levy asked what the procedure was for the selection process of the Reopening Committee process. Mrs. Longo responded.

Mr. Derian asked for a listing of the committees and participants for the Reopening Plan meetings. Mrs. Longo responded.

Mrs. Levy asked if all emails directed to the Board are responded to. Mrs. Nichols said she or the Superintendent respond to all correspondence.

Mrs. Walker commented that the front of the building looks beautiful and commended our custodial and grounds staff for doing a good job. Mr. Derian mentioned that repair and replacement work to the sidewalks will be taking place shortly as well.

Mr. Castro wanted to make sure that the district is taking advantage of all available funding and grants available. Mr. Marmora responded.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

A motion by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mrs. Norian, the Board entered closed session at 6:47pm.

WHEREAS, a matter to be considered by the Board of Education deals with personnel, negotiations and/or possible litigation, and

WHEREAS, public disclosure of this matter may be prejudicial to the public good,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this matter be considered in a meeting closed to the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Minutes of this meeting be sealed until the matter is resolved.

A motion by Mrs. Norian and seconded by Mr. Walsh to exit closed session at 8:10pm, and carried a roll call vote of 8-0. Mrs. Shapiro was absent.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mrs. Norian and seconded by Mr. Griffin, and carried a roll call vote of 8-0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm. Mrs. Shapiro was absent.

Respectfully Submitted,



John M. Marmora

Business Administrator/Board Secretary