

ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649

WORK SESSION – JANUARY 9, 2008

Minutes

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Meeting of the Oradell Board of Education was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by President Gardner.
- II. **FLAG SALUTE** – The flag salute was led by Mrs. Norian.
- III. **SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT** – The Sunshine Law 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 arrived at 8:10 p.m., Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson, Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Dr. Westlake, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Gardner

Also present were Mr. Jeffrey Mohre, Superintendent, Ms. Rita Cioppi, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. W. Scott Ryan, Principal, 16 members of the public including three students.

- VI. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**  
No Comments from the public.

- VII. **MINUTES**

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES

- December 12, 2007

Closed, Regular Session

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - It is hereby moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Dr. Westlake, that the following minutes be approved:

- September 11, 2007 Work Session (with revisions)
- September 27, 2007 Regular Session (with revisions) Closed Session
- October 17, 2007 Regular Session (with revisions)
- November 14, 2007 Work Session, Closed Session
- November 28, 2007 Regular Session

Mrs. Robertson requested that the November 14, 2007 Work Session minutes be pulled and asked that a minor revision be made on Page 2 of the November 14, 2007 minutes regarding Mr. Mohre's statement on Technology. She also asked that the November 14, 2007 revision be included in the September 11, 2007 minutes.

Mr. Gallow asked that the following be reflected in the minutes: "I am suggesting to this Board that New Jersey School Boards Association present, for at least a third time, the entire process of minute-taking. Every time we go into a time-wasting discussion on minutes that takes away from district goals and the children of OPS, I am going to vote no."

#### ROLL CALL

**Ayes:** Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson (with the exception of 11/14/07 Work Session), Mr. Schwartz (with the exception of 11/14/07 Work Session), Mr. Walsh (with the exception of 11/14/07 Work Session), Mrs. Watson-Nichols (with the exception of 11/14/07 Work Session), Dr. Westlake, Mr. Spadaccini, Mr. Gardner (with the exception of 11/14/07 Work Session)

**Nays:** Mr. Gallow

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

Mr. Camins of the Oradell Lions Club honored three sixth grade students (Estee Chaimson, Madeline Toohey, and Haylee Alonso) on their award winning entries in the 2007 Peace Poster Contest! At 8:22 pm, President Gardner asked for a brief recess. The Board resumed the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Suzanne Lynch and Mr. Mohre introduced to the Board the concept of a teaching coach (in the spirit of professional learning communities). The concept would entail two master teachers, one from River Edge, and one from Oradell, working closely with teachers inside their classrooms to promote professional growth and further enhance instructional practice. The concept is being considered by the Board, and the Board asked questions regarding the funding of such position. Mr. Mohre outlined the budget impact highlighting that a new teacher would need to be hired to fill the vacancy created by an in-house appointed coach.

Oradell Winter Concerts: Thursday evening, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., choral/hand bell; Tuesday evening, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., instrumental/hand bell.

Progress on the construction punch list continues. Architect Ms. Maria Pereira, Ms. Cioppi, and Mr. Mohre conducted a walk-thru on Tuesday evening. A progress update will now be forwarded and discussed at an upcoming Building and Grounds Committee.

The second Everyday Math Parent Night is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at River Edge Schools. An informational flyer is forthcoming.

Mr. Mohre will conduct a series of building tours for community members on the following dates: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

OPS will have an abbreviated session on Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> (Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday). A professional development afternoon is planned for faculty.

President Gardner asked that the following prepared statement be recorded in the minutes:

“I would like to briefly address an article that appeared in the Town News on December 18, 2007 where it was reported that there was a consensus reached by this Board regarding the need for Oradell Public School to move forward with the development of a program for children with autism. Let me be clear: There has been no consensus reached by this Board regarding such a program, nor has this Board been asked by the Superintendent to reach a consensus on this matter. Mr. Mohre had simply informed this Board of his intention to gather information about this subject to be presented to the Board at a subsequent Board meeting. At that time, the Board will evaluate the information provided by Mr. Mohre and we will determine whether or not to move forward. This by no means minimizes the importance the Board places on Autism programs. However, there are a number of issues that must be thoroughly addressed before OPS launches such a program. These factors include proper staffing and supervision, costs and funding, projected enrollment, curriculum development, and whether or not we have adequate facilities.

In addition, please keep in mind that the Board must evaluate the feasibility of launching an autistic program in context with all other programs and initiatives here at OPS. We need to be assured that all the District's existing programs are meeting the needs of the students they are designed to serve, that our students as a whole and individually are performing to the expectation of the administration, their parents, and the community, and that our district's finite resources are being utilized efficiently and are not being stretched too thin, before any additional programs are started at OPS.”

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

- A. BI-BOROUGH - Dr. Westlake, Chairperson reported that the next committee meeting would be held on January 24, 2008 at 7:00 PM hosted by OPS.
- B. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - Mr. Gallow, Chairperson stated that a meeting would be scheduled prior to the next board meeting.

- C. CURRICULUM - Mrs. Robertson, Chairperson reminded the committee members of the meeting on January 11, 2008.
- D. FINANCE - Mr. Spadaccini, Chairperson stated that a meeting would be scheduled prior to the next board meeting to discuss preliminary budget figures.

Mrs. Robertson asked that D4 be pulled. Mrs. Robertson inquired as to whether there is a designated place for a garden. Mr. Schwartz raised a question about the participation of other fundraising groups with this project. Mr. Mohre explained that the children would have ownership of the project and participate in the selection of the site.

*Resolutions D1, D2, D3: On a motion by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Dr. Westlake and carried by roll call vote 9-0.*

1. Monthly Certifications – The Financial Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Moneys for the month end November 2007, be retroactively accepted, and furthermore, 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. Payment of Invoices – The invoices for the period November 27, 2007 through December 19, 2007 be retroactively approved as follows:

Fund 10 (General Current Expense)	\$ 780,521.37
Fund 12 (Capital Outlay)	\$ 0.00
Fund 20 (Special Revenue Funds)	\$ 41,553.14
Fund 30 (Capital Projects Funds)	\$ 121,170.61
Fund 40 (Debt Service Fund)	\$ 0.00
Fund 50 (Summer School)	\$ 0.00
Fund 51 (Region V)	\$ 0.00
Fund 55 (Milk)	\$ 0.00
Fund 63 (Schaefer Explorations)	\$ 0.00
Fund 64 (Ntl School Lunch Prog)	\$ 600.42
Fund 65 (Park Academy)	<u>\$ 21,188.22</u>
Total	\$ 965,033.76

3. Acceptance of FY’08 IDEIA Consolidated Grant –Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, in concert with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary that the Board accepts the IDEA387008 Award for FY 08 in the following amounts:

IDEA Basic	\$188,171.00
IDEA Preschool	\$ 13,274.00

4. Toolbox for Education Grant - It is hereby moved by Mr. Spadaccini, seconded by Mrs. Norian, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the submission of a Lowe's *Toolbox for Education Grant* in the amount of \$4,500.00 to support the development of an outdoor learning garden.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

**Nays:** None

- E. PERSONNEL – Mr. Schwartz, Chairperson  
Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Gardner, Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Watson-Nichols posed questions about new hires. Mr. Mohre responded accordingly. Mrs. Robertson asked to pull E1 and E2.  
*Having the recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini resolutions E1, E2, E3, E4, E5 were carried by roll call vote 9-0. Mr. Walsh abstained on E5.*

1. Appointment of Part Time Special Education Aide (.5) – The Board retroactively appoints Miss Tara Wroblewski to the position of Part Time Special Education Aide (.5) at an annual pro-rated salary of \$8,899.00 for the period of January 7, 2008 through June 30, 2008.
2. Appointment of Applied Behavioral Analysis Consultant – The Board retroactively approves Mrs. Johanna Bargisen to provide Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Consulting services for 17.5 hours per week at a rate of \$35.00 per hour for the period of January 7, 2008 through June 23, 2008.
3. Approval of Substitute Teachers for the 2007/08 School Year – The Board approves the appointment of the following individuals as substitute teachers for the 2007/08 school year, at a per diem rate of \$80.00 which increases to \$85.00 per day after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of service during the 2007/08 school year:

Heather Finklestein  
Mimosa Selimaj

4. Approval of Lunch Aide for the 2007/08 School Year – The Board approve the appointment of the following individual as lunchroom aide at an hourly wage of \$14.00 during the 2007/2008 school year:

Renee Tufaro

5. Conferences/Workshops 2007-2008 School Year – The Board approves the below listed staff members/board member to attend the following conference

(and related expenses) as outlined in the A5 School District Accountability Act:

**Name:** John Walsh

**Conference/Seminar/Workshop:** NJSBA Negotiating Your Superintendent's Contract

**Date:** January 12, 2008

**Location:** Williamstown HS, Williamstown, NJ

**Registration:** \$65.00

**Travel Reimbursement as per board policy**

F. POLICY – Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Chairperson stated that there is a committee meeting scheduled for Monday, January 14, 2007 at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Gardner suggested additions to Policy #4119.23, which will be incorporated, and his suggestion to the Policy Regulation #5142.1 will also be incorporated.

1. Second Reading – It is hereby moved by Mrs. Watson-Nichols, seconded by Mr. Walsh, upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the following policies be approved and adopted:

3260/3270	Sale and Disposal of Books, Equipment, and Supplies; Sale, Licensing and Rental of Property
3541.3	Non-school Use of District Vehicles
4119.23	Employee Substance Abuse
4151.1	Personal Illness and Injury/Health and Hardship
4222	Non-Instructional Aides
5119	Transfers
5120	Assessment of Individual Needs
5131	Conduct/Discipline: Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
5131.7	Weapons and Dangerous Instruments
5134	Married/Pregnant Pupils
5142.1	Safety Patrols
6111	School Calendar
6145.1	Intramural Competition; Interscholastic Competition
6162.5	Research
6163.1	Media Center/Library
6164.1	Intervention and Referral Services for General Education Pupils
6164.2	Guidance Services
6172	Alternative Educational Programs
7115	Developing Educational Specifications
9400	Board Self-Evaluation

#### 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 stated there would be a committee meeting on Friday, January 11, 2008 at 8:30 AM.



H. NJSBA/BCSBA DELEGATE REPORT – Mr. Walsh, Delegate reported that he attended the NJSBA kick off session. Very few politicians attended.

I. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Robertson, Chairperson

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Robertson questioned the status of gates. Ms. Cioppi responded she is working with Mr. Depken.

Mrs. Robertson asked about the future of OPS kindergarten program. Mr. Mohre responded that the kindergarten program would be on the Friday Curriculum Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Schwartz requested a status report on district goals Mr. Mohre responded that goal progress reports are embedded in NJSBA Superintendent Evaluation Tool and further noted that Mr. Gardner had asked about that earlier in the day. NJSBA Field Representative will attend the next board meeting to begin the evaluation process.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Walsh inquired about the re-negotiations of the Superintendent's Contract. Mr. Gardner asked that Mr. Walsh bring back to the board information he received from the NJSBA workshop he will attend on January 12, 2008.

**XII. CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY)**

On a motion by Mr. Gardner, seconded by Mrs. Norian the board adjourned to closed session at 9:54 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.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Mr. Spadaccini the meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rita Cioppi  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

