

**ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649  
PUBLIC WORK/BUSINESS SESSION MEETING  
Oradell Public School Auditorium  
March 24, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**I.**     *The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mrs. Nichols.*

**II.**    *The Flag Salute was led by Mr. Walsh.*

**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: Mrs. Bhatia–Nigam, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. Levy, Mrs. Shapiro, Mrs. Walker, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Derian and Mrs. Nichols. Mrs. Norian arrived at 7:40p.m.*

*Also present were Mrs. Longo, Interim Superintendent, John M. Marmora, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, 2 member of the administration, and approximately 2 members of the public through Zoom.*

**VI.**    **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – None**

**VII.**   **BOARD PRESIDENT’S REMARKS – None**

**VIII.**   **INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

*Mrs. Longo congratulated the Odyssey of the Mind Team for winning the Regional Tournament and wished the team good luck as they compete in the next level.*

**IX. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

*Mr. Marmora reminded the Board the Person Disclosure Statements are due 04/30/2021. Mr. Marmora shared that the 2021 NJ School Boards Workshop will be held remotely.*

**X. MINUTES**

*A motion by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. Walker, the approval of Meeting Minutes of 02/24/2021, and the review of Meeting Minutes of 03/10/2021 were approved and carried by a roll call vote of 8-0. Mrs. Norian arrived at 7:40p.m.*

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES

- March 10, 2021 Work/Business Section

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- February 24, 2021 Work/Business Section

**XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS**

**A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS– None**

**B. BUILDING & GROUNDS/ SAFETY-** Mr. Derian, Chairperson

*Mr. Derian gave a report on tonight’s Building & Grounds Committee Meeting. Topics included prioritizing projects and opening up facility usage on case by case bases with limitations.*

*A motion by Mr. Derian, seconded by Mr. Walsh, and carried by a roll call vote of 9-0 the Board approved B1.*

- B1. Use of School Facilities- It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, that the Board of Education approves the following requests for use of school facilities for the **SY 2020 - 2021** in accordance with **Board Policy #1330**:

#	Organization	Event	Area of Building	Dates)	Time	Custodian OT	Facility Charge
1	Oradell Little League (Category B)	Softball Practice and Games	Softball Field	3/29/2021 to 7/31/2021	5:30pm – 8:00pm Weekdays 9:00am – 4:00pm Saturdays	-0-	105 days @ \$15 per day = \$1,575  *Payment for field maintenance will off set fee
2	<b>REVISED</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class Spring Fling Committee (Category A)	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Fling	Center Ave. Basketball Court, MPR, & Restrooms	06/11/2021 <b>6/12/2021- Rain Date</b>	3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	-0-	-0-

3	PTA Garden Committee (Category A)	Garden Clean Up & Planting	Garden Behind School	03/26/2021 & 03/28/2021	3:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m.	-0-	-0-
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C. **CURRICULUM-** Mrs. Norian, Chairperson

*Mrs. Norian gave a report on the last Curriculum Committee Meeting, March 15, 2021. Topics discussed included grade level data results comparing remote and hybrid learning and the future of curriculum writing.*

*Mrs. Walker said the administration gave a very comprehensive report at the Curriculum Meeting.*

*Mrs. Shapiro asked a question on item C1.*

*A motion by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Mr. Walsh, and carried by a roll call vote of 9-0 the Board approved C1.*

- C1. **Approval of Field Trip Destination(s) for SY 2020-2021** - It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, that the Board approves the following field trip destination(s):

Destination	Location
Old Tappan Manor	Old Tappan, NJ

D. **FINANCE/ TECHNOLOGY-** Mrs. Shapiro, Chairperson

*A motion by Mrs. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Walsh, and carried by a roll call vote of 9-0 the Board approved D1-D10.*

- D1. **Hand Check Payroll Register for March 15, 2021**– It is hereby moved, upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Board retroactively approves the disbursements on the Payroll Hand Check Register for March 15, 2021 in the amount of **\$352,388.58**.
- D2. **Check Register for March 19 - 24, 2021** - It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, that the Board approves the disbursements on the March 24, 2021 Check Register in the amount of **\$271,229.29** check numbers **990045** and **021922 – 021956 (Void 021957-021960)**.
- D3. **Approval of the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer** – It is hereby moved, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, that the Board approve the Report of the Board Secretary, A148, and the Treasurer, A149, as of **February 28, 2021**.
- D4. **Transfer of Funds** – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, that the Board approves the Monthly Transfers Report as of **February 28, 2021**, in accordance with Title 18A:22-8.1 and furthermore, designates the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to make budget transfers between line items, and to make additional transfers as necessary between monthly meetings of the Board.

- D5. **Monthly Budgetary Line Item Certification** – RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary for the Oradell Board of Education certifies that pursuant to N.J.A.C 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3 as of **February 28, 2021**, that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C 6A:23A-16.10 (a) ; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oradell Board of Education certifies that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4 that after review of the Board Secretary’s Report (A148) and Treasurer’s Report (A149) and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that any major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C 6A:23A-16.10 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- D6. **Approval of Parent Contract for Student Transportation for SY 2020 – 2021.** –  
**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Oradell Board of Education approve a Parental Contract for Student Transportation, Contract # 21-01, effective July 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020 at a cost not to exceed \$846.60.

Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.

- D7. **Approval of Parent Contract for Student Transportation for SY 2020 – 2021.** –  
**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Oradell Board of Education approve a Parental Contract for Student Transportation, Contract # 21-02, effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a cost not to exceed \$4,338.00.

Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.

- D8. **Approval of Shared Services Agreement for 2021-2022** – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, that the Board approves the Shared Services Contract between the Oradell Board of Education and Bergen County Technical Schools for the services of a site technician and technology support services in the amount of \$93,000, for the SY 2021-2022.

- D9. **Approval of Transfer of Unexpended Balance** –

**WHEREAS**, the Oradell Board of Education has undertaken a capital project through the NJ Clean Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP); and

**WHEREAS**, the project is complete;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the unexpended balance of \$1,839.44 for the project listed above be canceled and transferred to the Board's General Fund, Capital Reserve Account.

- D10. **Urging Relief from Increased Costs to School Districts Resulting from the Implementation of “Chapter 44”, the 2020 School Employee Health Benefits Reform Law.**

**WHEREAS**, P.L.2020, c.44 (“Chapter 44”) requires the School Employees’ Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) to offer plans, beginning on January 1, 2021, for medical and prescription benefits coverage including the New Jersey Educators Health Plan (NJEHP); as adopted and implemented by the School Employees’ Health Benefits Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 44 established reduced premium contributions for any employee who selects, or is placed into, the NJEHP as his or her health care coverage option; and

**WHEREAS**, The SEHBP applies to the following employers who elect to participate in the SEHBP: local school district, regional school district, county vocational school district, county special services school district, jointure commission, educational services commission, State-operated school district, charter school; and

**WHEREAS**, The provisions of Chapter 44 also apply to these same employers even if they do not elect to participate in the SEHBP; and

**WHEREAS**, Many school districts had previously negotiated health benefit agreements with lower net costs compared to the plan design and cost-sharing requirements under “Chapter 44”, and/or have staff that previously declined coverage but now are choosing to enroll in the NJEHP due to its low employee cost-sharing provisions; and

**WHEREAS**, A significant number of school districts will experience a net increase in their health care costs because the NJEHP premiums are higher than the premiums for the collectively bargained plans previously offered by the district, which is further exacerbated by reduced employee contributions under Chapter 44; and

**WHEREAS**, Other school districts will experience a net increase in their overall health care costs even if the NJEHP premiums are lower than that of the previous plan offerings because the reduction in employee contributions will offset any overall premium savings, resulting in increased net costs to the district; and

**WHEREAS**, The low employee contribution requirements under NJEHP encourage employees who had previously waived or declined coverage to enroll thereby increasing the districts’ health benefit costs for the balance of Fiscal Year 2021, continuing into Fiscal Year 2022 and likely beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, These costs may exceed districts’ ability to address within their budgets owing to the limitations of the 2% property tax levy cap; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 44 was a well-intentioned proposal that aimed to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in savings for school districts, school employees and taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, While some school districts may indeed be realizing savings due to the provisions of Chapter 44, many are experiencing the opposite effect and witnessing an increase in their health care costs, which may result in cuts to critical programs, services and staff in order to balance their budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, Since Chapter 44 essentially froze the level of health benefits and employee contributions for the seven-year period following the law's effective date, districts are unable to control cost increases through the traditional collective bargaining process; and

**WHEREAS**, It is incumbent upon the Legislature and Governor to address and correct the unintended financial consequences districts are experiencing due to Chapter 44 and ensure that all districts share in the anticipated savings.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Oradell Board of Education requests that the State Legislature and Governor provide relief from the increased health care costs experienced by school districts due to the implementation of Chapter 44; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that relief from Chapter 44 should include direct, short-term assistance from the state to ensure that all school districts are held financially harmless in both the current and subsequent fiscal years; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Legislature and Governor should expeditiously begin to explore long-term structural reforms that reverse the unintended consequences of Chapter 44 and generate lasting savings for school districts, employees and taxpayers; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that any proposals to amend or revise Chapter 44 include input from all affected stakeholders before moving forward, including feedback from representatives of local boards of education, school business administrators, superintendents, building-level supervisors and school employees; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; and the Oradell Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

E. **NJSBA/ BCSBA DELEGATE REPORT**- Mr. Walsh, Delegate – *None*

F. **PERSONNEL**- Mrs. Walker, Chairperson

*A motion by Mrs. Walker, seconded by Mr. Walsh, and carried by a roll call vote of 9-0 the Board approved F1.*

F1. It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, that the Board accepts and approves the Personnel Committee Report dated **March 24, 2021**.

G. **POLICY**- Mrs. Levy, Chairperson – *None*

H. **PUBLIC RELATIONS-** Mr. Griffin, Chairperson

*Mr. Griffin would like an update of the committee's responsibilities.*

I. **COVID-19 TASK FORCE-** Mr. Griffin, Chairperson– *None*

XII. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

*Tracy Schaum thanked Mrs. Longo for tonight's Odyssey of the Mind acknowledgment.*

XIII. **OLD BUSINESS**

XIV. **NEW BUSINESS**

*Mrs. Walker gave some tips on submitting the Personnel Disclosure Form.*

XV. **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion by Mrs. Norian, and seconded by Mr. Walsh, and carried a roll call vote of 9-0, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*John M. Marmora*

*Business Administrator/Board Secretary*