

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

Work Session Meeting – Thursday, March 12, 2009

MINUTES

- I.** The meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 8:06 p.m. by President Gardner.
- II.** The **FLAG SALUTE** was led by Mr. John Walsh
- III.** 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, posted in Borough Hall and the Oradell Free Public Library, faxed to The Record and Town News and all persons requesting such notice.

- IV.** The **MISSION STATEMENT** was read by Mr. Bob Schwartz.

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. The District fully supports and expects the attainment of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards on the part of all students within a school environment designed to maximize student potential, develop responsible citizens, and promote respect for the uniqueness of all individuals.

Adopted by the Oradell Board of Education August 27, 2008

- V. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Robertson., Mr. Samuel arrived at 8:25 pm, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Gardner
Absent: Mrs. Norian, Dr. Westlake

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

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

Lori Dunn, Mrs. Pestic, Serafina Bergelt, and Gene Weels:

The public commented on the Connected Math program. They were not in favor of the program and had hoped that the board would not vote to have it continued in the school. They felt that the process was flawed and that Oradell needs a waiting period before it makes any changes.

Mrs. Bergelt also talked about the stimulus package from President Obama.

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

Mr. Mohre reported on the following:

- OPS, in collaboration with the Oradell PTA and Oradell Police Department will be conducting a test of the system next Wednesday evening at 9:00 p.m. Details on the test will be going home with the children on Monday.
- OPS will be used as a polling place in the April, June, and November Elections as the Veteran's Hall is undergoing renovations. At this time, the Borough Clerk plans to move elections back to the Veteran's Hall for 2010.
- School districts received their 09/10 State Aid figures. Oradell can expect an additional \$26,866 over last year. The 2009/2010 budget will be discussed further under the Finance portion of the agenda.
- The proposed 2009 -2010 School Calendar.
- As requested by the board during the February 25, 2009 meeting during its school calendar discussion, faculty absences on the January Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday for the prior two years are as follows: (2008: 5; 2007: 4)

President Gardner spoke about the Science Fair held in OPS and the excellent turnout, the kids were having fun.

President Gardner also thanked the Parent/Teacher Association for once again coming forth with a contribution for the school (Liberty Science Center Assembly).

Mr. Schwartz commented that yesterday was "Environmental Day" here at OPS. He also wanted the board to recognize the Environment Community check and the volunteers.

VIII. MINUTES

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Mr. Murphy asked that the February 11, 2009 minutes reflect revisions made to Resolution #D1. Consensus of the board was taken with all in favor.

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| ▪ February 4, 2009 | Work/Regular Session |
| ▪ February 11, 2009 | Work Session |
| ▪ February 25, 2009 | Regular Session |

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION

- A. BI-BOROUGH/SHARED SERVICES - Dr. Westlake, Chairperson
- B. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS/SAFETY – Mr. Murphy, Chairperson

C. CURRICULUM - Mrs. Robertson, Chairperson asked why after getting the letter from the Willa Spicer, Deputy Commissioner of the Dept of Education on Curriculum, OPS is still going through with their plan.

Mr. Mohre mentioned that there was a meeting with Dr. Graham, Executive County Superintendent, and he stated that the schools should stay with the curriculum standards from 2004 until the new revised 2009 standards came out this summer. Dr. Graham stated that they are striving to improve Middle School mathematics.

Mr. Schwartz felt that resolution C2 was not to improve but to develop a new program, Connected Math 2. All references on Connected Math were removed from the River Dell website and yet we are approving Connected Math 2. Mr. Schwartz read an article on Connected Math that is attached to these minutes. Mr. Schwartz further announced that he was uncomfortable with this program at the present time.

Mr. Mohre shared that the proposal before the board this evening was designed to create a more balanced approach to mathematics instruction for grade six in terms of mathematical concepts, algorithms, and thought processes. He noted that by drafting a curriculum with a variety of mathematical materials in mind, a balance that is neither too far to the right, nor too far to the left, could be attained for the benefit of the students. Whatever we develop still has to come back to the board for approval.

President Gardner read an article from Willa Spicer, Deputy Commissioner of the Dept of Education on Curriculum dated March 9, 2009, which is also attached to these minutes.

Mr. Samuel noted it seems that Connected Math is more of a hybrid. Could we blend it more with other approaches? He felt we are answering the needs of the public. When would we see the new standards based program in Oradell? Mr. Mohre mentioned September 2009.

Mr. Mohre stated that we are writing the curriculum with content area specialists and create a curriculum the resources necessary to attend the goals and performance indicators necessary for that program.

Mr. Schwartz asked what would happen if the Oradell Board of Education did not approve the Connected Math 2 program and River Edge/River Dell did approve. Mr. Mohre stated that Oradell would stay with the program they currently have now.

Mrs. Watson-Nichols asked to table the curriculum revision resolution in order to let the committee decide.

Mr. Murphy asked that Mrs. Robertson be recognized for her due diligence regarding the math program.

On a motion by Mrs. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Murphy and carried by roll call vote of 6-0-1 (Mr. Samuel abstained, Mrs. Norian and Dr. Westlake absent) the board approved C1.

1. Approval of Special Education Medicaid Initiative – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Oradell Public School District submits a Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) waiver request to the Executive County Superintendent based on the December 1, 2008 Special Education Student Count reflecting 30 or fewer Special Education Medicaid eligible students.

On a motion by Mrs. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Murphy, C2 was defeated on a roll call vote of 0-7 (Mrs. Norian and Dr. Westlake absent) Mr. Samuel mentioned that he was troubled that the curriculum chair voted “no”, he thought that what was presented at the meeting was giving the go ahead to come up with a plan and having the opportunity to decline if what the committee comes up with was unacceptable, and they have not heard the public and the board requests to make sure that it was a balanced program.

2. Curriculum Revision Project: Grade 6 - It is hereby moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accepts the Tri-District proposal to rewrite the mathematics curriculum in Grade 6 based on the 2009 New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. This proposed curriculum will encompass Scott-Foresman Addison Wesley, Connected Mathematics 2, and other ancillary mathematics resources. The proposed curriculum will be subject to review and approval by the Board of Education at a subsequent meeting.

D. FINANCE – Mr. Samuel, Chairperson

On a motion by Mr. Samuel, seconded by Mr. Walsh and carried by a roll call vote 7-0 the board approved D1. Mr. Samuel thanked the Finance Committee members for all their hard work.

1. Annual School Election 2009 – It is hereby moved by that the board approves revisions to the previously approved Election and Budget Timetable as set forth pursuant to NJSA 18A:7F-5c and Executive Order No.132 as follows:

Deadline for Filing Nominating Petitions	March 4, 2009 – 4:00 PM
Last Day to File Objections to Candidates’ Petitions	March 9, 2009
Last Day for Candidates to Withdraw/Amend Defective Petitions	March 11, 2009
Drawing for Position on Ballot (Board Office Conference Room)	March 13, 2009 – 4:00 PM
Advertise budget for public hearing	March 26, 2009

Miss Cioppi stated that the State of New Jersey and the County Office approved our budget with a slight change in amounts. The school's base budget was increased due to the fact the Oradell Public School is operating below adequacy, and therefore the Capital Outlay Waiver request was lowered to keep the total local tax levy for 2009-2010 the same as the submitted amount. A presentation was given to show the affects of the changes made by the State/County Offices.

The Board had questions and discussions concerning the tax levy presentation, especially toward an increase in the security system amount and concerns pertaining to the Tri-District Program. The Board asked Mr. Mohre to set up a meeting with the other two districts to discuss the future of this program in Oradell.

Mr. Schwartz asked for further clarification on adequate separation of duties and the accounts payable position. Can the other two employees carry out this function? Are we getting out money's worth having only a part-time person? Mr. Schwartz felt that he was not looking to cut the budget but to spend the school's money more efficiently and effectively. He felt the Business Administrator did a wonderful job with the budget, but some of the lines can be spent in a better way.

Ms. Cioppi stated that the accounts payable position is too cumbersome to be split up and given to other people. It would also hurt that department if it was divided.

Mrs. Watson-Nichols stated that the board should make known the changes that they would like to have and let the administration decide where to take the money from, what lines would be affected.

On a motion by Mr. Samuel, seconded by Mrs. Watson Nichols and carried by a roll call vote 7-0 (Mrs. Norian and Dr. Westlake absent) the board approved the following changes to the 2009/2010 budget:

- *Add \$5,000 for assessment testing*
- *Add \$20,000 for security system*
- *Rename Tri-District Coordinator to Curriculum*

On a motion by Mr. Samuel, seconded by Mr. Murphy to revise the February 11, 2009 tentative budget to agree with the changes made by the State of New Jersey.

On a motion by Mr. Gardner, seconded by Mr. Walsh to have the Public Hearing televised at Borough Hall on March 31, 2009 at 8:00 PM.

E. PERSONNEL – Mr. Schwartz, Chairperson

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mrs. Watson-Nichols and carried by roll call vote 7-0 (Mrs. Norian and Dr. Westlake absent) the board approved E1, E2, E3.

1. Resignation of Part-time Teacher Aide – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board retroactively accepts with regret, the resignation of Karen DeStefano, Part-Time Teacher Aide effective March 5, 2009.
2. Approval of New Jersey Family Leave – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves a New Jersey Family Leave for Mrs. Lisa Conforti beginning on or about June 15, 2009 and concluding on or about June 25, 2009.
3. Retroactive Approval of Replacement Consultant – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves the replacement of Professional Consultant, Christine Grimes with current Oradell Public School Professional Consultant, Johanna Bargisen for a total of 2 hours per week, at \$40.00 per/hr, retroactive to January 2009.

F. POLICY – Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Chairperson

On a motion by Mrs. Watson-Nichols seconded by Mr. Walsh and carried by roll call vote 7-0 (Mrs. Norian, Dr. Westlake absent) the board approved F1. Mrs. Watson-Nichols stated that the State of NJ has asked every school district to adopt policy statements regarding special education. They are very precise and self-explanatory. The state has requested this be done by April 24th.

1. Adoption of Required Policies and Procedures - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board begins the approval process regarding the IDEA policy and procedure updates as requested of all New Jersey School Districts by the New Jersey Department of Education. Said policies and procedures are outlined in Oradell Board of Education policy # 6171.5 and are presented here for first reading.

G. PUBLIC RELATIONS/NJQSAC – Mrs. Norian, Chairperson

H. NJSBA/BCSBA DELEGATE REPORT – Mr. Walsh, Delegate

X. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mohre asked the board for a consensus on the 2009/2010 School Calendar.

On a motion by Mr. Gardner, seconded by Mrs. Watson-Nichols and carried 7-0 the board approved the proposed 2009/2010 School Calendar with Election Day off.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Robertson asked about the following:

- Mr. Mohre was to hold technology workshops for seniors.
- Will a keyboard class be included?

- RiverDell does a "Relay for Life" -will Oradell do the same?

Mr. Gardner inquired if the board is participating in the OPS Memory Book this year.

Mr. Schwartz asked if the Tri District Coordinator position is a tenured position.

XII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Serafina Bergelt commended the board for taking a situation and going with it. She mentioned that it was good to follow the progress of the children year after year

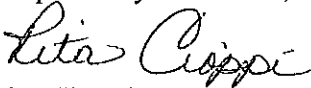
Mrs. Peterson commended the board for the budget process and their concern with curriculum. She also felt that the Tri-District program needs to be addressed and an electronic system should be implemented to find out where the children are doing poorly before we purchase another program.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION -None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Gardner, seconded by Mr. Schwartz the meeting adjourned at 11:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rita Cioppi

Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

