ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

BOE Offices - 2nd Floor - 7:00 pm

May 15, 2023

Approved Minutes

Attendance

Present: Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Ms. Riccio, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Rodriguez, Mrs. Messina Mullen, Mrs. Pompano-James, Mrs. Tremper, and Mr. Vitelli

Absent: Mrs. Hadlock

Also present: Dr. Scarpetti, Dr. Russo, Mrs. Edo and Mr. Gray

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Kraut at 7:03 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited, led by the 6th Grade Students present at the meeting, and the BOE Mission Statement was read by Mr. Vitelli.

Superintendent's Awards

The following sixth grade students received the CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Superintendent's Award. This award is based on community service and service to others; academic prowess; and leadership service to the school community. From Race Brook School - Odrina Ameti, Noah D'Addio, Cassandra Prosnick, Zoe Kucera from Turkey Hill School - Alexis Schiff, Myra Ahmad, Akanksha Raj from Peck Place School - Nava Ismail-Beigi, Helene Flynn, Ammar Mirza. A short bio was read about each student by their school principal; a short recess was called for refreshments at 7:23 pm and reconvened at 7:43 p.m.

Public Participation

None

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Riccio and seconded by Mrs. Rodrguez to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.

In Favor - Mr. Kraut, Mr. Cap, Ms. Riccio, Mr. Ziman, Mrs. Rodriguez, Mrs. Messina Mullen.

Abstained - Mrs. Pompano-James, Mrs. Tremper, and Mr. Vitelli

Motion approved.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Scarpetti opened his report announcing some of many end of the year events coming up over the next few weeks at our schools such as 5th and 6th Grade Olympics, Field Days, Classroom Trips and Promotion Ceremonies.

Dr. Scarpetti was happy to report that the District was awarded a competitive Summer Enrichment Grant for 2023 and 2024 from the Connecticut State

Department of Education in the amount of $149,993. He thanked the faculty and staff who dedicated their time and expertise on this grant proposal.

Dr. Scarpetti congratulated the 6th Grade Students who received the South Central Area Superintendents' Association (SCASA) Award; Peck Place School - Mark Audie, Sabrina Feliconio Race Brook School - Annabella Liptak, Barrett Gagnon Turkey Hill School - Emily Frazier & Josephine Yun.

Dr. Scarpetti reported on the current budget process. The Town held the Budget Hearing April 20th, the Annual Town Meeting took place on May 10th the referendum scheduled for May 17th at High Plains Community Center. He thanked all the Board members who were able to attend these meetings. He mentioned that Mr. Gray will be giving an update on Capital Projects during his report. He thanked Mr. Zeoli, the Board of Finance and members of the Capital Planning Committee for their continued support.

Dr. Scarpetti concluded his report with an update on personnel matters. He shared that the State has notified the District that it is time to address the Administrator Bargaining Unit to update their contract. This will be taking place over the summer and he will continue to update the Board on this matter.

Finance & Operations Report

Mr. Gray reviewed the district ARP (American Rescue Plan) and ESSER (Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief funds) grants. He also shared that the Orange Public Schools has been awarded the 2023-24 Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Summer Enrichment Grant. The tentative award amount is $149,993 for Summer 2023 and $149,993 for Summer 2024, in line with the guidelines of the grant's request for this application.

Mr. Gray reported Superintendent Dr. Scarpetti presented the budget of $24,447,185 (3.37% increase over the prior year budget) to the Orange Board of Finance on March 6, 2023. The budget referendum is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17 at High Plains Community Center.

Mr. Gray shared that several capital projects are being funded by the Town; replacement of mansard roof shingles at Peck Place School, repair of front steps at Turkey Hill School and furniture refurbishment at Race Brook School

The Town of Orange Audit of the Financial Statements, of which the Orange Board of Education is a part, was completed in January, 2023. The auditors will be returning in June and July to start their audit of the 2022-2023 School Year.

He provided an update on Facilities. Final school year supply orders are being placed this week. In addition, summer cleaning materials have been ordered ahead of time to be sure they are on hand. We'll be creating cleaning schedules around summer learning at the buildings to ensure they are ready to accept students and staff in the fall.

Mr. Gray thanked the custodial and maintenance staff for all of their work in setting up and breaking down the many spring events that have taken place in the schools recently.

Curriculum Report

Dr. Russo reviewed assessments and reported on completion status of each:
End-of-year summative standardized assessments such as Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) for grades 3-6 and Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS) for grade 5 are complete with the exception of a few make-ups;
District Benchmark Assessments such as STAR Reading and STAR Math are administered 3 times a year: Beginning of Year (BOY), Middle of the Year (MOY) and the End of Year (EOY). These EOY assessments will also be completed by the end of this week.
EOY Curriculum Base Measures such as Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) will also be administered as needed to students who have not met benchmarks yet.

Dr. Russo also noted that the goals of the Teacher Education and Mentoring Program (TEAM) were shared in the BOE update. This program supports student achievement through staff development of new/beginning teachers. An updated 3 year TEAM plan is due to the CSDE by June 30th.

Finally, Dr. Russo provided 5 grant updates related to curriculum:

1. The ARP ESSER Competitive Innovative After School Grant
    - Over 120 students are currently registered for weekly enrichment sessions.
    - Preparations for the last 2 weeks of June are in the works for:
        - families who demonstrated interest in enrichment opportunities.
        - students currently receiving tiered support.
2. The Connecticut High-Dosage Math Tutoring. Local educational agencies (LEA) such as Orange Public Schools (OPS) will have an opportunity to apply for this opportunity for its 6th graders as soon as it becomes available.
3. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Online Abuse Prevention Grant An application for 2023 was submitted on April 7, 2023 for the amount of $30,000.00 to support our SOAR Program (Students of Orange Acting Responsibly). We have not yet received any notification regarding the status of this submission.

4. The 2023-24 Summer Enrichment Grant
    - We are thrilled to share that Orange Public Schools has been awarded the 2023-24 State Department of Education (CSDE) Summer Enrichment Grant for 4 weeks of additional opportunities in July and August (for this summer and for next summer). This summer's participation dates are: July 10-13, July 17-20, July 24-27, and July 31-August 3rd at the Peck Place School from 8:30-11:30 Monday-Thursday

(Free of Charge). Extended child care will be available through 21st Century for a fee, for those who may need it.
- Families were notified last Friday of the award
- 138 registrations thus far

5. The Right to Read Grant
   - Orange was awarded a total of $79,000.00 ($39,000 each year).
   - These funds are to be used to support scientifically-based literacy teaching and learning in grades K-3

Special Services Report

Mrs. Edo reported that the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant has been submitted. This grant is designed to provide assistance for education of all Children with Disabilities and Preschool for Children with Disabilities.

Mrs. Edo reminded the listeners that the District was not awarded the competitive School Mental Health Worker Grant. But similar to the Mental Health Worker Grant, is another competitive grant called the School Mental Health Specialist Grant. The district has applied and are waiting to find out if we are awarded this second opportunity. This grant would provide us funds to hire a second school social worker.

She also shared that the application process for the Competitive Primary Mental Health grant has been started. We have completed 4 years under this grant.

As an end of the program celebration, Mrs. Edo shared that the Primary play students and families have been invited to an end of year family event on June 1. This event is by invitation only based on participation in the program. We will be playing bingo, doing crafts and participants will have a chance at winning a raffle.

The Extended School Year (ESY) program will run July 6- Aug. 5. Specific information will be communicated directly to families of eligible students based on Planning and Placement Team recommendations..

BOARD BUSINESS

Mr. Kraut shared Policies that are a Second Read:

1. Policy Second Read - Policy 4118.6 Code of Ethics.

A motion was made by Mr. Ziman, seconded by Mr. Vitelli to approve Policy 4118.6 Code of Ethics as presented. Motion was unanimously passed.

2. Policy Second Read - Policy 5150/3516.3 Accident Reporting. A motion was made by Ms. Riccio, seconded by Mrs. Pompano-Jamesto approve Policy 5150/3516.3 Accident Reporting as presented. Motion was unanimously passed.

3. Policy Second Read - Policy 4118.8/4128.8 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments. A motion was made by Mrs. Messina Mullen, seconded by Mr. Ziman to approve Policy 4118.8/4128.8 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments as presented. Ms. Riccio asked for clarification on the regarding policy number stated in the motion vs the policy number that appears on the actual policy document itself since they didn't match. Dr. Scarpetti explained the reason for the discrepancy. Motion was unanimously passed.

4. Policy Second Read - Policy 4117.5 Termination of Employment. A motion was made by Mr. Ziman, seconded by Mrs. Tremper to approve Policy 4117.5 Termination of Employment as presented. Motion was unanimously passed.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance

Mrs. Riccio reported that the committee met prior to this meeting to review the financials and everything is in good order. The District is currently operating under budget and she was happy to report that cafeteria numbers increased over the past month.

Personnel/Policy Transportation

Dr. Scarpetti reported on behalf of Mrs. Hadlock. The Committee may take a pause on policy review between now and the June Board of Education meeting. The reason behind this decision has to do with the fact that the Board of Education usually doesn't meet in July. Introducing policies in June and then having to re-introduce them again in August is a favorable practice. The Committee will certainly keep all parties up to date on this tentative plan.

Building & Grounds/Safety & Security

Mr. Cap reported that the Committee didn't meet last month and will possibly meet next month or the following month. He will keep everyone informed when they decide to meet next. He had no report at this time.

Curriculum / Instruction / Technology

Mr. Ziman reported the Committee didn't meet last month so he had no report to share at this time.

ACES

Ms. Riccio reported that the ACES Governing Board met on May 11th. She stated that they are waiting for updates from the State regarding magnet funding and grants for construction projects. She shared the Educational Center for the Arts is now accepting applications. Ms. Riccio stated the Board reviewed additional budgets at this meeting pertaining to certain services. She continued her report with an update on a fairly recent program called Regions for incarcerated youth to earn school credits. Currently there are two in the State and they are looking to add an all female facility in Plainville. Ms. Riccio was pleased to share that the State and 88 Bassett Street in North Haven recently closed so it is now an official ACES Building that is being considered for Special Education Services.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Riccio, seconded by Mr. Ziman. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Submitted By
Mary Shaw