

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

**Regular Session Meeting – March 25, 2009**

**MINUTES**

- I.** The meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 8:10 p.m. by President Gardner.
- II.** The **FLAG SALUTE** was led by Mrs. Robertson.
- 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 Mrs. Norian.

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:** Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson., Mr. Samuel, Mr. Walsh, Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Dr. Westlake arrived at 8:50 p.m., Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Gardner  
**Absent:** Mr. Murphy

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

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

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

Mr. Mohre shared the following as part of the evening's Superintendent's Report:

**END OF SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR**

Friday, June 19: *Single Session Day – 12:30 Dismissal*

Monday, June 22: *Single Session Day – 12:30 Dismissal – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation*

Tuesday, June 23: *Single Session Day – 12:30 Dismissal – Final Day of School*

**Board of Education 2009-2010 School Budget Hearing**

Parents are invited to attend the OPS Public Budget Hearing on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. and will be held at the Oradell Borough Hall.

**OPS Art and Talent Shows**

Student Art Show: Monday evening, April 13, 2009, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Student Talent Shows: Wednesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 2 (after school, in the auditorium).

**School Budget Election - April 21<sup>st</sup>**

The annual *School Budget Election* is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Key Communicators:** A meeting of the **Key Communicators** has been scheduled for March 30, 2009 (Monday), 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Oradell School Library. The focus of the meeting will be to share information pertaining to the 2009-2010 tentative school budget.

**Grade 6 MVP Day:** The sixth grade team hosted a Most Valuable Person event last week. Students wrote essays about an important person in their lives and then presented their writings to the parent audience with their MVPs by their sides. Kudos to our sixth grade students and teachers!

**NJASK After School Support Classes:** NJASK support classes (language arts/literacy and mathematics) for eligible students will begin on Monday, March 30 and will continue through the end of April.

**SwiftReach Notification System**

The *SwiftReach Notification System* has now been formally adopted following last week's system test. Special thanks to the PTA and Oradell Police Department for their support of this important communication venture.

**Odyssey of the Mind** – Based on the recent participation of Mrs. Killeen's TAG students in Odyssey of the Mind, a creative problem-solving competition, one of the groups has expressed interest in making their presentation to the board. This will be arranged for the board's April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

President Gardner mentioned that he attended the softball practice with his daughter. He contacted the little league regarding a drainage problem.

President Gardner asked Mr. Mohre if he could check the reverse 911 calling system to find out if it leaves a message in case the party doesn't pick up.

## VIII. MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *It is hereby moved by Mr. Gardner, seconded by Mrs. Robertson and carried 7-0 ( Mr. Murphy and Dr. Westlake absent) the board approved the following minutes: Mrs. Watson-Nichols requested copies of the final minutes.*

- February 4, 2009      Work/Regular Session
- February 11, 2009    Work Session (*Mrs. Norian abstained*)
- 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

*On a motion by Mrs. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Walsh and carried 7-0 (Mr. Murphy and Dr. Westlake absent).*

1. Park Academy Field Trips – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the board approves the following school sponsored trips for Park Academy:

- Frost Valley:            April 15,16,17, 2009  
Frost Valley YMCA  
Claryville, NY

- NY Aquarium:            May 28, 2009

**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 Program. 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 2008/09 budget.**

Mr. Schwartz stated that in light of the fact the River Edge passed the Connected Math Program, Oradell defeated the motion and River Dell passed a motion to revise the math curriculum that pushed it up to 2010-11. What will happen to our math program?

Mr. Mohre did not have an answer at this time. He and Mrs. Robertson noted that the item will be discussed as part of the upcoming curriculum committee meeting.

D. FINANCE – Mr. Samuel, Chairperson

*On a motion by Mr. Samuel, seconded by Dr. Westlake and carried 8-0-1 (Mr. Murphy absent) the board approved D1, D2, D3, D4, D5.*

1. Monthly Certifications –The Financial Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Moneys for the month end February 2009, be retroactively 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 2008/2009 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 – It is hereby moved that the invoices for the period of February 26, 2009 to March 25, 2009 be retroactively approved as follows:

Fund 10 ( <i>General Current Expense</i> )	\$ 907,865.37
Fund 12 ( <i>Capital Outlay</i> )	\$ 0.00
Fund 20 ( <i>Special Revenue Funds</i> )	\$ 23,498.75
Fund 30 ( <i>Capital Projects Funds</i> )	\$ 0.00
Fund 40 ( <i>Debt Service Fund</i> )	\$ 0.00
Fund 50 ( <i>Summer School</i> )	\$ 0.00
Fund 51 ( <i>Region V</i> )	\$ 0.00
Fund 55 ( <i>Milk</i> )	\$ 0.00
Fund 63 ( <i>Schaefer Explorations</i> )	\$ 0.00
Fund 64 ( <i>Ntl School Lunch Prog</i> )	\$ 279.42
Fund 65 ( <i>Park Academy</i> )	<u>\$ 20,802.00</u>
Total	\$ 952,445.54

3. Transfer of Funds and Monthly Transfer Reports for the Month End, December 2008, January and February 2009– Approval the transfer of funds and monthly transfer reports for December 2008, January 2009 and February 2009 as per Attachment D3.
4. Renewal of the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services(ACES) Electric Generation Service– It is hereby moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, in concert with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Board, through its membership with the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services (ACES), as part of a cooperative bid with other government entities, authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to enter into a contract with South Jersey Energy Company, Mays Landing, NJ, to provide electric generation service to the Oradell Public School, beginning April 2009-May 2011.

5. Acceptance of Donation - It is hereby moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, in concert with the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Board accept a donation from the Coldwater Creek Company in the amount of \$1,000 for instructional needs.

President Gardner asked that we have reflected in the minutes that changing the notation "Tri-District" be reflected in the new budget, it has been represented that the Oradell school district can utilize that money for school related expenses.

Mr. Watson-Nichols and Mrs. Robertson asked to change the wording Tri-District on the budget line to read "Curriculum", so that the funds could be used for something else.

Mr. Schwartz advised that dates for the Board's participation in the Tri-District meeting should be addressed so the board knows how to use the money that is budgeted. Is it working for us or not? Is it possible for key dates to be distributed to the board because it affects other district budgets. He asked if the board is in agreement to discuss this further at the April 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Mr. Walsh also agreed with this comment because he felt the other two districts would have to cover the difference in funds they will not receive from Oradell. The board agreed to place the Tri-District Program on the April 15, 2009 agenda for discussion. In addition, the following information items were requested in preparation for the discussion: decision dates relative to the program; the original proposal to institute the program; the job description for the Tri-District Curriculum Coordinator position.

Mr. Samuel felt that it was better to leave the funds intact for the public meeting and address this issue at a later date.

The Board also agreed to make the changes in the budget lines that the administration outlined. Mr. Gardner also suggested that in case the money taken away from the custodial summer program is not used, that the funds be replaced in that line item.

Mr. Samuel mentioned that two of the budget items listed on the finance committee agenda needs to be discussed in a personnel committee meeting.

The Accounts Payable position was discussed by the board.

Mr. Gardner stated for the record that experience in labor relations in tough economic times can be done by another individual or adds more hours a week. The position is less than the normal total hours worked with an excess of \$15,000 in health benefits. Can't other people be cross-trained.

Mrs. Robertson felt that a part-time position should not have benefits. She could justify a full time position with benefits.

Mr. Mohre made the following statement regarding the Accounts Payable position and asked that such be reflected in the minutes:

The position is much more valuable than the amount of fiscal resources allocated to it. There was a time in Oradell when unpaid invoices and late payment charges were accumulating, and situations occurred whereby duplicate charges were assessed to the district using different invoice numbers. For approximately \$40,000 per year, I can proudly say that our Accounts Payable department is running like a fine-oiled machine. Our Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting and our high marks in the fiscal area of NJQSAC monitoring are testimony to the professional pride exhibited by the Accounts Payable department. It is both my and Ms. Cioppi's professional opinion that this position remain unchanged for the 2009-2010 school year.

E. PERSONNEL – Mr. Schwartz, Chairperson

*Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Dr. Westlake and carried by roll call vote 8-0 (Mr. Murphy absent) the board approved E1, E2, E3, E4, E5.*

1. Resignation of Instructional Aide – It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board accepts with regret, the resignation of Mrs. Judith Squeglia, Instructional Aide, effective March 17, 2009 (final work day is April 16, 2009).
2. Conferences/Workshops 2008/2009 School Year – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approves the below listed staff members/board members to attend the following conference/workshop (and related expenses) as outlined in the A5 School District Accountability Act:

**Name:** Judy Crystal

**Conference/Seminar/Workshop:** Social Skills Communications Deficits in Children

**Date:** April 7, 2009

**Location:** Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack NJ

**Registration Fee:** \$45.00

**Mileage:** \$4.17

**Name:** Amy Rabinowitz

**Conference/Seminar/Workshop:** Social Skills Communications Deficits in Children

**Date:** April 7, 2009

**Location:** Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack NJ

**Registration Fee:** \$45.00

**Mileage:** \$4.17

3. Applied Behavior Analysis Training – It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approves Mrs. Susan Champagne as provider of *applied behavior analysis home training* for Student #66 for 4 hours per week at a rate of \$25.00 per hour through June 23, 2009.
4. Part-Time Special Education Instructional Aide – It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approves the appointment of Ms. Jamie Krupka to the part-time position of Special Education Instructional Aide for the 2008/09 school year at 18.83 hours per week retroactive to March 6, 2009 at a prorated annual salary of \$18,599.
5. Substitute Lunch Aide – It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approves the appointment the following substitute lunch aide for the 2008/2009 school year at a rate of \$14.00/per hour:

Denise Albanese

- F. POLICY – Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Chairperson  
*On a motion by Mr. Watson-Nichols, seconded by Dr. Westlake and carried by roll call vote 8-0 (Mr. Murphy absent) the board approved F1.*

1. Second Reading - 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.

\*Policies are available for viewing in the Superintendent's Office

- G. PUBLIC RELATIONS/NJQSAC – Mrs. Norian, Chairperson
- H. NJSBA/BCSBA DELEGATE REPORT – Mr. Walsh, Delegate

## X. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Robertson talked about the “Relay for Life”. Mrs. Watson-Nichols is the co-captain. The event will begin at 5:00 PM Friday May 29<sup>th</sup> and 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. They need a team name and staff. If we cannot make the run, it can also be sponsored. The signing up can be done via internet.

Mrs. Robertson also felt that the budget presentation to the public should include a slide in simple layman's terms as to "what happens when people vote "no" for a budget, or don't vote at all. There should be a question & answer on "what happens if the budget fails?"

Mr. Walsh felt the question & answer should be part of the public hearing presentation.

Mrs. Watson-Nichols said that because we are televising, we should encourage everyone to vote and that they can access the televised budget presentation.

Mr. Samuel asked that the board send questions to him and he will forward them to the administration.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Ballot drawing results were reported in this order: Michael Gardner, Christine Robertson

Mrs. Robertson asked what the payment to Study Island (on bills list) was for. Mr. Mohre said that he would find out.

Mrs. Robertson also mentioned that the summer program flier went to her house from the music class. She felt that it should be checked to make sure it went through the proper channels before going to parents.

**XII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION –**

Board adjourned to Closed Session at 9:50 p.m. to discuss legal and personnel issues.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

*On a motion by Mr. Gardner, seconded by Dr. Westlake the meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,



Rita Cioppi  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary