

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

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION - MARCH 21, 2001
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. Feigenson.

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 March 1, 2001.

IV. MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement was read by Mr. Julis.

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. Loram (arrived at 8:12 p.m.), Mrs. Norian (arrived at 8:56 p.m.), Mr. Spadaccini (arrived at 8:15 p.m.), Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Shinevar (arrived at 8:11 p.m.), Mrs. Lessersohn

Also present were Mr. Raymond Albano, Interim Superintendent, Mr. John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and approximately ten

members of the public.

It was moved by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, that the Board recess for a short period of time.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

It was moved by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia that the Board reconvene.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

VI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments made at this time from the public.

VII. MINUTES

Review of Minutes - February 28, 2001, Regular Public Business Meeting
Review of Minutes - March 7, 2001, Special Public Business Meeting

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

Mr. Albano provided an update of the Strategic Planning process. He noted that the staff was still working on collecting information for an internal assessment.

The Superintendent stated that the QAAR had been received and approved by the County Office. He also noted that the District's professional development plan had also been approved.

Mr. Albano informed the Board that a tentative date of May 3, 2001, had been set for Grade 6 Parents' Orientation.

The Superintendent also discussed the issue of security in the school. He noted that a recent headcount found that nearly 200 visitors entered through the main entrance of the school in a single day.

Finally, Mr. Albano met the new town librarian, Ms. Barnes, and noted that Ms. Montes is going to act as a liaison between OPS and the public library.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION

A. BI-BOROUGH - Mrs. LaForgia, Chairperson

Mrs. LaForgia reported that a meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2001.

B. BUILDING & GROUNDS - Mr. Spadaccini, Chairperson

1. Acceptance of Donation – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education approve the acceptance of one (1) cellular phone from Louise Lessersohn. This phone will be programmed to dial 911 for emergency purposes only and will be distributed where needed.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Spadaccini talked about several of the projects in progress, including:

- HVAC in the Media Center – The engineer has reviewed the drawings and made minor revisions. The unit is ordered and should be installed in April or May.
- Energy Management System – The contractor, Sunlight Electric, had installed some cable and work would be continuing in April.
- Auditorium Safety Railing – Only one firm quote was provided for this work despite numerous calls to vendors for the job. Bedlam Brass will install the railing, with tempered glass slats, at a cost of \$13,970.00.
- Security Systems – One company is preparing a quote, and others will be brought in to provide estimates for a security system.
- Roof Insulation – the architect used by the Board for roof restoration is preparing a quote to look at the insulation throughout the school.

C. CURRICULUM - Mrs. Norian, Chairperson

Mrs. Norian led a discussion regarding the school calendar for 2001/2002. She noted that various issues – such as recent history, the schedules of River Edge and River Dell and professional development days – factored into the development of the calendar. By a show of hands, the Board made one revision in the proposed schedule. A resolution approving the calendar will be on the next agenda.

D. FINANCE - Mrs. Shinevar, Chairperson

The following three resolutions are for review only and possible vote for action at the March 28 Regular Public Business Meeting:

1. Resolution Opposing the Automatic Increments Bill (A-1299/S-1153)

WHEREAS, A-1299 (Geist) and S-1153 (Sinagra) would require school boards to pay all increments due under the expired salary guide until a new collective bargaining agreement is reached; and

WHEREAS, This legislation would overturn the New Jersey Supreme Court's decision in *Neptune Twp. Bd. of Ed.*, which held that New Jersey statute (N.J.S.A. 18A:29-4) prohibits boards of education from paying salary increments to teaching staff upon the expiration of a three-year contract;

WHEREAS, A-1299 and S-1153 represent an intrusion into school district negotiations that will prolong and intensify negotiations and, as the court founds in its *Neptune* decision, "teachers will have a reduced incentive" to agree to a new collective bargaining agreement; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court in *Neptune* found that "the practice of automatically paying an increment will limit a board's ability to respond to ever-changing economic conditions" and noted that "schools that need to cut budget will face serious problems"; and

WHEREAS, all other public employees are required to negotiate their ability to receive increments, and

WHEREAS, By overturning the Neptune decision, A-1299 and S-1153 would prevent boards of education from meeting their obligations to manage their budgets effectively, remain accountable to their communities, and control local property taxes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Oradell Board of Education opposes A-1299 and S-1153, and directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to Acting Governor DiFrancesco, Speaker of the Assembly Jack Collins, all legislators representing the Oradell School District (State District #38 and Congressional District #5), and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

2. Resolution Opposing the Paid Family Leave Bill, A-3049/S-1923

WHEREAS, A-3049 (Frischia/Vandervalk) and S-1923 (Sinagra/Lynch) would provide up to 12 weeks of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits for a worker who takes a leave-of-absence because of the birth or adoption of a child; and

WHEREAS, A-3049/S-1923 would have a major impact on the educational and financial administration of school districts, disruption the continuity of instruction and requiring the hiring of additional qualified and/or certified staff and substitute teachers; and

WHEREAS, A-3949/S-1923 would siphon needed reserves from the Unemployment Insurance Fund, which is dedicated to providing financial support to employees who lose their positions; and

WHEREAS, A-3049/S-1923 could lead to higher payroll taxes to replenish the

Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, The Oradell Board of Education believes that A-3049/S-1923 would impede districts in the fulfillment of their mission to provide the best education for their children at the lowest cost to the taxpayers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Oradell Board of education strongly opposes A-3049/S-1923 and that a copy of this resolution be sent to Acting Governor DiFrancesco, Speaker of the Assembly Jack Collins, all legislators representing the Oradell Public School District (State District #38 and Congressional District #5, and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

3. Resolution Supporting S-570 - Charter Schools

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Legislature is considering Senate Bill S570; and

WHEREAS, this bill would require the State to pay the tuition and transportation costs for Charter Schools; and

WHEREAS, Charter Schools were mandated by the State as an experiment in education to offer choice to parents in districts with failing schools; and

WHEREAS, the District of Oradell has highly superior schools as demonstrated by the recently published New Jersey State Test Scores; and

WHEREAS, the taxpayers of Oradell have demonstrated their willingness to support all State requirements to provide a superior education to its children while receiving only 6% of the cost from State aid, and should not be burdened with additional costs for an experimental Charter School or suffer the loss of funds from the existing program that would have a negative impact on the majority of their students; and

WHEREAS, the direct funding of charter schools by the State will allow for more efficient budgetary planning for the local districts and charter schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Oradell Board of Education strongly supports the passage of Bill S570; or it should be allowed to put all costs incurred by a Charter School on the ballot of the annual budget referendum as a separate question, apart from the regular budget, for the approval of the taxpayers of the Borough of Oradell since they will have to shoulder the cost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor, Senate President, Assembly Speaker, our State Senator and two Assembly Representatives, all School Boards in Bergen county, and to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Mrs. Shinevar provided an overview of the above resolutions which the Board will be asked to vote on at its next meeting. Two of the issues involve opposing a Paid Family Leave bill and an Automatic Increments (for teachers) bill. The third was in support of a resolution requiring the state to pay tuition and transportation costs for charter schools.

4. State Aid FY '01 – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mr. Walsh, that the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of the revised FY '01 State Aid figures as noted below:

<u>General Fund Aid</u>	<u>Revised Figures</u>
Transportation Aid	\$ 19,263.00
Special Education Aid	\$392,504.00
Bilingual Education Aid	\$ 19,856.00
Distance Learning Aid	<u>\$ 29,289.00</u>
Total State Aid	\$460,912.00

Note: The amount of aid received by Oradell did not change.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- E. PERSONNEL - Mr. Feigenson, Chairperson
1. Approval of Substitute Teachers – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the following individuals as substitute teachers for the 2000/01 school year, at a per diem rate of \$70.00:

Kelly Bianchi
Diane Greenwald

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

For Action at March 28 Regular Public Business Meeting

2. Acceptance of Resignations
3. Approval of Extension of Leaves of Absences
4. Acknowledgment of Notice of Return from Leave of Absence
5. Adoption of Job Description for Nurse's aide
6. Appointment of Assistant Director for Schaefer "explorations" Summer School Program

Mr. Feigenson noted that the Board will be asked to take action at its next meeting regarding the status of teachers currently on Leaves of Absence.

F. POLICY - Mr. Julis, Chairperson

Mr. Julis discussed the potential for having all school policies in a PC database. This would allow for quick searches, fast response time and easy updates to policies. Mr. Julis also reminded the Board that NJ School Boards has reviewed Oradell's policy manual and made recommendations.

G. PUBLIC RELATIONS - Mrs. Loram, Chairperson

Mrs. Loram reported that she would like to see OPS upgrade and maintain the its website. It was noted that the next newsletter will coincide with the adoption of the school budget.

X. OLD BUSINESS

The question came up regarding whether or not the Strategic Planning committees would remain intact. Mr. Albano noted that it was too early to tell, and it would be based on the internal assessment now in progress.

Mr. Albano advised the Board that he would speak to the local superintendents regarding children from other schools on Oradell property when school is in session.

The Board then discussed the possibility of having some kind of security system in place to prevent unauthorized people from entering the school. Questions arose as to what other districts were doing to address this issue.

Mr. Walsh spoke about his concern with traffic flow around the school during drop-off and pick-up times. Mr. Albano has spoken with the Police Chief, who continues to try and address this issue.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Spadaccini commended Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Orthmann for their quick response to a medical emergency which occurred the previous day across the street from OPS.

It was noted that a memo regarding the budget hearing was to go out in the children's backpack. No date has been set to meet with the council or mayor. Mr. Albano has been in touch with borough officials and has offered to discuss the tentative budget with them prior to the vote.

XII. CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, that the Board adjourn to Closed Session at 10:02 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 Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, that the Closed Session of the meeting be adjourned at 11:00 p.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 - MARCH 21, 2001
MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Closed Public Work Session Meeting of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 10:12 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 Mr. Raymond J. Albano, Superintendent (Interim) 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.

The Board discussed the candidates for the superintendent position. It was noted that interviews were scheduled for March 22, 26 and 27; and April 2, if needed.

Mrs. Lessersohn asked each Board member to have specific questions to ask the candidates. There was general discussion on how best to conduct an interview. It was noted that Mrs. Lobsenz of NJSBA would be at the first two interviews to assist the Board.

III. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, that the Closed Session of the meeting be adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Esposito". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

John Esposito
Business Administrator/Board Secretary