

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

BUDGET HEARING/REGULAR PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES

MARCH 28, 2001

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Budget Hearing/Regular Public Business Meeting of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 8:09 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 and all persons requesting such notice on March 23, 2001.

IV. MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Shinevar.

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 (arrived at 8:30 p.m.), Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Shinevar, Mrs. Lessersohn

Also present were Mr. Raymond J. Albano, Interim Superintendent, Mr. John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. William Scott Ryan, Principal, Dr. John DiGiovachino, Director of Special Services and approximately 40 members of the public.

VI. 2001-2002 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Albano presented a detailed overview of the school budget and the process used to arrive at the projected revenues and expenditures for the ensuing year. He also answered questions from members of the Board and community regarding the budget.

1. It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, that the Oradell Board of Education adopt the following budget for the 2001/2002 school year:

General Current Expense	\$6,349,438.00
Debt Service	\$ 783,203.00
State/Federal Aid	<u>\$ 222,058.00</u>
TOTAL	\$7,354,699.00
Tax Levy General Fund	\$5,806,565.00
Tax Levy-Debt Service	<u>\$ 783,203.00</u>
Tax Levy-Grand Total	\$6,589,768.00

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mr. Walsh, that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator be authorized to place the following questions on the ballot for the April 17, 2001 election:

RESOLVED, That there should be raised for General Funds \$5,806,565.00 for the ensuing school year 2001-2002.

Note: Budget detail on file in the Office of the Board Secretary.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2001, and THE SPECIAL PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2001

It was moved by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Business Meeting of Wednesday, February 28, 2001, and the Special Public Business Meeting of Wednesday, March 7, 2001.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

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

Mr. Albano stated that the internal assessment component of the Strategic Plan was underway. He hopes to have this piece completed by the April break week.

The Superintendent then commended Ms. Goeller for being selected as a finalist by the NJ Department of Education for her submission to the Best Practices Proposal.

Mr. Albano noted that he had been working with staff on developing a modified Operation Shadow for the sixth grade. Details for this program have yet to be finalized.

A television crew from CNBC filmed a group of Oradell sixth graders for an upcoming show on "What Children Know About Money." The tentative air date is Friday, April 13.

Mr. Albano talked about the school's looping program and how it is being assessed at the current time. With teacher input, the Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board on how to proceed with looping.

Finally, Mr. Albano noted he received a resolution from the Mayor and Council and stated he would follow up with them regarding the contents of the resolution.

Mrs. Lessersohn reminded the community that the Board continued to make progress in the Superintendent search process and had already interviewed several candidates. She noted that parents and community would be kept apprised as the Board moved forward in its search.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

A. FINANCE – Mrs. Shinevar, Chairperson

1. Monthly Certifications – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mr. Walsh, that the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the month end, February, 2001, 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 2000/2001 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 Mr. Walsh, that the invoices for the period of March 1, 2001 through March 28, 2001 be approved as follows:

Fund 11 (<i>General Current Expense</i>)	\$279,787.21
Fund 12 (<i>Capital Outlay</i>)	\$.00
Fund 20 (<i>Special Revenue</i>)	\$ 16,819.84
Fund 40 (<i>Debt Service Fund</i>)	\$.00
Fund 55 (<i>Milk</i>)	\$ 2,377.76
Fund 50 (<i>Summer School</i>)	\$.00
TOTAL	\$298,984.81

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

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

**Meeting of March 28, 2001
Transfer of Funds**

From Account (Credit)	To Account (Debit)	Credit	Debit
11-000-223-320-00-0214	11-000-100-562-00-0801	\$952.44	\$952.44
11-000-223-320-00-0214	11-000-213-100-00-0222	\$420.00	\$420.00
11-000-223-320-00-0214	11-000-213-300-00-0224	\$400.00	\$400.00
11-000-223-320-00-0214	11-000-216-320-00-0000	\$162.58	\$162.58
11-000-261-420-00-0607	11-000-217-106-00-0000	\$9,244.25	\$9,244.25
11-150-100-101-00-1127	11-000-217-106-00-0000	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
11-000-223-320-00-0214	11-000-219-104-00-0222	\$35.00	\$35.00
11-000-223-320-00-0214	11-000-223-500-00-0217	\$775.25	\$775.25
11-000-223-320-00-0214	11-000-230-610-00-0112	\$411.86	\$411.86
11-000-261-420-00-0607	11-000-262-100-00-0614	\$3,608.14	\$3,608.14
11-000-261-420-00-0607	11-000-262-420-00-0607	\$23.80	\$23.80
11-000-261-420-00-0607	11-190-100-106-00-0222	\$35.00	\$35.00
11-000-261-420-00-0607	11-213-100-101-00-0222	\$750.00	\$750.00
Total		\$24,818.32	\$24,818.32

* Transaction Date For Above Transfers 2/28/01

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. Adoption of Resolution Opposing the Automatic Increments Bill (A-1299/S-1153) – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Oradell Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

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.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

5. Adoption of Resolution Opposing the Paid Family Leave Bill, A-3049/S-1923 – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Oradell Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

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.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

6. Adoption of Resolution Supporting S-570 - Charter Schools – It was moved by Mrs. Shinevar, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Oradell Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

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.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- B. PERSONNEL – Mr. Feigenson, Chairperson
 1. Approval of Substitute Teacher – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. Norian, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve Jennifer Lee as a substitute teacher for the 2000/01 school year, at a per diem rate of \$70.00.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. Resignation of Andrea S. Silverman (Elementary Teacher) – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. Norian, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept the resignation with regret, of Andrea S. Silverman, (currently out on extended leave of absence). Said resignation to become effective immediately.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. Resignation of Rosemary Weidel (Elementary Teacher) – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. Norian, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept the resignation with regret, of Rosemary Weidel, (currently out on extended leave of absence). Said resignation to become effective immediately.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. Extension of Leaves of Absence – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. Norian, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the following individuals for extension of leaves of absence through the 2001/02 school year:

Deborah A. Gregory
Jill Ann Rota
Christine R. Rush

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

5. The Board of Education acknowledges receipt of notices of intention to return to the Oradell Public School for the 2001/02 school year from Ellen Heine and Gina Giuditta.
6. Appointment of Assistant Director of Schaefer “Explorations” Summer School Program – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the appointment of Joanne Certo as Assistant Director of the Schaefer “Explorations” Summer School Program. This appointment to become effective for the 2001 summer school, at a stipend of \$2,800.00.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

7. Approval of Professional Development Plan - 2001/02 School Year – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the Professional Development Plan for the 2001/02 School Year.

Mrs. Shinevar commended the committee for their efforts in developing the plan and emphasized the importance of professional development. She also expressed disappointment, however, in not having information about the plan prior to the Board's receiving it for final approval. She suggested that the Board (or a Board committee) be presented the plan for discussion prior to its being sent to the County.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

8. Approval of Substitute Teacher – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve Laura Pepe as a substitute teacher for the 2000/01 school year, at a per diem rate of \$70.00.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

9. Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.) – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Walsh that the Board appoint John Esposito as public agency compliance officer for the 2000/01 school year.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

10. Nurse's Aid Job Description – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. Shinevar, that the Board approve the job description previously reviewed at a prior board meeting, for a nurse's aid position.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- C. BUILDING AND GROUNDS – Mr. Spadaccini, Chairperson

1. Acceptance of Quote and Approval of Work for Safety Rail/Glass for Auditorium Balcony – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent in concert with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Board authorize the Business Administrator to contract Bedlam Brass for the manufacture and installation of protective safety rails/glass to the existing vertical brass posts in the auditorium balcony for the sum of \$13,970.00. This work to be completed on or before May 1, 2001.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

D. CURRICULUM – Mrs. Norian, Chairperson

1. Approval of School Calendar 2001-2002 – It was moved by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Mrs. Shinevar, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the 2001-2002 School Calendar be approved as attached.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Walsh distributed a document with information relative to a meeting he attended on special education funding. He noted he had asked the speakers specific questions regarding the growing financial costs associated with special education needs and services.

Mrs. Shinevar suggested sending a letter of congratulations to Ms. Goeller. Mr. Albano stated he would send her a written note.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

There was some discussion regarding the upcoming school election. Mrs. Norian talked about how a potential write-in candidate could proceed if he, or she, was interested in filling the open position on the Oradell Board.

XII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There was a group of approximately 20 parents who had questions on the looping program in the school. Most of the group asked the Board to consider continuing the program in the 2001/2002 school year. Queries came from Mr. Mironov, Mrs.

Landau, Mrs. Mironov and others.

Mr. Albano and the Board noted that no decision had been made on whether or not to continue the program.

Mrs. Kelley asked about Operation Shadow and Mr. Albano reiterated that a modified version of the program was being worked on. Mrs. Kelly also commended the custodial staff for their hard work at the Spring Fling.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. Loram, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



John Esposito
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

