

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

REGULAR PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

**MINUTES
MAY 24, 2000**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Public Business Meeting of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 8:02 p.m. by President Lessersohn.

II. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Esposito.

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 and all persons requesting such notice on May 4, 2000.

IV. MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Looram.

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. Shinevar, Mrs. Lessersohn

ABSENT: Mrs. Norian, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Walsh

Also present were Mrs. Karen Lake, Superintendent, Mr. John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. Scott Ryan, Principal, Dr. John DiGiovachino, Director of Special Services and approximately fifteen members of the public.

VI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No comments were made at this time.

VII. MINUTES

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

The Minutes of the Reorganization/Regular Public Business Meeting of Wednesday, May 3, 2000, and the Minutes of the Special Public Business Meeting of Tuesday, May 2, 2000, were held until the next Board meeting.

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

Mrs. Lessersohn, on behalf of the entire Board and staff of OPS, sent best wishes to John Walsh for a speedy and full recovery.

Mrs. Lessersohn and the Board congratulated Jill Rota on her selection as our district's representative in the Bergen County Governor's Teacher Recognition Program. Mrs. Rota will be honored at a luncheon and will receive additional recognition at the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Lake indicated that the luncheon held for Teacher Appreciation Week was well attended and the Board thanked all those involved in the activities.

Additionally, the D.A.R.E. graduation program was a success and well attended by both parents and special guests.

Mrs. Lake thanked all who worked on Dinosaur Day, in particular Mr. Ryan, and noted that OPS was included on a website that highlighted dinosaur activities in schools.

Mrs. Shinevar described the challenging events first graders were involved in; commended those participating in the Mother's Day breakfast and noted that Circus Day was enjoyed by all the children.

Mrs. Lessersohn also highlighted the various field trips either planned or already

taken, including Hackensack Medical Center, the Museum of Natural History, the Challenger Center and the Native American Museum, among others.

Thanks were extended to Dee Kelly for her hard work in planting flowers and maintaining the exterior of the school.

Mrs. Lake reminded all that the Key Communicator Forum would be held Thursday, May 25 in the I.M.C. from 8:00 - 10:00 PM.

Board members participating in the Memorial Day parade were reminded to meet at the school prior to the event.

Dr. DiGiovachino presented the Oradell Public School Testing Report 1999, and gave an overview of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS). This was followed by an overall testing program discussion. In conclusion, he reviewed the 1999 ITBS results for grades 3, 4 and 6 at OPS.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

A. FINANCE – Mrs. Shinevar, Chairperson

1. Monthly Certifications – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mrs. Looram, that the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the month end, April, 2000, be accepted as attached and, furthermore, that the Board certify in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A.10 (e) that no major account or fund in the 1999/2000 Budget has been over-expended in violation of 6:20-2A.10 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. Payment of Invoices – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the invoices for the period of April 20, 2000 through May 24, 2000, be approved as follows:

Fund 11 (<i>General Current Expense</i>)	\$573,308.26
Fund 12 (<i>Capital Outlay</i>)	.00
Fund 20 (<i>Special Revenue</i>)	15,971.10
Fund 40 (<i>Debt Service Fund</i>)	386,056.65
Fund 55 (<i>Milk</i>)	238.78
Fund 50 (<i>Summer School</i>)	<u>548.00</u>
TOTAL	\$976,122.79

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. Transfer of Funds – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Board approve the following transfer of funds as noted:

Transfer of Funds			
Meeting Of May 24, 2000			
From Account (Credit)	To Account (Debit)	Credit	Debit
11-000-222-600-03-0200	11-000-222-100-00-0222	\$70.00	\$70.00
11-000-262-610-00-0605	11-000-270-512-00-0501	\$767.50	\$767.50
11-000-262-620-00-0601	11-120-100-101-00-0220	\$165.00	\$165.00
11-190-100-640-00-0219	11-190-100-890-00-0000	\$18.00	\$18.00
11-216-100-610-00-0815	11-213-100-106-00-0814	\$285.27	\$285.27
11-215-100-101-00-0814	11-215-100-106-00-0222	\$140.00	\$140.00
11-230-100-101-00-0815	11-230-100-610-00-0815	\$7.05	\$7.05
11-190-100-610-00-0209	11-190-100-320-00-0223	\$350.00	\$350.00
11-000-222-600-03-0200	11-000-222-100-00-0222	\$70.00	\$70.00
11-000-222-100-00-0222	11-000-222-600-03-0200	\$70.00	\$70.00
	Total	\$1,942.82	\$1,942.82
* Transaction Date For Above Transfers 4/30/00			

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. Title VI “Class Size Reduction Initiative” Approval – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the receipt of \$9,806.00 for Title VI (Grant #CSR387000) “Class Size Reduction Initiative” for the 1999-2000 school year.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

B. PERSONNEL – Mr. Feigenson, Chairperson

1. Approval of Substitute – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. Shinevar, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the following individual as a substitute teacher for the 1999/2000 school year, at a per diem rate of \$70.00:

Laurie Arslanyan

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.

2. Resignation of Jennifer Gambino (Grade 2 Teacher) – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept the resignation of Jennifer Gambino, second grade teacher, effective June 30, 2000.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. Resignation of Cassia Montgomery (Part-time Instructional Aide) – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept the resignation of Cassia Montgomery, part-time instructional aide, effective at the close of the school day, Friday, May 19, 2000.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. Resignation of Janet Donaldson (Part-time Speech/Language Specialist) – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. Shinevar, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept the resignation of Janet Donaldson, part-time speech/language specialist, effective June 30, 2000.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

C. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – Mr. Spadaccini, Chairperson

1. Roof Replacement Project – It was moved by Mrs. LaForgia, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, that the Board grant the Business Administrator/Board Secretary authorization to solicit any and all bids for the roof replacement over the gymnasium and 5th/6th grade wing; safety modifications to the gym and auditorium balconies; contract for energy management/efficiency, air conditioning of library and other capital improvements, more specifically set forth in the 2nd question of the 2000/2001 school year budget.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Shinevar provided a report and update on Bi-Borough issues. She stated that there has been no final word on whether the district will receive a grant to perform a demographic study.

Mrs. Lake gave an overview of the status of the five-year curriculum plan and noted that any modifications will be shared with the Board.

Mrs. Shinevar is revising and updating the Board's school calendar based on input from Board members and other sources.

Discussion took place regarding a potential Board retreat this summer and how it would be conducted. Mrs. Lake will speak with Janet Lobsenz, representative from the NJSBA to obtain more information on the format and the process used by the NJSBA at retreats.

Mr. Esposito will revise a proposed action list based on Board suggestions as well as maintain and update the list for use at Board meetings.

Mrs. LaForgia inquired about recent Policy updates. Mrs. Lake responded that she is in the process of finalizing them.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed Officer Kevin's request for children and parents to sponsor him in a race. It was noted that Officer Kevin is well-respected in the community and tremendous help to the children. However, existing Board policy does not allow for this type of financial support and a letter will be sent to him explaining the Board's position and policy.

Mrs. LaForgia noted that one of OPS's custodians, Tom Murray, recently won three gold medals in a weight-lifting competition. Congratulations were extended by Mrs. LaForgia and the entire Board on his accomplishments.

Mrs. Lake reviewed the CAP Program and asked the Board if they would like her to apply for this grant. The Board was in agreement to move forward with a request for funds from this program.

Discussion of new committees was postponed until the full Board was present.

Mrs. LaForgia noted that the Bergen County School Boards Association offers monetary rewards for innovation programs and encouraged staff members to apply. Mrs. Lake indicated that, in the past, OPS staff have applied for funds.

XII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Pedersen voiced support for science reference materials for the children. Mrs. Healey asked if French would be graded. Mrs. Lake responded this was a base line year for instruction and perhaps a Pass/Fail would be used next year.

Susan Postel, a River Dell Board of Education member in attendance, noted that enrollment in Languages drops sharply after sixth grade and suggested Pass/Fail as well.

Mrs. Trass voiced concern over Board members allowing personal feelings to influence educational decisions. Mrs. Lake and the Board noted that the code of ethics forbids this, and that if such a case existed it was up to the individual to excuse himself from the discussion.

In conclusion, a parent asked about Math groupings. Mrs. Lake responded that grades 5 and 6 classes would be homogeneously grouped as per past practice, but grouping in grade 4 was still being discussed.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. Shinevar, that the Board adjourn to Closed Session at 10:30 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.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. LaForgia, seconded by Mrs. Shinevar, that the Closed Session of the meeting be adjourned at 12:30 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 SESSION OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 24, 2000
MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Closed Session of the Regular Public Business Meeting of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 10:37 p.m. by President Lessersohn.

II. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Mrs. Norian, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Walsh

Also present were Mrs. Karen Lake, Superintendent, and Mr. John Esposito, Interim 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.

Mrs. Lake shared with the Board a copy of the proposed severance agreement between the Oradell Board of Education and A. B. The Board made specific recommendations and requested Mrs. Lake to contact the Board Attorney, Malachi Kenney, relative to those recommendations. Subsequently, Mrs. Lake and Business Administrator, John Esposito, left the meeting and the Board continued discussion on the topic of Mrs. Lake's evaluation.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. LaForgia, seconded by Mrs. Shinevar, that the Closed Session of the meeting be adjourned at 12:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Lessersohn".

Louise Lessersohn
Board President