

**ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649**

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION - JUNE 14, 2000  
MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Work Session Meeting of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by President Lessersohn.

**II. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Walsh.

**III. SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT**

The Sunshine Law Statement was read by Mrs. Lessersohn.

All requirements of the Open Public Business Meetings Law have been met for this meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of Oradell. Notice of this meeting was filed with the Borough Clerk, posted in Borough Hall and the Oradell Free Public Library, faxed to the Town News, The Record and all persons requesting such notice on June 9, 2000.

**IV. MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission Statement was read by Mrs. LaForgia.

The Mission of the Oradell School District is to develop in each student strong self-esteem, ethical values, respect and an appreciation of diversity and passion for learning to enable every student to perform at his/her maximum potential through a flexible and inclusive educational system.

To accomplish this, the Board, in active collaboration with parents, staff and administration, and in partnership with the total community, will provide a comprehensive and academically challenging educational program that responds to the unique and changing needs of students and society.

Adopted by the Oradell Board of Education December 20, 1993

**V. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mr. Feigenson, Mr. Julis, Mrs. LaForgia, Mrs. Looram, Mrs. Norian, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Shinevar, Mrs. Lessersohn

Also present were Mrs. Karen Lake, Superintendent, Mr. John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mrs. Jill Rota, representative to the Bergen County Governor's Teacher Recognition Program and approximately twenty-five members of the public (inclusive of Mrs. Rota's family members and students).

#### **VI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Mrs. Jill Rota was recognized as Oradell's recipient of the Governor's Teacher Recognition Award. Many of her family members and her students were in attendance to show their support and appreciation. Mrs. Lake and the Board offered their congratulations to Mrs. Rota.

#### **VII. MINUTES**

Review of Minutes - May 24, 2000, Regular Public Business Meeting

#### **APPROVAL OF REVISED MINUTES OF THE REORGANIZATION/ REGULAR PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2000, AND THE REVISED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2000.**

It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Walsh, that the Board of Education approve the Revised Minutes of the Reorganization/Regular Public Business Meeting of Wednesday, May 3, 2000, and the Revised Minutes of the Special Public Business Meeting of Tuesday, May 2, 2000.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

#### **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/BOARD PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Mrs. Lake reported on a productive "Key Communicator" meeting on May 25 and encouraged those in attendance to participate in a strategic planning session scheduled for September, 2000.

Mrs. Lake also discussed a threatening note found in the school's main hallway on May 30. The authorities were notified promptly, the school was evacuated and local police and county officers searched the building as a precautionary measure. Mr. Ryan notified all staff of the incident the following day.

Mrs. Lake discussed the demographic study which will be done in concert with River Edge and River Dell Regional with REDI grant moneys, thus no cost to the Oradell taxpayer.

Mrs. Loram and Mr. Feigenson attended a New Board Member Orientation in Princeton last weekend. Both expressed support for the program and are eager to apply what they learned to help the children at OPS.

Mrs. Lessersohn praised the colorful, clever artwork created by the students for this year's Art and Music Show held the evening of June 2. In addition she thanked all the teachers and parents who helped with the set-up and program.

Mrs. Lessersohn talked about the breakfast for Jill Rota held June 6, and she thanked the Board and Administration for their contribution and support.

Kindergarten Orientation was held June 8, and as of May 5, approximately 85 students will be entering that level in the fall.

OPS students participated in their respective field days. Mrs. Lessersohn applauded Mr. Mallet, custodian, for his chef work at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade picnic and thanked the entire custodial staff for their hard work.

The Third Grade musical revue was held last Friday, June 9, 2000. Whale Week for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade is scheduled June 13 and June 15, 2000.

Mrs. Lessersohn added Mr. Julis to the Personnel Committee.

Finally, the awards ceremony will be held Tuesday, June 20 at 9:00 a.m. Promotion follows on June 21 at 11:00 a.m.

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION**

### ***A. BI-BOROUGH – Mrs. LaForgia, Chairperson***

No report at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2000, in the River Dell library.

### ***B. BUILDING & GROUNDS – Mr. Spadaccini, Chairperson***

Mr. Spadaccini noted that the members met prior to the full Board session. He reported that the primary goal of this committee would be to ensure the capital projects contained within the \$200,000 Second Question were implemented in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The results of the roof replacement project were discussed. It was decided to propose to the full Board, upon the recommendation of the architect for the job, Mr. Laurence Parisi, that the work be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder (Hygrade) at a base bid of \$71,700. Also the committee will suggest proceeding with Energy for America for the District's energy management program. Both

resolutions associated with the Second Question, will appear on the Agenda for June 22, 2000.

In conclusion, it was decided to table motion #2 under Finance. The Board preferred to sign a one-year waste removal contract rather than the proposed three-year agreement. Mr. Esposito will speak with the vendor to adjust the length of the contract.

**C. CURRICULUM – Mrs. Norian, Chairperson**

1. Submission of District's Multi-Year Equity Plan – It was moved by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the District's Multi-Year Equity Plan for the 2000/01, 2001/02 and 2002/03 school year.

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

Mrs. Lake provided an overview of the District's Multi-year Equity Plan. The state requires submission of this report annually by each school district. It includes a review of the District's hiring practices and classroom practices and their applicability to equity issues.

**D. FINANCE – Mrs. Shinevar, Chairperson**

1. Purchasing Agent Authorization – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mr. Walsh, that the Board approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 provides that a Board of Education shall assign the authority, responsibility, and accountability for the purchasing activity of the Board of Education to a person or persons who shall have the power to prepare advertisements, to advertise for and receive bids, and to award contracts as permitted by this chapter, and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A-18A-3 provides that contracts, awarded by the purchasing agent that do not exceed in the aggregate in a contract year the bid threshold (currently \$17,500), may be awarded by the purchasing agent without advertising for bids when so authorized by Board resolution, and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A-18A-37c provides that all contracts that are in the aggregate less than 15% of the bid threshold (currently \$2,625) may be awarded by the purchasing agent without soliciting competitive quotations if so authorized by Board resolution,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Oradell Board of Education, pursuant to the statutes cited above, hereby appoint John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as its duly authorized purchasing agent and is duly

assigned the authority, responsibility, and accountability for the purchasing activity of the Oradell School District, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that John Esposito is hereby authorized to award contracts on behalf of the Oradell Board of Education that are in the aggregate less than 15% of the Bid threshold (currently \$2,625) without soliciting competitive quotations, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that John Esposito is hereby authorized to seek competitive quotations, when applicable and practicable, when contracts in the aggregate exceed 15% of the bid threshold (currently \$2,625) but less than the bid threshold of \$17,500.

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

2. Waste Disposal Contract – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini that the Board table this motion.

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

3. Payment of Invoices – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mr. Walsh, that the invoices for the period of May 25, 2000 through June 14, 2000, be approved as follows:

Fund 11 ( <i>General Current Expense</i> )	\$328,368.97
Fund 12 ( <i>Capital Outlay</i> )	.00
Fund 20 ( <i>Special Revenue</i> )	23,492.32
Fund 40 ( <i>Debt Service Fund</i> )	.00
Fund 55 ( <i>Milk</i> )	.00
Fund 50 ( <i>Summer School</i> )	.00
TOTAL	<u>\$351,861.29</u>

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

As previously mentioned in the Buildings & Grounds Committee report, the waste removal motion was tabled.

**E. PERSONNEL – Mr. Feigenson, Chairperson**

1. Appointment of Elementary Teacher – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of

the Superintendent, that the Board approve the appointment of Kimberly A. Lezette as elementary teacher for the 2000/01 school year, on B.A./Step 1, at the annual salary of \$32,520.00 as set forth on the Oradell Education Association's 2000/01 Teacher's Salary Guide.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by roll call vote with one abstention (Mrs. Norian).**

2. Appointment of Lunch Aide – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Sofia Hashmi as lunchroom aide, effective Monday, May 22, 2000, for the remainder of the 1999/00 school year, at the rate of \$12.25 per lunch period, and that the Board further authorize emergent hiring of this employee if necessary.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

3. Approval of Leave – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that Jill Rota, kindergarten teacher, be granted a leave of absence for the 2000/01 school year.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

4. Extension of Leave – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that Rosemary Weidel, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, be granted an extension of her leave of absence (previously granted by resolution dated March 24, 1999) through the 2000/01 school year.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

5. Approval of Substitute – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve Lauren Antebi, as a substitute teacher for the 1999/00 school year, at a per diem rate of \$70.00. The Board further

authorizes emergent hiring of this employee, upon completion of criminal history check, if necessary.

## **ROLL CALL**

### **Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

Mrs. LaForgia highly praised Mrs. Rota for her contributions to OPS and noted that she will be greatly missed while on her one-year leave.

#### **F. POLICY – Mr. Julis, Chairperson**

Mr. Julis noted that the District's policy manual had been sent to the NJSBA for evaluation. It may take a month or more before the review is completed.

#### **G. PUBLIC RELATIONS – Mrs. Looram, Chairperson**

Mrs. Looram is working on increasing the District's exposure in local papers and will send Mrs. Rota's story to several publications.

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

Action Item List to be updated and distributed with the Board packet for June 22. Mrs. Lake has addressed the list of open issues and will include this memo in the packet.

Committee Meetings – Mrs. Lake asked to see the agendas for committee meetings prior to them being distributed. A Finance meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2000, at 8:00 p.m.

Mrs. Lessersohn requested the names of Board members interested in attending this year's promotion exercises.

Mrs. LaForgia noted that the "Special Persons" day put on by the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade was very well done.

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. PERSONNEL – Mr. Feigenson, Chairperson**

1. EXTENSION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Walsh, that the Board approve an extended leave of absence for Ellen Heine, art teacher, for the 2000/01 school year. Original request approved on July 14, 1999, at a Special Public Business

Meeting covered the 1999/01 school year.

## **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

2. APPOINTMENT OF PART-TIME ART TEACHER – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Antonietta Boccanfuso as part-time (.4) art teacher for the 2000/01 school year, effective September 5, 2000, through June 30, 2001, on B.A./Step 6, at the annual salary of \$14,398.00 as set forth on the Oradell Education Association's 2000/01 Teacher's Salary Guide.

## **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

Mr. Spadaccini suggested sending a letter of appreciation to the PTA for their hard work. Mrs. Lake responded that she was currently completing the request.

Mrs. Looram noted that the Field Days were well done and that it was a fine cooperative effort with the high school.

Mrs. Lessersohn advised that a Safety Luncheon will be held September 5, 2000, and encouraged all to attend. Mrs. Lake added that it would be a joint program with the PTA, Board members, teachers and others.

The Board discussed the significance of Flag Day and how we should continue to emphasize to our children the importance of the United States flag. Mrs. Norian suggested a Flag Day program and Mrs. Shinevar thought the Boy or Girl Scout manual may be a good place to start on this effort. A resident in the audience asked that any acknowledgment of our flag and its meaning start with Veteran's Day, the next major patriotic holiday.

The Fourth of July parade was discussed by the Board, which will explore the possibility of distributing small education-related items (e.g. pencils, bookmarks, etc.) during the parade route.

## **XII. CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. Norian, that the Board adjourn to Closed Session at 9:30 p.m.

## **ROLL CALL**



**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

**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.

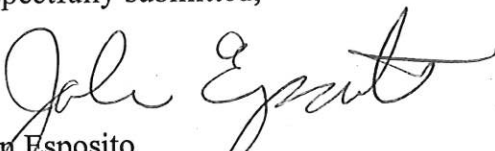
### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mrs. Shinevar, that the Closed Session of the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 a.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

Respectfully submitted,



John Esposito  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary



**ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649**

**CLOSED PUBLIC WORK SESSION - JUNE 14, 2000  
MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Closed Public Work Session Meeting of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 9:36 p.m. by President Lessersohn.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Feigenson, Mr. Julis, Mrs. LaForgia Mrs. Looram, Mrs. Norian, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Shinevar, Mrs. Lessersohn

**Also present were Mrs. Karen Lake, Superintendent, and Mr. John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary**

**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.

Discussion focused on the following topics:

Mrs. Lake reviewed, for Board information, the rationale for extending leave to specific staff members. Subsequently, Mrs. Lessersohn focused on the need to develop District goals for the 2000/01 school year. It was further discussed that the Board consider the Superintendent's request that she be involved in the development of the District's goals as by definition the Superintendent is the educational leader of the District.

Mrs. Lake and Mr. Esposito excused themselves from the meeting and further discussion involved the evaluation of the Superintendent.

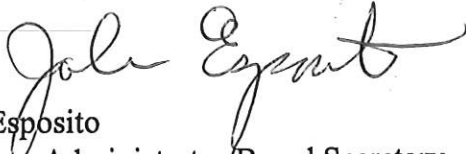
### III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mrs. Shinevar, that the Closed Session of the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 a.m.

### ROLL CALL

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

Respectfully submitted,



John Esposito  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary