

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

**PUBLIC WORK SESSION – JANUARY 14, 2004**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Work Session of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 8:04 p.m. by President Feigenson.

**II. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Kramer.

**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 9, 2004.

**IV. MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission Statement was read by Mr. Spadaccini.

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, Mr. Kramer, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Norian, Mr. Feigenson

ABSENT: Dr. Westlake

Also present were Mr. Jeffrey S. Mohre, Superintendent, Mr. John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, four faculty members, ten fifth graders and approximately 20 parents.

**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**

There were no Minutes to be approved at this time.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Review of Minutes – Public Work Session Meeting of Wednesday, December 10, 2003 and the Closed Session held after that meeting.

Review of Minutes – Special Public Meeting of Wednesday, December 17, 2003, which was for the sole purpose of moving into Closed Session to discuss personnel.

Review of Minutes – Regular Public Business Meeting of Wednesday, December 17, 2003, and the Closed Session held after that meeting.

There were no comments from Board Members on the above Minutes for review.

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

Mr. Mohre spoke about the fifth grade trip to the Sharpe Reservation and commented that the Board, parents and teachers all support this excellent program. He thanked Mrs. McGill for coordinating, planning and supervising the trip and introduced her to everyone in attendance.

Mrs. McGill commended the children who volunteered to give a presentation tonight. She introduced each student and told the audience what his/her topic was.

Following the presentations, Mr. Feigenson called for a brief recess at 8:40 p.m., and a reception was given for the students.

Mr. Feigenson called the meeting back to order at 8:52 p.m.

The Superintendent talked about the following items:

- The Board of Education has taken action and is moving towards a referendum for September 28, 2004 to accommodate enrollment growth and add much-needed instructional space. The plan developed will focus

on recapturing existing space via renovation, which would maximize Oradell's funding grant from the State. He will continue to provide updates at each Board meeting regarding the process. Mr. Koch, architect, may have revised plans to review at the January 28 meeting

- If there's no school tomorrow, due to inclement weather, the planned musical concert will be postponed
- Reached out to the Mayor and Council regarding traffic safety, and they are available Tuesday, February 3, 2004, from 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall for a meeting on this issue. Mr. O'Connor suggested developing an agenda for the next meeting. Discussion ensued on traffic issues, parent communications and police enforcement.
- The Joint Advisory Committee is scheduled to meeting next Thursday, January 22, 2004 at 3:15 p.m. in the Board Conference Room.
- There was an article in The Record, entitled "Fat in Budget," that mentioned one-building districts, including Oradell. Mr. Mohre offered his reaction to the article.

Mr. Feigenson, Board President, shared the following:

- Talked about the Record article and noted that our district is involved in "shared services" and would continue to look for ways to save money.
- Thanked Mr. McCue and the Mayor and Council for the teacher's parking spaces and signs.
- Mr. Feigenson, Mrs. Norian and Mr. Mohre attended a seminar on issues such as referendum, planning, construction, etc. as well as school boards' roles in personnel matters
- Election applications are available in the Board Office

Mr. Feigenson called for a consent agenda.

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION**

### ***A. BI-BOROUGH – Dr. Westlake, Chairperson***

A meeting summary should be available at the next Board meeting. Mrs. Norian noted that River Edge is "exploring" the potential of regionalization.

### ***B. BUILDING & GROUNDS – Mr. O'Connor, Chairperson***

No report was given.

### ***C. CURRICULUM – Mrs. Norian, Chairperson***

Mrs. Norian talked about the meeting held on December 12, 2003. Topics included the following:

- Curriculum revision
- Assessment Committee
- Balanced literacy
- Differentiated instruction
- Technology Integration In-Service Workshop Series
- NJ Assessment of Skills & Knowledge (ASK)

1. Approval of Professional Development Workshops for the 2003/04 School Year – It was moved by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the implementation of the following professional development workshops:

- a. *Webquest*: January 12, 19 and February 2, 2004, 3:30 –5:15 p.m. (Workshop Leaders: Corinne Lynch and Tracey Killeen)
- b. *Technology Management in the Intermediate Classroom/4-6*: February 3, 10, 24, 2004, 3:30 -5:15 p.m. (Workshop Leader: Elinor Goeller)
- c. *Managing the Classroom Technology Center/K-3*: March 11, 25 and April 1, 2004 3:30 -5:15 p.m. (Workshop Leader: Roberta Jacobs)
- d. *Using the Internet to Support Language Arts Instruction*: March 1, 8, 15, 2004, 3:30 -5:15 p.m. (Workshop Leader: Lisa Pitingolo)
- e. *Balanced Literacy: Effective Strategies for the Primary Classroom*:  
Session #1 - Word Work, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2004, 3:30 - 5:15 p.m.;  
Session #2 - Use of Big Books to Develop Comprehension Strategies, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2004, 3:30 - 5:15 p.m.; Session #3 - Site Visit, Wednesday, March 3, 2004, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. (Workshop Leaders: Amy B. Gamarello and Allison Leonard)

Workshop leaders will receive compensation per negotiated agreements.

## **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by roll call vote with one abstention (Mr. O'Connor).**

### ***D. FINANCE – Mr. Spadaccini, Chairperson***

Mr. Esposito reviewed the budget process and gave an overview of State funding.

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

Mr. Julis talked about an exit interview that was conducted recently, and he and Mr. Mohre will share the results of that session with the Board.

Mr. Mohre stated that he and Mr. Ryan were working on defining the role and functions for a potential 'assistant administrator,' and will provide it to the Board.

once it is completed. A meeting of the committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2004 at 8:00 in the Board Conference room.

1. Approval of Tech Support/Maintenance Help – It was moved by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve Brian Lynch to perform technology/network upgrades at a rate of \$12.00 per hour not to exceed 15 hours for the month of January, 2004.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by roll call vote with one abstention (Mr. O'Connor).**

#### ***F. POLICY – Mr. Gallow, Chairperson***

A meeting was set for Tuesday, February 3, 2004 at 7:30 in the Board Conference room

1. Approval of Policy – It was moved by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the following policy for second reading:

#4112.8 – Nepotism

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by roll call vote with one abstention (Mr. O'Connor).**

#### ***G. PUBLIC RELATIONS – Mr. Walsh, Chairperson***

Mr. Mohre noted that the committee was successful in identifying new members as Key Communicators for the district. A complete list will be forwarded to all Board members.

#### **X. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Feigenson was displeased with the tone/content of Mr. Pallotta's letter regarding the refinishing of the gym floor. Mr. O'Connor stated that he spoke with the Oradell league, which agreed that the letter was inappropriate and stated that they would pay for the floor work.

A discussion took place concerning whether or not the District should have the school lockers painted due to the fact that the estimates obtained are at a cost of approximately \$5000 - \$7000.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

**XII. CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Kramer, that the Board adjourn to Closed Session at 9:40 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.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, that the Closed Session of the meeting be adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
John Esposito  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator

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ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649**

**CLOSED PUBLIC WORK SESSION – JANUARY 14, 2004  
MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Closed Public Work Session of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 9:45 p.m. by President Feigenson.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Dr. Westlake

Also present were Mr. Jeffrey 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. Mohre and Mr. Esposito provided the Board with an update regarding custodian J.R.'s personnel issue. A discussion ensued regarding a counter-proposal, which consists of a two month package with benefits. The general consensus of the Board was to consider a two to three month proposal, if possible and to get an immediate (24 hr.) response from J.R. and/or his attorney.

Mr. Mohre shared information pertaining to a grievance filed by the Oradell Education Association regarding denial of a personal day.

Mr. Mohre apprised the Board of a medical situation.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, 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