

ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649

REGULAR SESSION – October 17, 2007

MINUTES

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Mr. Walsh.

**III. SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT**

The Sunshine Law Statement was read by President Gardner.

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 and the Oradell Free Public Library, faxed to the Town News, The Ridgewood News, The Record and all persons requesting such notice.

**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, Mrs. Norian Mrs. Robertson, Mr. Schwartz,  
Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Dr. Westlake, Mr. Spadaccini,  
Mr. Gardner

**Absent:** None

Also present were Mr. Jeffrey Mohre, Superintendent, Ms. Rita Cioppi, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and approximately 14 members of the public.

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

## VII. MINUTES

### REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES –

September 11, 2007

Work Session, Closed Session

September 27, 2007

Regular Session, Closed Session

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None at this time.

## VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/BOARD PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The Superintendent's Report consisted of a presentation of the 2006-2007 QAAR and the 2006-2007 NJ PASS and NJ ASK testing results for grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Comments and questions made by the board during the Question/Answer portion of Mr. Mohre's presentation included the following:

- The growth in test scores, a benchmark, a degree of increase in testing and criteria should be looked at.
- How the teachers follow through in improving the test scores amongst the various students.
- The writing skills should improve over the years.
- Summer classes might help students needing improvement.

The Superintendent's comments included:

- Growth in overall test scores depends upon the overall performance of the children.
- Highest score a child could attain on the OPS Writing Rubric is a four. If a grade level scores relatively high on the pre test, there is less room for growth.
- There isn't any State writing rubric for Grades 1 & 2, therefore OPS developed their own instrument.
- Parents decide if their children will participate in specialized academic classes as offered through Schaeffer Explorations.

The State of New Jersey requires that public school districts report all acts of violence and vandalism that occurred in the school district during the previous school year. Such information must be shared at a public hearing in October of each year. Please be formally advised that the Oradell Public School District reported two acts for the 2006-2007 school year to the New Jersey Department of Education's Division of Student Services. Oradell Public School will continue to implement health education programs that compliment the child-rearing efforts of our students' parents.

The meeting was open to the public at 9:40 p.m.

Mrs. Bergelt asked about rubrics used in classrooms, specifically in grades one and two and commented on NJASK for grades 5&6 curriculums to be more complex.

Mrs. Skroce asked about scores on the assessments and writing samples of grade two students; expressed the opinion that teachers should not be scoring their own students' writing samples. She further commented on the scores for math and questioned the number of students in ESL.

Mrs. Julie Pedersen commented on that the measurement of students' progress be done on an individual basis, and discrepancies need to be addressed.

President Gardner invited the community to the building rededication ceremony on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. President Gardner acknowledged receipt of a letter from the OEA and stated that this item would not be handled by the Board but should be handled and resolved by the administration.

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

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

Dr. Westlake commented that all curriculum is exceptional with 12 years of equal opportunity.

### **B. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - Mr. Gallow, Chairperson**

1. Comprehensive Maintenance Plan 2006-2009 – It is hereby moved by Dr. Westlake, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, in concert with the Business Administrator, that the Board approves the District's list of required maintenance activities as reasonable to keep the school open and safe and maintain the validity of existing warranties; and furthermore, authorize the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to submit the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan to the State for approval as part of the QAAR.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** Mr. Gallow, Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Dr. Westlake, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Gardner

**Nays:** None

### **C. CURRICULUM - Mrs. Robertson, Chairperson**

1. Sharpe Reservation Trip - It is hereby moved by Dr. Westlake, seconded by Mr. Gallow, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the Fifth Grade Outdoor Education Trip to Sharpe Reservation, Fishkill, NY, which will take place on the following dates: October 24, 25, and 26, 2007.

## ROLL CALL

**Ayes:** Mr. Gallow, Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Dr. Westlake, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Gardner

**Nays:** None

2. Revised School Calendar 2007-2008 – It is hereby moved by Dr. Westlake, seconded by Mr. Gallow, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board retroactively approve the revised 2007-2008 school calendar to reflect full days of school for the following dates:

Wednesday December 5, 2007 and Wednesday March 12, 2008 (2:30 dismissal) based on the recently negotiated AGREEMENT between the Oradell Board of Education and the Oradell Education Association.

## ROLL CALL

**Ayes:** Mr. Gallow, Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Dr. Westlake, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Gardner

**Nays:** None

3. Submission of Quality Assurance Annual Report (QAAR) SY 2006/2007 – It is hereby moved by Mrs. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accept and approve the submission of the District's QAAR for the 2006/2007 school year to the New Jersey Department of Education, Bergen County Office.

Mrs. Robertson asked for this resolution to be voted separately. On a motion by President Gardner seconded by Dr. Westlake, the Board should include all written questions/answers including emails in the board minutes. Board discussion followed. President Gardner withdrew his motion to add questions/answers to the board minutes. Dr. Westlake withdrew his second.

Mrs. Robertson asked about the results of the kindergarten survey. It was agreed that the results would be provided to the Board by the next board meeting on November 14, 2007.

Mr. Walsh requested a list of students and scores of the NJASK. Mr. Mohre suggesting providing grade level charts (3,4,5,6) demonstrating the number of children in various scoring ranges. Board consensus taken – all were in favor of receiving such data.

During discussion about NJ ASK scores, President Gardner asked Mr. Mohre for comparative data regarding OPS NJ ASK scores and the scores of the other schools in our District factor group. Mr. Mohre stated that such information was not available at this time, as the Department of

Education does not release the data until January or February. The Star Ledger compiles the data for districts.

President Gardner requested a presentation by Mr. Mohre at our first Board meeting in March for a comparison between OPS and the other schools in our district factor group regarding NJ ASK scores for grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 for Advanced Proficient, Proficient and Partially Proficient levels. The entire Board agreed with the request. Mr. Mohre noted that he would be happy to respond to such a report regarding that information. Mr. Mohre also noted that it is important for Oradell to compare itself to Oradell.

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** Mr. Gallow, Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Dr. Westlake, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Gardner

**Nays:** None

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

*Resolutions D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8: motion by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Walsh and carried by consent of the Board.*

1. Monthly Certifications –Financial Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Moneys for the month end August 2007, be accepted, and furthermore, that the Board certify that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6:20-2A. (10e) that no major account or fund in the 2007/2008 Budget has been over-expended in violation of 6:20-2A.10(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year.
2. Transfer of Funds and Monthly Transfer Reports for the Month End, September 2007– Approval the transfer of funds and monthly transfer reports for September 2007.

<b>SEPTEMBER 2007-2008</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
11-000-100-562-04		\$20,319.01
11-000-100-565-04		\$44,338.00
11-000-100-566-04		\$22,535.96
11-000-291-270-	\$87,192.97	
11-000-251-330		\$5,546.53
11-000-252-102-54		\$1,550.00
11-000-262-104-53		\$3,742.38
11-190-100-610-03-		
0207	\$2000.00	
11-190-100-610-03-		
0208	\$6,000.00	
11-190-100-610-03-		
0212	\$1,000.00	
11-190-100-640-03-	\$1,838.91	

0213	
11-000-219-580-04	\$1,200.00
11-000-291-290-	\$42.00
11-190-100-610-03-0208	\$1,242.00

3. Payment of October 2007 Bills/Invoices –Authorize the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to pay bills during the month of October 2007 with retroactive approval at the next scheduled Regular Public Business Meeting of the Oradell Board of Education.
4. Professional Consultants for the 2007-2008–Retroactive approval of the following consultants to provide services to students at the Park Academy for the 2007-2008 year:

Brian Connelly, Physical Education, at \$71.76/ hour at 3 hours/ week for 39 weeks to students at the Park Academy.

Judith Swanson, Art, at \$71.76/ hour at 2.5 hours/ week for 39 weeks.

Deborah Surace, Music, at \$71.76/ hour, 2.5 hours/week for 39 weeks.

Marissa Smith, Curriculum development services during the period 8/5/07-8/31/07 for the Park Academy at a rate of \$45.00 per hour.

Tara Montalbano, Curriculum development services during the period 7/1/07-8/31/07 for the Park Academy at a rate of \$45.00 per hour.

**Note:** The Park Academy Special Education Program is a special education Program created and coordinated by Region V and administered by the Oradell Public School District. Salary and benefits associated with this program are paid for with tuition moneys collected by the Oradell Business Office from the students' home districts. Such expenses are not part of and in no way impact the Oradell Public School's 2007/08 budget.

5. Curriculum Development for Park Academy– Retroactive approval of Cheryl Gardner for providing curriculum development services for the Park Academy at a rate of \$45.00 per hour during the period of 7/1/07-8/31/07.

**Note:** The Park Academy Special Education Program is a special education Program created and coordinated by Region V and administered by the Oradell Public School District. Salary and benefits associated with this program are paid for with tuition moneys collected by the Oradell Business Office from the students' home districts. Such expenses are not part of and in no way impact the Oradell Public School's 2007/08 budget.

6. Approval of Special Services –Approval of the following services for the student(s) listed below:

Program Coordination Services provided by Christine Grimes, for Student #49, at \$75.00./hr., from 6 hrs/month to 10\_hrs/month, for the period September 2007- June30, 2008.

ABA Services provided by Nicole Benna, for Student #49, at \$40.00./hr., from 4 hrs/week to 6 hrs/week, for the period September 2007-June 30, 2008.

Orton Gillingham Instruction provided by Margaret McClousky, for Student #54, at \$80.00./hr. 1x per/wk, September-June 2008.

Retroactive ABA Services provided by Nicole Benna for Student #49 at \$40.00/hr for the month of August 2007.

7. Conferences/Workshops 2007-2008 School Year – Approval of the below listed staff members/board members to attend the following conference (s) (and related expenses) as outlined in the A5 School District Accountability Act:

**Name:** Michael Gardner, Board Member  
**Conference/Seminar/Workshop:** Advanced Board Member Training  
**Date:** October 26, 2007  
**Location:** Atlantic City, NJ  
**Registration:** Part of NJSBA Workshop Registration Fee  
**Mileage Reimbursement as per the prescribed mile allowance**

**Name:** John Walsh, Board Member  
**Conference/Seminar/Workshop:** Problem Solving/Decision Making  
**Date:** October 23, 2007  
**Location:** Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ  
**Registration:** \$65.00  
**Mileage Reimbursement as per the prescribed mile allowance**

**Name:** Judy Crystal  
**Conference/Seminar/Workshop:** NJDEC Annual Fall Conference  
**Date:** October 26, 2007  
**Location:** Kean University Center  
**Registration:** \$95.00  
**Mileage Reimbursement as per the prescribed mile allowance**

**Name:** Jane Heede  
**Conference/Seminar/Workshop:** NJDEC Annual Fall Conference  
**Date:** October 26, 2007  
**Location:** Kean University Center  
**Registration:** \$95.00  
**Mileage Reimbursement as per the prescribed mile allowance**

**Name:** Jennifer Powers  
**Conference/Seminar/Workshop:** Moon Scenario Teacher Workshop  
**Date:** November 16, 2007  
**Location:** Buehler Challenger Science Center  
**Registration:** No cost to the district.  
**Mileage Reimbursement as per the prescribed mile allowance**

8. Approval of Settlement – Approval of the following:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Stipulation Settlement in the Matter of A.P. and Y.P. o/b/o A.P. v. Oradell Board of Education, OAL Docket No. EDU 09432-2007N, which is attached hereto and made part hereof, be and herewith is approved; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator be and herewith are authorized to implement the terms of this Settlement.

E. PERSONNEL – Mr. Schwartz, Chairperson

1. Student Teacher for the 2007/2008 school year – It is hereby moved by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the following student teacher for the 2007/2008 school year:

<u>Student Teacher</u>	<u>College/University</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Leonella Spagnolo	Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.	11/1-11/30	Ms. Kate DeRobertis
Kelly Streicher	William Paterson Univ.	1/23-5/8/08	Mrs. Eileen Choka

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** Mr. Gallow, Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Nichols, Dr. Westlake, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Gardner

**Nays:** None

2. Emergent Hiring – It is hereby moved by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini that the Board authorizes the Superintendent to hire the following personnel for the 2007/2008 school year on an emergent basis:

- Tyreek Hunter – PT Custodian
- Servet Kazazi – PT Custodian

**ROLL CALL**

**Ayes:** Mr. Gallow, Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Nichols, Dr. Westlake, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Gardner

**Nays:** None

3. Employment Contract for the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary – It is hereby moved by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the terms and conditions of an employment contract for Ms. Rita Cioppi, School Business Administrator, pro-rated for the 2007-2008 school year.



## ROLL CALL

**Ayes:** Mr. Gallow, Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson Mr. Schwartz,  
Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Dr. Westlake, Mr.  
Spadaccini, Mr. Gardner

**Nays:** None

### F. POLICY – Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Chairperson

1. Second Reading: It is hereby moved by Mrs. Watson-Nichols, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves the following policy for a second reading:

#6142.10: Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) - Access to and Use of the Oradell Public School District Network, Internet and Information Resources by Students and Staff.

## ROLL CALL

**Ayes:** Mr. Gallow, Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson Mr. Schwartz,  
Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Dr. Westlake, Mr.  
Spadaccini, Mr. Gardner

**Nays:** None

- G. PUBLIC RELATIONS – Mrs. Norian, Chairperson reported on a meeting last Friday regarding the discussion on the rededication. Goals and objectives were not reviewed but will be addressed at the next committee meeting. Mrs. Norian also noted that the topic of crating a community attitude survey was also introduced. President Gardner stated he was not made aware of this committee meeting.

- H. NJSBA/BCSBA DELEGATE REPORT – Mr. Walsh, Delegate will have a report in November after the Delegate's Meeting.

- I. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Robertson, Chairperson requested a meeting of the committee.

## X. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Schwartz asked for the following to be noted in the minutes: *Mr. Schwartz made a statement that was based on the fact that Mrs. Robertson was singled out earlier in the meeting for asking questions. Mr. Schwartz stated that at times, it's the answers to the questions, not the questions themselves that slow meeting progress. Mr. Mohre must share in the responsibility to respond to valid questions in a direct and timely fashion. If an answer is not immediately available, Mr. Mohre should take the initiative of providing a date when an answer will be available. Otherwise, questions will be asked continually (and meetings slowed) until answers are provided. The process of expediently asking questions and providing answers during board meetings is a two-way street that needs to be shared by Mr. Mohre and the members of the board.*

Mrs. Robertson stated that OPS does not want elections in the school but feels OPS should be open.

A motion by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Walsh to extend the meeting 15 minutes beyond the 11:00 p.m. policy curfew. Board consensus taken – all in favor of the extension.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Cioppi spoke about a 457 tax shelter plan for the staff. Ms. Cioppi handed out information to the board members for their review.

Mr. Mohre spoke about the passing of his former secretary, Ginny Georgetti and her dedication to OPS. Mr. Mohre requested to plant a tree on OPS ground in her honor. Board consensus taken – all in favor of planting a tree.

**XII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mrs. Pedersen commented on the teacher's parking and the fence around the playground for safety.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION**

It is hereby moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. Norian that the Board adjourn to Closed Session at 11:15 p.m.

**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 is hereby moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mr. Gardner that the meeting adjourn at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rita Cioppi  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary