

ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649

PUBLIC WORK SESSION – OCTOBER 13, 2004

MINUTES

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Public Work Session of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 8:20 p.m. by President Feigenson.

**II. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Feigenson.

**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 October 8, 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. Kramer, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Walsh, Dr. Westlake (8:35 p.m.), Mrs. Norian, Mr. Feigenson

ABSENT: Mr. Halligan, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Walsh (Mr. Walsh was asked to attend the Dollars & Sense Forum)

Also present were Mr. Jeffrey S. Mohre, Superintendent, Mr. John Esposito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, three members of the community, and Ms. Vlasidis (OEA representative).

**VI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

There were no comments at this time.

**VII. MINUTES**

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Regular Public Business Meeting of Wednesday, September 29, 2004.

There were no comments from Board Members on these Minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Special Public Business Meeting of Wednesday, August 11, 2004 and the Closed Session following that meeting with the changes as noted.

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by roll call vote with two abstentions (Mr. Feigenson and Mr. Gallow).**

It was moved by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular Public Business Meeting of Wednesday, August 25, 2004.

**ROLL CALL**

**Motion carried by roll call vote with one abstention (Mr. Feigenson).**

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

Mr. Mohre reported on the success of the school's October 11<sup>th</sup> professional development day program. He shared the following information:

- Dr. Patrice Roberts worked with the K-3 and the 4-6 staff on developing learning activities to promote differentiating instruction in our grade level classrooms.
- Dr. Allan DeFina (poet, professor, staff developer and author) presented a workshop on poetry, sharing with teachers the importance of poetry as part of a balanced literacy framework.
- Mrs. Frangis and Miss Pitingolo worked with the 4-6 grade teachers on the implementation of Qualitative Reading Inventories, which are individual student assessments that pinpoint students' instructional reading levels.

- Ms. Confrancisco delivered a presentation on bullying, and Dr. John worked with a select group of teachers on transforming the difficult child.

Mr. Mohre reported that the Oradell Fire Department was present in early October as part of the school's Fire Prevention week activities. He extended the school's appreciation to Oradell's firefighters for teaching OPS students about fire safety.

Mr. Mohre shared that, relative to the recently approved referendum, a pre-construction "kick-off" meeting with project professionals is scheduled for Friday at 1:00 p.m. and that he would be providing a meeting summary to the entire Board.

The Board President thanked the Oradell Republican's Club for allowing them to talk about the referendum at the club's meeting. He stated that he had received positive feedback from senior members of the community, and that Mr. Mohre had done an excellent job in presenting the information.

Mr. Feigenson then talked about a seminar he attended on law S-1701. He noted that Oradell should work with other districts in an effort to overturn this legislation, which could have disastrous effects on schools. He urged everyone to attend a meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in Fort Lee that will address this law. The president made note that he had asked Mr. Walsh to attend a meeting on this subject tonight, and that is why Mr. Walsh was absent from the Board session this evening.

Mr. Spadaccini asked if the PowerPoint presentation from the meeting could be distributed and/or put on the District web site.

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

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

No report was given.

### ***B. BUILDING & GROUNDS – Mr. Gallow, Chairperson***

No report was given.

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

No report was given.

1. Approval/Adoption of Pupil Performance Objectives: 2004/2005 School Years – It was moved by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the following pupil Performance Objectives for the 2004/2005 school years (as reviewed and accepted by the NJ Department of Education):

- a. Following classroom instruction in phonemic skills as part of a balanced literacy program, students in first grade will demonstrate growth in their abilities to apply their knowledge of letters and sounds as evidenced by an average group score of 75% or higher on a locally developed assessment by June 2005.
- b. Following classroom instruction in writing skills as listed in the local curriculum guide, including content, mechanics and usage, third grade students will demonstrate the ability to express themselves in writing as evidenced by an average "pre to post assessment" group gain of .5 or higher on a scale of 5.0 on a writing sample assessed by teachers using a locally adopted rubric by June, 2005.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

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

No report was given.

***E. PERSONNEL – Mr. O'Connor, Chairperson***

No report was given.

1. Resignation of Business Administrator – It was moved by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mrs. Norian, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept, with regret, the resignation of John Esposito, as Business Administrator/Board Secretary, effective December 30, 2004.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

2. Retroactive Approval of Part-time Technology Help – It was moved by Mr. Kramer, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board retroactively approve the appointment of Brian Lynch, as part-time technology helper for the 2004/05 school year, effective September 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, at the rate of \$12.00/hour, not to exceed fifty (50) hours during the course of the school year.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

**F. POLICY – Mr. Kramer, Chairperson**

No report was given.

**G. PUBLIC RELATIONS – Mr. Halligan, Chairperson**

No report was given.

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

Prior to the following motion being made, Mr. Mohre explained to Board members the use of the \$1,000.00 donation from the Oradell Kids Foundation. It was used for informational purposes only. Mrs. Norian was concerned that the funds not be used to encourage a “yes” vote.

**MOTION** Acceptance of OKF Donation – It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. Norian, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board retroactively accept a donation of \$1,000.00 from the Oradell Kids Foundation for the purpose of providing information to the community about the upcoming school bond referendum.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Mr. Feigenson asked if the school has been reimbursed for refinishing the gym floor (it has not) and if Mr. O’Connor had given a bleacher catalogue to Mr. Esposito (not yet).

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Following a lengthy discussion of District goals, the following motion was made:

**MOTION** It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Dr. Westlake, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board adopt the following District goals for the 2004/05 school year:

**Literacy Instruction:** To enhance literacy learning at all grade levels by:  
1. engaging and comprehending; 2. fostering an integration of the language arts across other disciplines; 3. cultivating enjoyment for literacy learning (viewing, writing, speaking, reading, listening).

**Differentiating Instruction:** To further professional development in the area of differentiating instruction in order to advance professional practices designed to meet the diverse needs of all learners within the

heterogeneous classroom.

**XII. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. Norian, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Esposito".

John Esposito  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary