

ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649

REGULAR PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Public Business Meeting of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by President Feigenson.

II. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. O'Connor.

III. SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

The Sunshine Law Statement was read by Mr. Feigenson.

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 February 14, 2003.

IV. MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement was read by Mrs. Norian.

The Oradell Public School District, a safe and nurturing learning community dedicated to the ongoing pursuit of educational excellence, inspires life-long learning in its children through comprehensive, innovative curriculum and instruction designed to maximize student potential, develop responsible citizens, and promote respect for the uniqueness of all individuals.

Adopted by the Oradell Board of Education June 26, 2002

V. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Gallow, Mr. Julis, Mrs. LaForgia, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Norian, Mr. Feigenson

ABSENT: Mr. Looram

Also present were Mr. Jeffrey S. Mohre, Superintendent, Mr. John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and eleven members of the public (inclusive of 3 OPS teachers).

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

It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. Norian, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Business Meeting of Wednesday, December 18, 2002.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Public Work Session of Wednesday, January 8, 2003.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Business Meeting of Wednesday, January 22, 2003.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by roll call vote with two abstentions (Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Spadaccini).

Review of Minutes – February 12, 2002, Public Work Session Meeting

No comments were made from Board Members on the above minutes.

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

Mr. Mohre stated that the first meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) was held last night, February 25, 2003 in the IMC. He noted that about thirty people from the community, as well as Oradell staff members, were in attendance. He said that the group would have tours of the facility next Wednesday, March 5, at 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Additional meetings are

scheduled for Thursday, March 13, and Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the IMC.

The Superintendent explained that State standardized tests would be held for third and fourth graders this year. The ESPA test will no longer be administered, as a new Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (ASK) test has been instituted by the State.

Fire drills were held on January 29 and 30, both at approximately 8:40 a.m.

Discussion followed on the composition of the CAC, and it was decided that Mrs. LaForgia would become a part of the committee, and that other Board members could attend future meetings on a rotating basis if they were interested.

Mr. Feigenson talked about the positive, enthusiastic CAC meeting the previous night.

He then addressed a matter of concern regarding a letter written to the editor of the *Town News* by an Oradell Board member referencing the upcoming River Dell referendum. Mr. Feigenson was concerned that the community may mistakenly think that the sentiments in the letter represented the feelings and beliefs of the entire Board.

Mr. O'Connor cited information and guidelines for school board members that stated that all board representatives should take actions that were in the best interest of the students and not actions that reflected their personal beliefs.

Mrs. Norian referred to Board policy that provides guidance on Board member responsibilities and behavior.

Mrs. LaForgia commented that his opinion was as a resident of the community and that he did not sign the letter as a Board member.

Mr. Walsh talked about the CAC committee, and that he had been on a similar group in River Dell and made facilities presentations.

Discussion ensued regarding the role of a Board member. Following that discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Gallow, seconded by Mrs. Norian, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a member of the Oradell Board of Education recently published a Letter to the Editor in which he expressed his opinion on the upcoming River Dell Regional School District School Construction

Referendum; and

WHEREAS, the opinion expressed by that Board member is not shared by other members of the Oradell Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the public should not be left with the wrong impression as to the opinions of the members of this Board concerning that Referendum,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oradell Board of Education declares the support of its members for the River Dell Regional School District School Construction Referendum and encourages the voters for Oradell to support that Referendum as necessary and desirable for the education of our children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be distributed to the local news media for publication by way of response to the Letter to the Editor from one of our members.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by roll call vote with three no's (Mr. Julis, Mrs. LaForgia, Mr. Walsh.)

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION

A. BI-BOROUGH - Mrs. LaForgia, Chairperson

Mrs. LaForgia stated that the next Bi-Borough Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2003.

B. BUILDING & GROUNDS - Mr. Walsh, Chairperson

Mr. Walsh wants to hold a meeting and asked committee members to check their calendars.

C. CURRICULUM - Mrs. Norian, Chairperson

Mrs. Norian had no report.

1. Approval of Professional Development Plan – It was moved by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the Professional Development Plan for the 2003/04 School Year.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

D. FINANCE - Mr. Spadaccini, Chairperson

Mr. Mohre and Mr. Esposito provided an overview of the District's tentative 2003/04 Budget and answered questions from the Board on the same.

The Board had a lengthy discussion on the budget and its implications. Topics included the specific dollars behind each component, the tax impact on the community and the potential for a second question on the ballot.

Mr. O'Connor suggested having a second question on the ballot regarding the hiring of an assistant principal.

1. Payment of Invoices – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, that the invoices for the period of January 23, 2003 through February 26, 2003 be approved as follows:

Fund 11 (<i>General Current Expense</i>)	\$711,969.78
Fund 12 (<i>Capital Outlay</i>)	\$.00
Fund 20 (<i>Special Revenue Funds</i>)	\$ 15,290.25
Fund 40 (<i>Debt Service Fund</i>)	\$.00
Fund 55 (<i>Milk</i>)	\$ 503.44
Fund 50 (<i>Summer School</i>)	\$.00
TOTAL	\$727,763.47

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. Transfer of Funds – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Gallow, that the Board approve the following transfer of funds as noted:

**Meeting of February 26, 2003
Transfer of Funds***

#	From Account (Credit)	To Account (Debit)	Credit	Debit
1	11-000-100-562-00-0801	11-000-100-566-00-0801	\$17,446.00	\$17,446.00
2	11-000-100-562-00-0801	11-190-100-106-00-0000	\$3,863.52	\$3,863.52
3	11-000-262-300-00-0613	11-000-270-512-00-0501	\$2,466.00	\$2,466.00
4	11-000-230-331-00-0103	11-213-100-101-00-0222	\$1,190.00	\$1,190.00
5	11-000-223-110-00-0214	11-000-230-610-00-0104	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
6	11-000-100-562-00-0801	11-000-262-100-00-0614	\$845.02	\$845.02

7	11-000-223-110-00-0214	11-000-261-420-00-0607	\$821.09	\$821.09
8	11-000-223-110-00-0214	11-000-230-339-00-0106	\$775.00	\$775.00
9	11-000-222-600-00-0232	11-000-219-104-00-0222	\$700.00	\$700.00
10	11-000-223-110-00-0214	11-000-262-420-00-0609	\$650.00	\$650.00
11	11-000-223-110-00-0214	11-110-100-101-00-0229	\$435.14	\$435.14
12	11-000-223-110-00-0214	11-000-290-610-00-0100	\$175.22	\$175.22
13	11-000-223-110-00-0214	11-000-230-530-00-0604	\$150.00	\$150.00
14	11-000-222-600-00-0232	11-000-223-500-00-0217	\$20.00	\$20.00
Total			\$30,536.99	\$30,536.99

* Transaction Date For Above Transfers January 31, 2003

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. Tentative Budget for the 2003-2004 School Year – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Julis, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent in concert with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Oradell Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oradell Board of Education adopt the following tentative budget for the 2003/04 school year:

General Current Expense	\$7,554,388.00
Debt Service	\$ 777,683.00
State/Federal Aid	\$ 334,439.00
TOTAL	\$8,666,510.00

Spending Growth Limitation Adjustment (Enrollment) \$485,000.00

Tax Levy General Fund	\$7,025,852.00
Tax Levy – Debt Service	\$ 768,760.00
Tax Levy-Grand Total	\$7,794,612.00

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by roll call vote with one no (Mr. O'Connor).

4. Monthly Certifications – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. Norian, that the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the month end, January, 2003, be accepted as attached and, furthermore, that the Board certify that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3 that no major account or fund in the 2002/03 Budget has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:A:23-2.11(a) 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.

E. PERSONNEL - Mr. Julis, Chairperson

Mr. Julis had no report.

1. Retroactive Approval of Increase in Hours for Special Reading Instructor Services – It was moved by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board continue to secure the services of Mr. Bruce Cohen as a special reading instructor for the 2002/03 school year, retroactively to January 6, 2003, at a rate of \$80.00 per hour, not to exceed five hours per week.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. Retroactive Appointment of Long-Term Kindergarten Substitute – It was moved by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the appointment of Joan Bayley as long-term kindergarten substitute, retroactively to February 4, 2003, at a per diem rate of \$181.60.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. Retroactive Appointment of Long-Term Special Education Teacher Aide Substitute – It was moved by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the appointment of Patricia Hansen as long-term special education teacher aide, retroactively to February 4, 2003, at a per diem rate of \$80.00.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. Approval of Substitute Teacher(s) for the 2002/03 School Year – It was moved by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the following individual(s) as

substitute teacher(s) for the 2002/03 school year, at a per diem rate of \$75.00 which increases to \$80.00 per day after the 10th day of service during the 2002/03 school year:

Jill Quinn

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

5. Full-Time Night Custodian – It was moved by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Board appoint William Braun as full-time, night custodian, effective Monday, March 3, 2003 through June 30, 2003, on Step 8, as set forth on the Oradell Education Association's 2001/02 Custodial Salary Guide, at the annual salary of \$31,531.00* (inclusive of \$700.00 night time differential), to be paid in semi-monthly installments.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

6. Retroactive Approval of Disability Leave – It was moved by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve a retroactive disability leave utilizing any accumulated sick days for Cynthia Rendel. Said leave to commence on Tuesday, February 4, 2003 and terminate on or about April 28, 2003.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- F. POLICY – Mr. Gallow, Chairperson

Mr. Gallow had no report.

- G. PUBLIC RELATIONS - Mrs. Looram, Chairperson

In the absence of Mrs. Looram, Mr. Mohre told the Board that a draft version of the newsletter should be available soon.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. LaForgia asked about the letter from the PTA regarding its potential donation of money to purchase screens for the school. Mr. Spadaccini wanted to

send the issue back to the Building & Grounds committee for further review of the information.

Mr. O'Connor suggested screens were only needed for classroom windows. He was also concerned about the PTA/Board relationship and wanted to improve it in the future so that both groups would work together for the good of the school. Mrs. LaForgia stated that everyone was out for the betterment of the school and educating our children. She noted that the PTA and Board of Education always have had a good relationship.

Mrs. Norian was concerned that the additional cost of the bidding process, including the development of specifications, would exceed the amount of funding from the PTA. She wanted to ensure that the donation would cover every dollar cost associated with the project, now and in the future.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the potential donation for the screens. At this point, the Board decided to table any motion regarding the donations and asked Mr. Mohre and Mr. Esposito to create a resolution that addressed the concerns of the Board.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

XII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Moon asked about the Board policy related to non-resident students paying tuition to attend OPS. The Board and Mr. Mohre explained that Board policy states that if room is available, non-resident students may attend OPS if they pay the tuition rate established from the school budget and found in the State Report Card.

Mrs. Skroce clarified that the donation for Science materials was approved at the PTA meeting held in January 2003 and not last year.

Mrs. Shinevar stated she wants to work with the Board and administration on the screen donations and any future PTA donations. She also agreed with Mrs. LaForgia that the PTA and Board of Education always have had a great relationship and are working towards the same goal of educating our children. She also asked that the Strategic Planning committee not be delayed, and that perhaps there is a need for another administrator in OPS.

Other comments included the effect on teaching staff of any possible budget cuts, and how the District monitors the performance of its children on the standardized state tests.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, that the Board adjourn to Closed Session at 10:45 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.

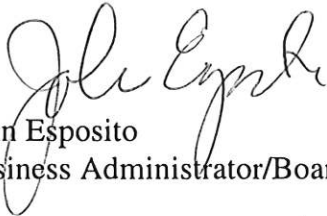
XIV. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. Norian, that the Closed Session of the meeting be adjourned at 11:15 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 SESSION OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2003**

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 10:52 p.m. by President Feigenson.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Gallow, Mr. Julis, Mrs. LaForgia, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Norian, Mr. Feigenson

ABSENT: Mrs. Loram

Also present were **Mr. Jeffrey S. Mohre, 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.

Mr. Feigenson gave the Board an update on the status of contract negotiations with the Oradell Education Association (OEA). The memorandum of agreement is not finalized, and the Board asked Mr. Mohre and Mr. Esposito to confer with attorney Malachi Kenney to clarify several issues.

The Board is waiting for proposed salary guides from the OEA.

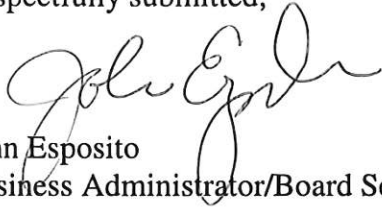
III. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. Norian, that the Closed Session of the meeting be adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



John Esposito
Business Administrator/Board Secretary