

ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649

REGULAR PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES  
JANUARY 22, 2003

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Public Business Meeting of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 8:03 p.m. by President Feigenson.

**II. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Walsh.

**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 January 17, 2003.

**IV. MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission Statement was read by Mrs. LaForgia.

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, Mrs. Looram, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Norian, Mr. Feigenson

ABSENT: Mr. O'Connor

Also present were Mr. Jeffrey S. Mohre, Superintendent, Mr. John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and approximately 25 members of the community.

## **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. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Business Meeting of Wednesday, November 20, 2002.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote/**

Review of Minutes – December 18, 2002, Regular Public Business Meeting  
Review of Minutes – January 8, 2003, Public Work Session

There were no comments from Board Members on these Minutes.

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

The Superintendent introduced four Oradell students who won the Lion's Club Peace Poster contest. He congratulated them, and thanked Mrs. Boccanfuso for her work with the students. Mr. Mohre then introduced Mr. Rubin Camins of the Oradell Lion's Club, who presented an award to each of the students.

Mr. Feigenson called a brief recess at 8:15 pm to congratulate the children. The meeting resumed at 8:25 pm.

The Superintendent talked about the monitoring of the District done by the NJ Department of education last November. He noted that the report was favorable and the District was certified for a period of 7 years. Mr. Mohre thanked the administration for their efforts in preparing for the monitoring process.

The Superintendent then addressed the issue of projected enrollment increases and facility inefficiencies in Oradell. He stated that a committee would be formed, comprised of a cross-section of community members, to explore potential capital improvements to the building. Communications will be sent to the community to invite participation on the committee.

Mr. Feigenson congratulated students and staff on the recent Spelling Bee and Concert. He thanked Ms. Tice and Ms. Richardi for their help with the concert.

## IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION

### A. BI-BOROUGH - Mrs. LaForgia, Chairperson

Mrs. LaForgia reviewed the minutes of a meeting held January 9. The focus of the meeting was curriculum articulation, specifically in World Languages, Social studies and ESL. It was also noted that there would be one question on the ballot for the River Dell referendum. Finally, Sixth Grade Parents Night and the Master Calendar of Events were also discussed at the meeting. The next session is scheduled for March 20.

### B. BUILDING & GROUNDS - Mr. Walsh, Chairperson

Mr. Walsh read from the notes of a meeting held January 16 in the Board office. Topics discussed included air quality, roof issues and outside railings. Discussion ensued regarding the PTA's potential gift of screens for windows in the school. Mrs. LaForgia read aloud the Board policy on gifts. It was decided that the Board would tell the PTA that it would accept screens provided that the project be funded in full from the point of implementation; and that every window in the building would be screened.

### C. CURRICULUM - Mrs. Norian, Chairperson

Mrs. Norian stated that a meeting was set for Friday, January 24.

### D. FINANCE - Mr. Spadaccini, Chairperson

Mr. Spadaccini provided an overview of the meeting held January 15. He talked about the process and timeline for completing and submitting the 2003/04 budget to the State.

All motions were introduced at one time by Mr. Spadaccini and seconded by Mrs. LaForgia.

1. Monthly Certifications – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Financial Reports of the Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Moneys for the month end, December, 2002, 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:A23-2.11(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.**

2. Payment of Invoices – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the invoices for the period of December 19, 2002 through January 22, 2003 be approved as follows:

Fund 11 ( <i>General Current Expense</i> )	\$598,673.59
Fund 12 ( <i>Capital Outlay</i> )	\$ .00
Fund 20 ( <i>Special Revenue Funds</i> )	\$ 42,509.28
Fund 40 ( <i>Debt Service Fund</i> )	\$ .00
Fund 55 ( <i>Milk</i> )	\$ 641.15
Fund 50 ( <i>Summer School</i> )	\$ .00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$641,824.02</b>

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

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

**Meeting of January 22, 2003  
Transfer of Funds\***

#	From Account (Credit)	To Account (Debit)	Credit	Debit
1	11-000-262-620-00-0601	11-000-216-320-00-0000	\$4,234.42	\$4,234.42
2	11-000-213-300-00-0224	11-000-261-420-00-0607	\$3,825.00	\$3,825.00
3	11-000-230-590-00-0807	11-000-216-320-00-0000	\$3,400.00	\$3,400.00
4	11-000-230-440-00-0000	11-213-100-101-00-0222	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
5	11-000-230-530-00-0604	11-000-262-100-00-0614	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
6	11-000-223-110-00-0214	11-190-100-106-00-0000	\$1,254.47	\$1,254.47
7	11-000-230-590-00-0807	11-000-262-100-00-0614	\$1,253.52	\$1,253.52
8	11-000-230-580-00-0104	11-000-262-100-00-0614	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
9	12-000-290-732-00-0000	11-000-230-590-00-0807	\$938.52	\$938.52
10	11-000-230-100-00-0114	11-000-262-420-00-0606	\$595.00	\$595.00
11	11-000-216-101-00-0222	11-110-100-101-00-0220	\$325.00	\$325.00
12	11-000-219-580-00-0202	11-000-219-104-00-0222	\$320.00	\$320.00
13	11-000-223-580-00-0221	11-000-213-600-00-0223	\$181.23	\$181.23
14	11-000-223-580-00-0221	11-000-230-610-00-0104	\$159.00	\$159.00
15	11-000-219-580-00-0202	11-000-223-500-00-0217	\$91.00	\$91.00
16	11-000-219-580-00-0202	11-000-262-800-00-0607	\$75.00	\$75.00
17	11-000-230-530-00-0604	11-213-100-101-00-0222	\$50.00	\$50.00
18	Unreserved Balance	11-000-100-562-00-0801	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00
19	11-000-262-620-00-0601	11-000-100-562-00-0801	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
20	11-190-100-440-00-0000	11-000-100-562-00-0801	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
21	11-000-291-280-00-0104	11-000-100-562-00-0801	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
22	11-000-291-260-00-0000	11-000-100-562-00-0801	\$1,675.00	\$1,675.00
23	11-213-100-610-00-0815	11-000-100-562-00-0801	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
24	11-401-100-100-00-0200	11-000-100-562-00-0801	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$62,577.16</b>	<b>\$62,577.16</b>

\* Transaction Date For Above Transfers December 20, 2002

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

- 4. Special Education 2002/2003 School Year Tuition Contract(s) – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Board approve in accord with Chapter 46, Title 18A, NJ Statutes, tuition to be paid for the student(s) listed below to attend the school(s) indicated for the period January 13, 2003 through June, 2003, at the tuition costs indicated:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
#18	The Forum School	\$17,446.00

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

- 5. Acceptance of FY'03 Funding Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-B) Funds – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, in concert with the Director of Special Services, that the Board approve the receipt of the following FY'03 funding awards:

IDEA – Basic	\$119,755.00
IDEA – Preschool	\$ 12,847.00

Furthermore, the Board hereby authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to complete and sign all pertinent documentation for receipt of the aforementioned funding allocations and submit the same to the State Department of Education, Bergen County Office.

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

- 6. Application to the Local Finance Board Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61 et seq. for its Approval of the Issuance of Refunding Bonds to Retire the Board's Unfounded Early Retirement Incentive Program Liabilities – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the Board of Education make application to the Local Finance Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61.1 for its approval of the issuance of refunding bonds to retire the Board's unfounded Early Retirement Incentive Program liabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education believes:

- (a) it is in the public interest to accomplish such purpose;
- (b) said purpose or improvements are for the health, wealth, convenience or betterment of the inhabitants of the school district;
- (c) the amounts to be expended for said purpose or improvements are not unreasonable or exorbitant;
- (d) the proposal is an efficient and feasible means of providing services for the needs of the inhabitants of the school district and will not create an undue financial burden to be placed upon the school district;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education as follows:

Section 1. The application of the Local Finance Board is hereby approved, and the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP, Board Auditor along with representatives of the firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, PA are hereby authorized to prepare such application and to represent the Board of Education in matters pertaining thereto.

Section 2. The Secretary of the Board is hereby directed to prepare and file a copy of the proposed maturity schedule with the Local Finance Board as part of such application.

Section 3. The Local Finance Board is hereby respectfully requested to consider such application and to record its findings, recommendations and/or approvals as provided by the applicable New Jersey Statute.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

- 7. Application for Extraordinary Aid, FY 02/03 – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education submit to the NJ Department of Education an Application for Extraordinary Aid in accordance with Section 19 (b.) of P.L. 1996, Chapter 138 “Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996”, N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-19 (b.).

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

8. Approval of Transfer – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, in concert with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Oradell Board of Education approve the following transfer within the FY'03 Funding Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA – B/Basic):

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
20-251-400-732-00-0410	20-251-100-610-00-0410	\$1,120.00
20-251-200-330-00-0410	20-251-100-320-00-0410	\$1,039.00
20-251-200-500-00-0410	20-251-200-320-00-0410	\$4,289.00
20-251-200-500-00-0410	20-151-100-610-00-0410	\$1,055.00

### ROLL CALL

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

9. Annual School Election – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, that the following Election and Budget Timetable be approved as follows:

### 2003 ELECTION AND BUDGET TIMETABLE ORADELL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Appointment of Election Workers	Responsibility of County Bd. of Elections
Adoption of Tentative 2003/04 Budget	Wed., Feb. 26, 2003, 8:00PM (Business Mtg.)
Advertise Military/Civilian Absentee Voting Machines	Responsibility of Co. Clerk-Co. Elections Mon., Feb. 24, 2003
Deadline for Filing Nominating Petitions	Mon., Feb. 24, 2003 – 4:00 PM
Submission of Tentative 2003/04 Budget to Co. Supt.	Mon., March 3, 2003 – County Office
Deliver Advertised Budget to Newspaper (Must be 10 days before publication)	Sat., March 15, 2003
Last Day to File Objections to Candidates' Petitions	Mon., March 3, 2003
Last Day for Candidates to Withdraw/Amend Defective Petitions	Mon., March 3, 2003
Drawing for Position on Ballot (Bd. Conference Room)	Wed., March 5, 2003 – 2:00 PM
Certify Results to County Clerk (last day)	Thurs., March 6, 2003 – 10:00 AM
Advertise Public Hearing on Budget	Thurs., March 20, 2003
Last Day Persons may Register to Vote for Election (29 days preceding school election)	Mon., March 17, 2003



Public Budget Hearing & Adoption of Proposed 2003/04 School Budget	Wed., March 26, 2003 – 8:00 PM (Business Mtg.)
Proposition Election Copies to County Clerk	Fri., March 28, 2003
Advertise Election in Newspaper (County Board of Election)	Mon., February 24, 2003
Last Day to Apply in Person to County Clerk's Office for Civilian Absentee Ballots	Mon., April 14, 2003 Up to 3:00 PM
<u>ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION</u>	Tues., April 15, 2003 2:00PM – 9:00 PM
<u>ANNUAL RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING</u>	Wed., April 30, 2003 – 8:00 PM (Special Meeting)

## ROLL CALL

### Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

10. Resolution in Support of Full Funding of State Aid for Education – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the following resolution in support of full funding of State aid for education be adopted:

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey school boards have an obligation to provide all students a thorough and efficient education; and

**WHEREAS**, The Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act (CEIFA) of 1996 established for the first time a substantive definition of the constitutional guarantee of a thorough and efficient system of education through the establishment of Core Curriculum Content Standards; and

**WHEREAS**, CEIFA guarantees an appropriate level of funding to ensure that each child has the opportunity to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards; and

**WHEREAS**, Freezing state aid for the 2002-03 fiscal year contradicted CEIFA and the spirit of the state mandate/state pay amendment to the state Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, Flat funding forced many school districts to lay off teachers and support personnel, end basic skills and enrichment programs, eliminate extracurricular and athletic activities, and/or increase class sizes to compensate for the State's failure to provide sufficient aid; and



**WHEREAS**, Even after making cuts, hundreds of school districts still had to raise taxes to deal with rising enrollments and fixed costs that are beyond their control, such as health and insurance benefits, out-of-district special education placements, and utility bills; and

**WHEREAS**, More than a third of all school budgets were defeated by the voters last year, the largest rejection rate since 1994; and

**WHEREAS**, Thousands of homeowners wound up paying hundreds of dollars more in property taxes, which surged an average of 7 percent, the biggest one-year jump since 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, Any decision to freeze state aid during the 2003-04 fiscal year or to only provide an increase that matches the Consumer Price Index (CPI) would be calamitous for public school students, property taxpayers and local boards of education, which have already seen their expenses exceed the CPI; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Oradell Board of Education urges Governor James E. McGreevey and the state Legislature to fully fund CEIFA so that school districts have resources they need to provide their students a thorough and efficient education, which is protected by the state Constitution; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor, all legislators representing the 39<sup>th</sup> district, and to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

## **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

11. Acceptance of Mini Grant Funds – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the acceptance of mini grant funds from the Oradell Kids Foundation, Inc. in the amounts listed:

▪ Kindergarten – Earth Day	\$ 450.00
▪ Grade 1 – Funny Bones	\$ 750.00
▪ Grade 6 – Holocaust Survivor	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,700.00

## **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

12. Acceptance of PTA Mini Grant Funds – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the acceptance of mini grant funds from the Parent Teacher’s Association, in the amounts listed:

▪ Preschool – Multi-Sensory Materials	\$100.00
▪ Kindergarten – Outragehiss Pets (in the Spring)	\$500.00
▪ Grade 1 – Rick Mikula’s Live Program On Butterflies (Late Spring)	T.B.D.
▪ Grade 2 – Books	\$500.00
▪ Grade 3 – Magician Kenny Brown (Gr.3 still entitled to remaining \$150 of Grant)	\$350.00
▪ Grade 4 – Lenape Traveling Museum Show	\$500.00
▪ Grade 5 – Green Meadows Trip (in May)	\$500.00

### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

#### **E. PERSONNEL - Mr. Julis, Chairperson**

1. Approval of Substitute Teacher – It was moved by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve James V. Leon, as a substitute teacher for the 2002/03 school year, at a per diem rate of \$75.00 which increases to \$80.00 per day after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of service during he 2002/03 school year:

### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by roll call vote with one no (Mrs. Looram) and one abstention (Mr. Spadaccini).**

2. Resignation of Night Custodian – It was moved by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept with regret, the resignation of Anton Bernhard, effective at the end of the work day Friday, February 7, 2003.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

3. Approval of Student Teacher – It was moved by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve Lisa Japko, a student of Ramapo College of New Jersey, to perform her student teaching assignment with Mrs. Joan Arfsten, cooperating teacher, commencing Monday, January 27, 2003 and concluding on Friday, May 16, 2003.

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

F. POLICY – Mr. Gallow, Chairperson

Mr. Gallow read the two policies to be adopted.

1. Adoption of Policies – It was moved by Mr. Gallow, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board adopt the following policies (second reading):

#4231/4231.1 - Staff Development; Inservice  
Education/Visitation/Conferences

#5020 - Role of Parents/Guardians

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

G. PUBLIC RELATIONS - Mrs. Looram, Chairperson

Mrs. Looram talked about the meeting held January 15. Topics on the agenda included:

- Board agenda and highlights posted on the Website
- Update on Science Team Website development
- Winter edition of the “Eye on OPS”
- Status of Key Communicators Network
- Other issues, such as Website weather announcements

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

The Action Item List was reviewed, and no changes were made.

Mrs. LaForgia complimented the children involved in the Winter Concert. Mrs. Looram suggested a Board Member liaison to the Town Council.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business.

**XII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mrs. Blakeslee talked about having children help to educate parents on proper actions during drop-offs and pick-ups. Mr. Mohre suggested that the school engage the Oradell Police Department in an education effort. He will pursue this initiative with Mr. Ryan.

Mrs. Landau asked about the potential screen installation. Mrs. Skroce and Mrs. Shinevar also commented on this issue.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. Norian, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.**

Respectfully submitted,



John Esposito  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary