

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

REGULAR PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

**MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2001**

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 Shinevar.

II. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mrs. Landau.

III. SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

The Sunshine Law Statement was read by Mrs. Shinevar.

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 September 26, 2001.

IV. MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement was read by Mr. Feigenson.

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. Julis, Mrs. LaForgia, Mrs. Landau, Mrs. Norian (9:00 p.m.),
Mr. Spadaccini (9:15 p.m.), Mr. Walsh, Mr. Feigenson, Mrs.
Shinevar

ABSENT: Mrs. Loomam

Also present were Mr. Jeffrey Mohre, Superintendent, Mr. John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. William Scott Ryan, Principal, Dr. John DiGiovachino, Director of Special Services, and approximately twenty-four other attendees comprised of community members and several teachers.

VI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mrs. Weisbuch commented on the PTA meeting discussion regarding holiday displays in the school. She is not in favor of having religious symbols in the school.

Mrs. Maturo also talked about this issue and is in favor of displaying symbols of all religions.

Mrs. Kornfeld stated that she was opposed to displaying such symbols.

VII. MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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 Tuesday, September 25, 2001.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

It was moved by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Public Work Session Meeting of Wednesday, September 12, 2001.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

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

The Superintendent noted that two fire drills were conducted – Monday, September 24 and Wednesday, September 26. Monthly fire drills will be a regular feature of all subsequent Superintendent reports.

Mr. Mohre advised everyone in attendance of the following:

- American Education Week begins November 12 and all parents are welcome

to visit the school and watch the learning process as part of OPS's Parent Visitation program scheduled for November 13, 2001. More information concerning Parent Visitation will be made available in coming weeks.

- Dance for America is scheduled for next week in support of the WTC victims & their families. This event was organized by the 6th grade staff with the assistance of other teachers. Mr. Mohre thanked all staff for their efforts in this cause and invited everyone in the community to attend.
- Social Studies ESPA testing is underway this week for 5th graders.
- Next week is the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, and Mr. Mohre asked parents to assist in preparing students for this battery of tests by getting a good night's sleep, eating a healthy breakfast, coming to school prepared and in a timely manner.
- This Saturday, the OPS Class of 1948 is having a reunion which will include a tour of the school. Board Members are invited to attend.

Mr. Mohre spoke with the Head of the Oradell Public Library, Mrs. Camins, regarding a policy concerning unattended children in the library. The Superintendent will be sending information home with the children this week about this issue.

In conclusion, a summary of the information in the QAAR report was presented by Mr. Mohre, Dr. DiGiovachino, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Esposito. Dr. DiGiovachino also talked about the ESPA tests taken in May, 2001. He explained how the tests were scored, and reviewed the results for Oradell students, and outlined plans for corrective action and continued achievement.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

A. FINANCE – Mr. Walsh, Chairperson

1. Monthly Certifications – It was moved by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, that the Financial Report of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the month end of September, 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 2001/2002 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 Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, that the invoices for the period of September 26, 2001 through October 12, 2001 be approved as follows:

Fund 11 (<i>General Current Expense</i>)	\$ 332,966.23
Fund 12 (<i>Capital Outlay</i>)	\$ 5,224.00
Fund 20 (<i>Special Revenue</i>)	\$ 5,243.36
Fund 40 (<i>Debt Service Fund</i>)	\$.00
Fund 55 (<i>Milk</i>)	\$.00
Fund 50 (<i>Summer School</i>)	\$ 288.96
TOTAL	\$ 343,722.55

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

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

**Meeting of October 17, 2001
Transfer of Funds***

#	From Account (Credit)	To Account (Debit)	Credit	Debit
1	11-120-100-101-00-0227	11-000-100-566-00-0801	\$114,831.78	\$114,831.78
2	11-110-100-101-00-0229	11-000-100-566-00-0801	\$23,982.00	\$23,982.00
3	11-000-100-562-00-0801	11-000-100-566-00-0801	\$10,068.78	\$10,068.78
4	12-000-290-732-00-0000	11-000-262-100-00-0614	\$3,563.93	\$3,563.93
5	11-000-291-280-00-0216	11-000-223-500-00-0217	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
6	12-000-290-732-00-0000	11-000-262-100-00-0612	\$2,158.01	\$2,158.01
7	11-000-223-800-00-0223	11-000-262-110-00-0203	\$1,491.50	\$1,491.50
8	11-190-100-610-00-0200	11-000-223-500-00-0217	\$1,437.50	\$1,437.50
9	11-000-240-103-00-0105	11-000-223-500-00-0217	\$1,325.50	\$1,325.50
10	11-213-100-101-00-0814	11-000-262-100-00-0612	\$1,249.00	\$1,249.00
11	11-190-100-610-00-0200	11-000-262-100-00-0614	\$571.22	\$571.22
12	11-000-240-103-00-0105	11-000-213-890-00-0223	\$174.50	\$174.50
Total			\$163,253.72	\$163,253.72

* Transaction Date For Above Transfers 9/30/01

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. Approval of Resolution – It was moved by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, in concert with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Board approve a resolution requesting a waiver from the regulation requiring mentoring of all second-year teachers due to a reduction in State funding for this program.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

5. Adoption of Resolution Supporting A-2157 (LR) and S-1543/1148 (SCS) – It was moved by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, in concert with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Board approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, School districts now face considerable strain on their budgets due to special education costs resulting from expensive out-of-district placements, or the provision of intensive services within the district; and

WHEREAS, Current law requires districts to apply to the commissioner of education for reimbursement of special education costs over \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, This system has not provided significant relief to districts because the overwhelming majority of applications have not been successful or have provided only partial reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, A-2157 (LR) and S-1543/1148 (SCS) would eliminate the current statutory application procedure. Instead, it provides that, during the three-year period after the bill's enactment, a school district will receive 60 percent of any costs in excess of \$40,000 per pupil and up to \$60,000; 70 percent of any costs in excess of \$60,000 and up to \$80,000; and 80 percent of any costs in excess of \$80,000; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in the fourth year, state aid will cover 100 percent of special education costs in excess of \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, This legislation would provide essential relief to districts that are often forced to make cuts in other parts of their budgets to comply with state and federal special education mandates; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Oradell Board of Education urges the Legislature to support the A-2157 (LR) and S-1543/1148 (SCS), and directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco, all legislators representing the 38th district, the New Jersey School Boards Association and to the Bergen County School Boards Association.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

B. 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 2001/02 school year, at a per diem rate of \$75.00 which increases to \$80./day after the 10th day of service during the course of the 2001/02 school year:

Caterina Croce
Eileen O'Brien
Danielle Schwartz
Jeannie Valentino

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. Resignation of Part-time Nurse's Aide – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the approval of the Superintendent, that the Board accept the resignation of Mrs. Elizabeth Polizotti, as part-time nurse's aide, effective at the close of school, October 5, 2001.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. Appointment of Part-time Nurse's Aide – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the retroactive appointment of Helen Rehm as a part-time nurse's aide, for the 2001/02 school year, effective Monday, October 8, 2001 through June 30, 2002, at a rate of \$18.00/hr., up to 18 hours weekly.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. Filing of Waiver with the New Jersey Department of Education – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the filing of a waiver with the New Jersey State Department of Education (NJDOE) regarding the District's participation in the NJDOE's Two-Year Teacher Mentoring Program.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- 5. Approval of Substitute Teacher – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mrs. Landau, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education approve Bernadette Moore as a substitute teacher for the 2001/02 school year, at the per diem rate of \$75.00 which increases to \$80./day after the 10th day of service during the 2001/02 school year.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- 6. Appointment of Lunch Aides – 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 the following individuals as lunchroom aides, at a rate of \$13.00/hr., for the 2001/02 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Susan McDonald	Thursday, October 18, 2001
Dolores Delia	Monday, October 22, 2001

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- 7. Business Administrator’s Contract – It was moved by Mr. Feigenson, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve a contract for John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, at an annual salary of \$92,500.00, effective October 15, 2001 through June 30, 2002; and furthermore approve his appointment as Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the period of July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 in accord with the terms and conditions as set forth in his employment agreement.

ROLL CALL

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

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

1. Use of School Facilities – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Board of Education approve the following request for use of school facilities:
 - a. Oradell Arts & Business Coalition's *WINTERFEST '02* – To be held February 1 through February 2, 2002, using the multi-purpose room, gymnasium and auditorium. All associated custodial overtime costs above and beyond \$250.00 to be paid for by the Oradell Arts & Business Coalition, Inc.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. Use of School Facilities – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Walsh, that the Board of Education approve the following request for use of school facilities:
 - a. Hovnanian School PTO Play – To be held Saturday evening, December 1, 2001, in the auditorium, from 6:30 - 11:00 PM. All associated custodial fees, in addition to the charge for the use of the auditorium to be paid for by the Hovnanian School PTO.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. Vision 2000 Tile Project – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the installation of the Vision 2000 Tile Project (Oradell PTA) on the corridor wall, directly across from the multi-purpose room, first floor.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- D. CURRICULUM – Mrs. Norian, Chairperson
 1. Submission of IASA Application – It was moved by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the submission of the District's completed Improving America's Schools Act (IASA) application for the fiscal year 2002 to the New Jersey Department of Education.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. Approval of School-Level Objectives for the 2001/02 and 2002/03 School Year – It was moved by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the following School-level Objectives for the 2001/02 and 2002/03 school years:
 - a. Following classroom instruction in the content areas of language arts and social studies, specifically the origin of cultural literacy expressions, students in second grade will demonstrate the ability to interpret historical and present day meanings as evidenced by a group average score of 70% or higher on a locally developed assessment by June 2003.
 - b. Following classroom instruction in the areas of visual arts and technology, using artistic media and technology to introduce four styles of art within a particular unit of study, students in third grade will demonstrate their ability to recognize and create art work in a variety of artistic styles. Student achievement will be evidenced by a group average score of 70% or higher on a locally developed assessment by June 2003.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. Submission of Quality Assurance Annual Report (QAAR) SY 2000/2001 – It was moved by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept and approve the submission of the District's QAAR for the 2000/01 school year to the New Jersey Department of Education, Bergen County Office.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Mohre noted two changes to be made on the Report prior to submission to the State.

In response to a question from Mr. Walsh, Mr. Mohre stated that the Board would be informed of updates and feedback on achieving the goals of the QAAR.

Mr. Julis noted that the Oradell school district had better averages than the rest of New Jersey in several categories of the QAAR. Two measurements in which

Oradell exceeded the state norm are: more computers per student; and fewer students per classroom.

Additional discussion followed on the goals for second and third grade levels in the QAAR.

4. Approval of Fall/Winter In-Service Teacher Workshops – It was moved by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the delivery of the following fall/winter in-service teacher workshops for the purpose of providing continuing education in the area of technology:
 - Create A Web Quest (5 hour in-service course; Instructor – L. Pitingolo)
 - Marco Polo (5 hour in-service course; Instructor – L. Pitingolo)
 - Advanced ClarisWorks; Classroom Applications and Publications (5 hour in-service course; Instructor – Jennifer Lintner)
 - Tech Basics: ClarisWorks, E-mail, Internet and Network (5 hour in-service course; Instructor – Carol Richardi)
 - Software Review: Curriculum Integration (5 hour in-service course; Instructor – Carol Blakeslee and Jennifer Lintner)

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mrs. Norian asked if there would be rosters of attendance. Mr. Mohre responded that such records were kept and that an analysis of rosters would be used in the awarding of in-service credit where applicable.

Mrs. LaForgia inquired about the compensation of staff. Mr. Mohre explained the contractual amounts of stipends for teaching and attending the courses.

E. PUBLIC RELATIONS – Mrs. Loram, Chairperson

1. Adoption of Board of Education's Action Plans for 2001/2002 School Year – It was moved by Mrs. Landau, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, upon the recommendation of the Board President, that the Board adopt the action plans related to previously approved Board of Education's goals for the 2001/2002 school year.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mrs. Landau inquired about the timeline for action plans. Mrs. Shinevar noted that there were dates in the plans that may be amended if necessary.

F. POLICY/LAW – Mr. Julis, Chairperson

Mr. Julis led a discussion of the school policy #6115.1 “Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs.” He noted that the policy stated that no religious decorations are allowed to be displayed in the building; however the wording of that policy did allow for recognizing holidays and special events as “.....such recognition respects the rights and feelings of others....”

It was noted that the current policy was developed in 1992 after consultations with many parts of the community, including religious leaders. The question came up as to whether or not the Board wanted to review this policy and amend it in any way.

Mrs. Norian suggested looking at other school’s policies on this issue, and comparing them to Oradell’s version. Mr. Walsh stated that the Board should reconsider its policy as the world has changed in recent years.

Mrs. Shinevar asked if a motion should be made to ask the Policy committee to review our school’s policy. Mrs. LaForgia is in favor of re-assessing Oradell’s policy to include the celebration of all religious holidays.

Mrs. Landau noted that the existing policy had flexibility and room for interpretation. Mrs. Shinevar stated that a great deal of thought, discussion and planning went into the current wording of the policy. Mr. Mohre agreed with the Board president, and cautioned against making a quick decision on amending the verbiage for the coming holiday season.

MOTION A motion was made by Mrs. LaForgia, seconded by Mr. Walsh, that the Policy committee review the Policy 6115.1, “Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs.”

ROLL CALL

Motion not carried as the vote resulted in a 4-4 tie.

Mrs. LaForgia stated that she believes that by not reconsidering the policy, the children of Oradell would miss out on celebrating the differences of all religious holidays. Mrs. Landau said that she thought the policy already has flexibility in terms of expressing diversity. Mrs. Norian said that she believes that the policy should be reconsidered.

Mrs. Shinevar spoke again and reemphasized the broad role religious customs and practices play throughout our curriculum and that the original decision was reached after a diverse community based committee process. Additionally, she thanked everyone for expressing their views.

Mr. Julis scheduled a Policy Committee Meeting for November 5, at 9:00 a.m., and confirmed that it was a convenient date and time for committee member's schedules.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Feigenson asked about the web site. Mr. Mohre responded that in-house staff and a web designer are working towards improving the site.

Mr. Spadaccini inquired about the Public Safety Committee and traffic response. Mr. Mohre noted that he has asked borough officials for another meeting to revisit this issue. He also stated that part of the discussion involved adding a crosswalk in the middle of Church Street.

Mr. Spadaccini thanked the administrators for being outside at drop-off and pick-up of the children.

Mrs. Landau asked about the success of the PTA's special education petition, and Mrs. Shinevar responded that it had done well.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. LaForgia discussed the Town News coverage of the second grade. She also commented on the bill in favor of a \$40,000.00 minimum salary for teachers and asked that we take action against it.

MOTION It was moved by Mrs. LaForgia, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, that the Board of Education support the New Jersey School Boards Association's opposition to a bill (A-3425) in favor of a \$40,000.00 minimum salary for teachers.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Walsh suggested scheduling a Finance Committee Meeting and a Negotiations Meeting. Mrs. Shinevar asked members for convenient dates and times to meet. A tentative date was scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m. for a dinner Negotiations Meeting.

Mr. Spadaccini asked that the Superintendent check to see if trained teachers could administer medication. Mr. Julis noted that the committee is reviewing that policy.

XII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Moran inquired about the requirement for a nurse's aide. Mr. Mohre explained that we wanted a registered nurse based on advice received from the NJ Department of Education.

Mrs. Maturo commented that she wanted to point out that the recent changes in the country should have an impact on how teachers deal with the children. She asked that the Board reconsider its vote and review its policy on holidays and decorations.

Mrs. Kingslow also requested that the Board reconsider its policy on holidays. She also asked about the after school language program.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY)

There was no Closed Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mrs. Landau, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, that the meeting be adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,


John Esposito
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

