

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

**WORK SESSION MEETING  
March 11, 2010**

**MINUTES**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by President Gardner.
- II. The **FLAG SALUTE** was led by Mr. Ferrante.
- 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 Vice-President Watson-Nichols

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. Ferrante, Mrs. Norian, Mrs. Robertson, Mr. Samuel, Mr. Walsh,  
Dr. Westlake, Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Mr. Gardner  
Absent: Mr. Murphy

Also present were Mr. Jeffrey Mohre, Superintendent, Ms. Rita Cioppi, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and approximately 10 members of the public.

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

Mr. Schwartz asked what the reaction was to sharing a Superintendent with River Dell at the Bi-Boro Meeting. Dr. Westlake said that he would answer when the board reached that section of the agenda.

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

**President's Report:**

- President Gardner, on behalf of the Oradell Board of Education, presented a plaque to Mr. Mohre for his dedicated service to the Oradell Public School from 2001-2010.
- President Gardner thanked the PTA for their mini grant contribution in the amount of \$750.
- Discussion of the usage of school grounds is to be put on the next agenda.

Mr. Terrance McGill said a few words on behalf of Mr. Mohre.

Each member of the board said a few words to Mr. Mohre regarding his new position in Morris County.

**VIII. MINUTES**

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES –

- January 27, 2010                      Regular Session Meeting
- February 24, 2010                  Closed Session, Regular Session

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None at this time

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION**

- A. BI-BOROUGH/SHARED SERVICES - Dr. Westlake, Chairperson answered Mr. Schwartz's question concerning a shared service Superintendent. Dr. Westlake mentioned that River Edge is down to three Superintendents in their search. The Oradell Public School tried to explore the possibility of sharing a Superintendent with River Dell but it was not welcomed. About 15 districts are being considered for consolidation which needs a feasibility study. The State of NJ took the money away to do the study, so it is probably delayed, plus Governor Christie is not pushing it. Mr. Samuel said River Dell was not open to the idea of sharing its Superintendent with three Boards of Education. We will continue the discussion.
- B. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS/SAFETY – Mr. Murphy, Chairperson. Ms. Cioppi mentioned that a meeting was scheduled for March 26, 2010 at 3:30 pm.

***On a motion by Mrs. Norian, seconded by Dr. Westlake and carried 8-0 (Mr. Murphy absent) the board approved B1.***

- 1. Use of School Facilities – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Board of Education approve the following requests for use of school facilities as per Board Regulation/Policy #1330:

**a. Dance/Show- Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation-** Cresskill Performing Arts to use the Auditorium as follows:

<u>Date Requested</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Custodian Overtime</u>
Sunday, April 25, 2010	12-Noon-5:00 pm	\$500	\$285 (5 hrs@\$57 p/hr)

**Total cost: \$785.00**

**b. Family Bingo-**The Oradell Special Events Committee

<u>Date Requested</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Area of Building</u>
Thursday, April 22, 2010	5:00-9:00 PM	All Multipurpose Rooms

\*All associated custodial costs and charges for the use of the Multi Purpose Rooms for this event are waived.

- C. CURRICULUM - Mrs. Robertson, Chairperson said that Suzanne Lynch was going to send a summary of the meeting in the next packet.
- D. FINANCE/TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Samuel, Chairperson spoke of the presentation for the 2010-2013 Technology Plan. It was a great job and should happen a month from now. Commented that it may be beneficial for Mrs. Corinne Lynch to present the plan to the board when complete.

***On a motion by Mr. Samuel, seconded by Mr. Ferrante and carried 8-0(Mr. Murphy absent) the board approved D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8, D9, D10***

1. Tentative Budget 2010/2011 School Year – It is hereby moved that the Oradell Board of Education adopts the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oradell Board of Education approve/adopt a tentative 2010/2011 school district budget for submission to the voters as follows,

	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund	\$ 9,463,926	\$ 10,241,396
Automatic Health Care Waiver	\$ 88,223	\$ 88,223
Debt Service Fund	\$ 568,314	\$ 568,314
Totals	\$ 10,120,463	\$ 10,897,933

And further authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to make any and all changes to the budget as mandated by the State.

2. Transfer of Funds - It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary that the Board approves the movement of \$40,000 from the 2008/09 Extraordinary Aid, per the district's audit, to the current Security Project.

3. Monthly Certifications –The Financial Reports of the Board Secretary and Treasurer of School Moneys for the month end January 2010, 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 2009/2010 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.
  
4. Renewal of membership in N.E.S.B.I.G. for 2010-2013 – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves the following:

**WHEREAS**, a number of Boards of Education in Bergen County have joined together to form a Joint Insurance Group as permitted by N.J. Title 18A-.18B and;

**WHEREAS**, said Group was approved effective July 1, 1985 by the New Jersey Commissioner of Insurance and has been in operation since that date and;

**WHEREAS**, the Bylaws and regulations governing the creation and operation of this Insurance Group contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a Group, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of Oradell has determined that membership in the Northeast Bergen County School Board Insurance Group is in the best interest of the District;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Education of Oradell does hereby agree to renew membership in the Northeast Bergen County School Board Insurance Group and hereby accept the Bylaws as approved and adopted.

The renewal term is from **July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013**.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized to execute the application for membership and the accompanying certification on behalf of the District and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the Group as are required by the Group's Bylaws and to deliver the same to the Executive Director.

5. Adjusted Special Education Tuition for 2009/2010 School Year - It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves in accord with provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-17.1, the adjusted tuition amount of \$30,648.00 for Student # 51 (previously approved on 8/19/09 in the amount of \$20,488.00).

6. Acceptance of PTA Mini Grant Award Monies 2009/2010 school year- It is hereby that the board accepts with deep appreciation mini-grant award monies in the following amounts from the Oradell Parent-Teacher Association in support of the following programs:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Mini Grant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Grade 1	High Touch High Tech	\$750.00

7. Special Education Services for 2009/2010 School Year - It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves in accord with Chapter 46, Title 18A, NJ Statutes, the related services for the following students:

- Kevin Van Horn – 4 hours weekly parent training/home programming @ \$30/hr effective 3/12/10 (Student # 41). Note: Melissa Angelsea’s 8 hr/week approve on 2/24/10 will be reduced by 4 hours - there is no additional cost to the district for this change.
- Amanda Sarafian to provide OT services – 20 hrs/week retroactive to March 9, 2010(as needed) at \$80 per/hr (Replaces Sarah Morin)

8. Special Education Tuition for 2009/2010 School Year - It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves in accord with Chapter 46, Title 18A, NJ Statutes, the 2009/2010 School Year tuition for the following student:

- Student #72      The Community School– effective 3/8/10 – tuition \$33,330 (to be prorated)

9. Designation of Account and Signatories - It is hereby moved that the Board approve the following account of the Oradell Board of Education and Signatories with TD Bank:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Signatories</u>
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Commencement	Rita Cioppi, Business Administrator/Board Secretary W. Scott Ryan, Principal

10. Payment of March 2010 Bills/Invoices – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to pay bills during the month of March 2010 with retroactive approval at the next scheduled Regular Public Business Meeting of the Oradell Board of Education.

**E. PERSONNEL /NEGOTIATIONS– Mrs. Watson-Nichols, Chairperson – no report  
*On a motion by Mrs. Watson-Nichols, seconded by Dr. Westlake and carried 8-0(Mr. Murphy absent) the board approved E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6***

1. Conferences/Workshops 2009/2010 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:** Karen Chang

**Conference/Seminar/Workshop:** Supporting Students in General Education

**Date:** 3/19/10

**Location:** Hackensack, NJ

**Registration Fee:** None

**Mileage:** \$3.26

**Name:** Jane Jeffs

**Conference/Seminar/Workshop:** Strategies and Supports for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Generalized Environments

**Date:** 3/25/10

**Location:** Hackensack, NJ

**Registration Fee:** \$75.00

**Mileage:**

**Name:** Amy Rabinowitz

**Conference/Seminar/Workshop:** Visual Supports on the Go

**Date:** 3/25/10

**Location:** Hackensack, NJ

**Registration Fee:** \$75.00

**Mileage:**

2. Approval of P/T Instructional Aide for the 2009/2010 School Year– It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approves the appointment of Karin Scotti, (.3) P/T Instructional Aide, pending completion of the NJ Dept. of Education hiring requirements, at a salary of \$5,830.80, to be prorated.
3. Approval of P/T Instructional Aide for the 2009/2010 School Year– It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approves the appointment of Jaime Trachtenberg, (.5) P/T Instructional Aide, pending completion of the NJ Dept. of Education hiring requirements, at a salary of \$9,718.00, to be prorated.
4. Approval of Interim Superintendent Employment Contract– It is hereby moved that the Board approves an employment contract between Dr. Maria Nuccetelli and the Oradell Board of Education.
5. Approval of Nurse Substitute for the 2009/10 School Year – It is hereby moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the appointment of the following individual as nurse substitute for the 2009/10 school year, at a per diem rate of \$120.00 per day.

Jared Birnbaum

6. Revised Resignation – It is hereby moved, that the board acknowledges and accepts the revised resignation of Mr. Jeffrey S. Mohre, Superintendent, effective midnight, March 29, 2010.

F. POLICY – Mr. Ferrante, Chairperson – no report.

*On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Dr. Westlake and carried 8-0 (Mr. Murphy absent) the board approved F1. Policy # 5136 was tabled.*

1. Second Reading: It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approves the following policies:

# 5136	Fund-raising Activities
# 1000/1010	Concepts and Roles in Community Relations Goals and Objectives
# 3100.10	Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program
# 3285	Contributions to Board Members and Contract Awards
# 3326.1	Payment of Claims
# 3541.32	School Vehicle Assignment, Use, Tracking, Maintenance, and Accounting
#4111.11	Professional Services

G. PUBLIC RELATIONS/NJQSAC – Mrs. Norian Chairperson said there is a meeting scheduled for March 10, 2010. There is a draft form they are working on and it will be carried forward with the new Interim Superintendent. The Committee hopes to complete it by the end of the school year.

H. NJSBA/BCSBA DELEGATE REPORT – Mr. Walsh, Delegate – no report. Mr. Walsh is waiting for the packet for the May assembly.

I. KEY COMMUNICATORS – Mrs. Norian

**X. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - none**

**XI. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Walsh asked who will handle items on the action item list when Mr. Mohre leaves Oradell. The response was Dr. Nuccetelli, Interim Superintendent.

Mr. Samuel mentioned that the share web improvements from Mrs. Robertson will be given to the Interim Superintendent for review. He also requested that the shared service listing be given to the board.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS**

*On a motion by Dr. Westlake, seconded by Mr. Ferrante and carried 8-0 (Mr. Murphy absent) the board approved #1, and #2.*

**1. Restoration of 2009-2010 State School Aid Cuts** – It is hereby moved upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following :

**WHEREAS**, the Oradell Board of Education recognizes that sound financial management is necessary to support the school program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oradell School District bases its budget on academic goals, current needs and data collected through a long-range planning process; and

**WHEREAS**, the district's prudent expenditure practices have resulted in an excess surplus of \$ 120,000 during the current fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, current state law requires districts to apply these excess funds toward the 2010-2011 school budget in order to control local property taxes;

**WHEREAS**, through its policy of sound fiscal management, the Oradell Board of Education has placed in reserve for the current school year \$ 90,000 to ensure that maintenance and facility repairs do not affect its financial stability; and

**WHEREAS**, under Executive Order 14, the Governor has frozen the Oradell Public school district's current-year state aid in an amount equal to its excess surplus and 25 percent of its capital reserve and other reserve accounts; and

**WHEREAS**, the aid cut unfairly targets the Oradell School District and others that accumulated additional surplus and/or put aside reserve funds as the result of sound financial practices; and

**WHEREAS**, by forcing the expenditure of these surplus funds in the current school year, the [name] district will not have them available to control next year's school property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, replenishment of reserve accounts next year will divert limited resources from the classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 14 will have a negative impact on property taxpayers and the education program in the Oradell School District in 2010-2011. Therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Oradell Board of Education urges the state Legislature and the Governor to pursue other means to resolve the state's current-year budget gap without jeopardizing school programs or penalizing property taxpayers in the future; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that such an alternative should leave in place school districts' excess surplus, as well as their capital reserves; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution be sent to Governor Christopher Christie, Acting Commissioner of Education Bret Schundler, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, state Senator Gerald Cardinale and Assembly Representatives Robert Schroeder and Charlotte Vandervalk; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey School Boards Association.



**2. Suspension of 2010 School Budget Elections** – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the following :

**WHEREAS**, on February 11, 2010, Governor Christopher Christie issued Executive Order 14, which froze current-year state aid payments in more than 500 local school districts, including Oradell School District; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 14 sets out a process whereby affected school districts would use their excess surplus and portions of reserve accounts to make up for the loss of current-year aid, a strategy that will have an uncertain impact on next year's (2010-2011) school budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, local school districts have been advised of four possible scenarios concerning their 2010-2011 state aid allocations, adding to the uncertainty over future school finances; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's annual budget message, through which official state school aid amounts for 2010-2011 will be released, has been postponed until March 16; and

**WHEREAS**, local school boards must finalize proposed budgets for placement on the election ballot by April 3, a span of less than three weeks; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of complete information about state school funding and the compressed budget timelines will pose a burden to local school districts in developing intelligent, responsible budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, the scheduling of the school budget referendums on April 20 precludes the allotment of additional time needed for budget development; and

**WHEREAS**, proposed school budgets are controlled by a tax-levy cap and undergo thorough review by the state's Executive County Superintendents, thereby ensuring efficient and responsible use of taxpayer funds; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Oradell Board of Education urges Governor Christopher Christie and the state Legislature to take necessary action to suspend the 2010 school budget elections; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Oradell Board of Education also urges state lawmakers to permit certification of school tax levies based on the budgets approved by local boards of education following the public hearings required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 22-10 et seq.; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Oradell Board of Education also urges state lawmakers to adjust the school budget calendar to extend timelines for the budget development, hearing and adoption process, thereby enabling school districts to develop responsible budgets necessary to meet state and local education goals; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution be sent to Governor Christopher Christie, Acting Commissioner of Education Bret Schundler, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, state Senator Gerald Cardinale and Assembly Representatives Robert Schroeder and Charlotte Vandervalk; and be it further,

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Mrs Robertson talked about the River Edge and River Dell calendar and asked if Mr. Mohre had spoken to anyone in the districts so that all 3 schools are in line with each other. Mr. Mohre mentioned that River Dell likes an 8 week block prior to a break and doesn't want children coming back to NJASK testing. The teachers in the audience agreed that students should not come back from a break to work on testing, it is not productive. Dr. Westlake said the State of NJ changed the date of the testing. They put the test at the end of April this year and next year they moved it to May. This is what caused the problem so we all have to look at that when scheduling breaks.

### **XIII. CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY)**

*On a motion by Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Dr. Westlake, the board entered into closed session at 9:23 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.** *On a motion by Dr. Westlake, seconded by Mrs. Norian the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Rita Cioppi  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary