

ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649

PUBLIC WORK SESSION – MARCH 12, 2003

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Work Session of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 8:02 p.m. by President Feigenson.

II. FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mr. Spadaccini.

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 March 7, 2003.

IV. MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement was read by Mr. Walsh.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Gallow, Mrs. Looram

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

VI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mrs. Shinevar, PTA president, clarified their donation of window screens to the Board of Education. She stated that the donation of \$38,500 was for screens on classroom windows only. She also said that the PTA wants to work with the Board and thanked members for their efforts.

Mrs. Belthoff spoke of her own allergy to bees, and noted that some children may be allergic and not have medication handy on the playground.

Mrs. Greer, OPS teacher, stated that screens would help keep bees out of the classrooms.

Mrs. Rush, a teacher on leave of absence from OPS, gave a short speech thanking staff, parents, children and the administration for all they did during her stay here. She said that she was resigning, but would always have good memories of her time in this school.

VII. MINUTES

Review of Minutes – February 26, 2003, Regular Public Business Meeting

Mr. Esposito reviewed and discussed three changes he had made to the Minutes at the request of Mrs. LaForgia. The Board agreed with the revisions and asked that the Minutes be placed on the next meeting's agenda for approval.

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

Mr. Mohre invited everyone to the Student Art Show to be held on Election Day, April 15, 2003. He encouraged all to visit and to vote.

The Superintendent said that several budget presentations are scheduled, including March 26 at the Board meeting, and April 1 at the PTA meeting. Mr. Mohre and Mr. Esposito will also be presenting to the Mayor & Council, the Rotary Club and the District's staff.

Parent conferences will be held March 18, 29 and 20, so single sessions will be held on those days.

Fire drills were held February 25 and 27, both at 8:40 a.m.

The Citizen's Advisory Committee for School Facilities will meet tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in the IMC. He noted that last week, two tours of the building were conducted for all committee members.

A Parent Workshop on literacy in the primary grades will be held March 27 from

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the auditorium and Mr. Mohre invited all to attend.

The next edition of *Eye on OPS* should be mailed out to homes the end of next week.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION

A. BI-BOROUGH – Mrs. LaForgia, Chairperson

Mrs. LaForgia informed those present that the next Bi-Borough committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cherry Hill School.

B. BUILDING & GROUNDS – Mr. Walsh, Chairperson

1. Approval of Receipt of PTA Donation for Window Screens – It was moved by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Julis, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept a donation of \$38,500.00 from the PTA to install screens in every single and double-hung window in the facility that may be open while school is in session. Acceptance of this donation is wholly contingent upon the fact that the screens must be installed on all windows at one time; and that the PTA fully and completely pays the cost of the entire project from start to finish, including but not limited to: bidding specifications, engineering fees, advertising costs and the manufacturing and installation of the screens. Furthermore, the Board authorizes the Business Administrator to seek out an engineer to create design specifications, and to move forward with the bidding process as prescribed by law.

Mr. Walsh talked about the history of the screen donation from the PTA. After the motion was introduced, the Board engaged in a lengthy discussion about the screens.

Mrs. LaForgia asked whether the screens would be half or full screens, and she stated her preference for full screens. Mrs. LaForgia was also pleased that the window stops would remain in place.

Mr. O'Connor reviewed the previous discussions about the donation, and stated that he believed all windows in the building would be screened.

Mr. Feigenson asked Mrs. Shinevar, PTA president, to clarify the scope of the potential donation. She stated that her estimate was for classroom windows only, as that was as much as the group could pay for now. They wanted to make sure they had enough money to do the job correctly.

Mrs. Skroce also clarified the PTA gift.

Mr. O'Connor said that screens would also be needed for windows in the MPR, the gym and the auditorium.

Following this discussion, the Board voted on the resolution.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by roll call vote with one no (Mrs. LaForgia).

2. Approval of Receipt of PTA Donation for Science – It was moved by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. O'Connor, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept a donation of \$5,022.00 from the PTA to support the District's science initiative.

Following discussion of the above resolution it was withdrawn and the following revised motion was made:

REVISED MOTION

A Motion was made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. LaForgia, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept a donation \$5,022.00 from the PTA to support the District's science initiative, specifically, for the purchase of science materials.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by roll call vote with one no (Mr. Walsh).

C. CURRICULUM - Mrs. Norian, Chairperson

1. Retroactive Approval of Winter/Spring In-Service Teacher Workshops – It was moved by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the delivery of the following winter/spring in-service teacher workshops commencing March 11, 2003, for the purpose of providing continuing education in the area of technology:
 - Creating Presentations with Apple Works Slide Show; Instructor – Lisa Pitingolo
 - Using the Internet to Support Author Studies; Instructor – Carol Blakeslee
 - Writing Discourse Modes and the Internet Connection; Instructor – Elinor Goeller

- Kidspiration and Inspiration: Inspiring L.A. Software Applications;
Instructor – Angela Connelly (Northern Valley Schools)

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

D. FINANCE – Mr. Spadaccini, Chairperson

1. Approval of School Bond Ordinance in Connection Therewith Issue Refunding School Bonds to Refinance the Present Value of Its Pension Liabilities – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education of the Borough of Oradell in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (the “Board” when referring to the governing body and the “School District” when referring to the territorial boundaries governed by the Board), adopted an early retirement incentive program for eligible employees covered by the Teachers’ Pension and Annuity Fund (“TPAF”) and the Public Employees’ Retirement System (“PERS”); and

WHEREAS, as a result of the employees’ early retirements, the Board created unfunded accrued liabilities to both the TPAF and the PERS (collectively, the “Pension Liability”) payable annually out of the Board’s general fund; and

WHEREAS, the Early Retirement Refinancing Act, P.L. 2002, c.42 permits school districts to issue refunding bonds to fund the cost of retiring the present value of the unfunded accrued liability due and owing for early retirement incentive benefits; and

WHEREAS, the present value of the Board’s Pension Liability has been established by the New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits; and

WHEREAS, in efforts to realize taxpayer savings, the Board now desires to adopt and enact a refunding school bond ordinance (the “Refunding School Bond Ordinance”) authorizing the issuance of the Refunding School Bonds (Pension Series 2003) in an aggregate principal amount of not exceeding \$270,000, the net proceeds of which shall be used to pay the present value of the Pension Liability and to pay the costs of issuance of the Refunding School Bonds; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61 through 62, the Board has made application to the Local Finance Board, in the Division of Local Government Services, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (the "LFB") for its consent to adopt and enact the Refunding School Bond Ordinance and to issue the Refunding School Bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, as follows:

SECTION 1. The Refunding School Bond Ordinance attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby approved. Bond Counsel, on behalf of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, is hereby authorized to publish the required notice of pending ordinance regarding the Refunding School Bond Ordinance in The Record, in the form and at the time required by N.J.S.A. 18A:24-61.4.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

E. PERSONNEL - Mr. Julis, Chairperson

1. Resignation of Teacher – 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 Dayle Webber, effective July 1, 2003. (This teacher was approved a leave of absence without pay at the Regular Public Business Meeting of September 25, 2002. Said leave commenced October 14, 2002 and concludes on June 30, 2003.)

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. Resignation of Teacher – 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 Christine Rush, effective July 1, 2003. (This teacher was approved an extension of child rearing leave at the Regular Public Business Meeting of March 26, 2002. Said leave concludes June 30, 2003.)

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

3. Retroactive Approval of Student Teacher – It was moved by Mr. Julis, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve John Schmidt, a student of Nyack College, to perform his student teaching assignment with Ms. Carol Richardi, cooperating teacher, commencing Monday, March 10, 2003 and concluding on Friday, May 2, 2003.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

F. POLICY - Mr. Gallow, Chairperson

In the absence of Mr. Gallo no report was given.

G. PUBLIC RELATIONS - Mrs. Looram, Chairperson

In the absence of Mrs. Looram, Mr. Mohre noted that the next *Eye on OPS* should be ready by the end of next week. The Superintendent also informed all present that forthcoming Board meeting Agendas and meeting highlights are now posted on the school web site.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Norian said that the River Dell referendum of the previous day had been defeated. She noted that it had passed in River Edge, but defeated in Oradell.

Mrs. LaForgia asked about an upcoming Technology seminar and talked about a recent article in *School Board Notes* that addressed financing of education in New Jersey.

The Board then talked about the potential for putting a second question on the April ballot for a Vice-Principal for the school. Mr. Mohre provided an overview of what he would be looking for in an individual for this position. He also talked about the role and responsibilities of this staff member. Much discussion ensued regarding the topic of a vice-principal.

Mrs. LaForgia suggested that having a second question could affect the success of the base budget itself.

By a show of hands, the Board decided not to put a second question on the ballot.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business discussed.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session.

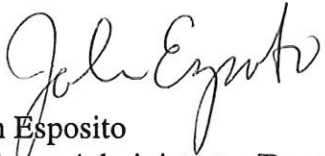
XIII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Julis, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



John Esposito
Business Administrator/Board Secretary