

**ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORADELL, NEW JERSEY 07649
PUBLIC WORK/BUSINESS SESSION MEETING
Oradell Public School Auditorium
February 15, 2023**

MINUTES

I. *The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Mrs. Nichols, Board President.*

II. *The flag salute was led by Mr. Griffin.*

III. *The Sunshine Law Statement was read by Mrs. Nichols.*

All requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met for this meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of Oradell. Notice of this meeting was filed with The Record and Town News and all persons requesting such notice.

IV. *The Mission Statement was read by Mr. Derian.*

The Oradell Public School District is dedicated to the ongoing pursuit of educational excellence through comprehensive innovative curriculum and instruction. The District is committed to providing opportunities for social, emotional, and academic discovery to foster curiosity, courage, and character. Our goal is to prepare our students to become life-long learners who are self-directed, resilient, productive responsible citizens.

Adopted by the Oradell Board of Education March 27, 2019

V. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mrs. Acosta, Mrs. Bhatia-Nigam, Mrs. Downey, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. Walker, Mr. Derian, and Mrs. Nichols.

Mrs. Norian and Mr. Walsh were absent.

VI. **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY - None**

VII. **BOARD PRESIDENT’S REMARKS**

Mrs. Nichols introduced Mr. Bliss of Lerch, Vinci and Bliss, LLP to present on the 2021-2022 school year audit. Mr. Bliss also fielded questions from the board.

VIII. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Ms. Bozios presented on the creative thinkers’ lab and fielded questions from the board. Ms. Bozios also noted that the district’s Odyssey of the Mind team will be competing in March. There will be a Wizards basketball game on Friday, February 17, 2023 at River Dell High School. Further, Ms. Bozios mentioned the Oradell Public School District’s second newsletter.

IX. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Marmora mentioned that the Financial Disclosure Statements have been released. Mr. Marmora thanked Lerch, Vinci and Bliss LLP for their guidance and support all year, as well as the Board of Education and Ms. Bozios for their continued support. Further, Mr. Marmora thanked the business office staff, Ms. Ernst and Ms. Guzman, for their hard work and dedication.

X. MINUTES

A motion by Mr. Derian, seconded by Mr. Griffin, the approval of the 1/4/2023 meeting minutes and the review of the 1/18/2023 meeting minutes, carried by a roll call vote of 7-0.

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES

- January 18, 2023 Work/Business Section

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- January 4, 2023 Reorganization & Work/Business Section

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

B. BUILDING & GROUNDS/ SAFETY- Mr. Derian, Chairperson

Mr. Derian commented on the newly renovated auditorium and stated that the minutes from the last buildings and grounds committee meeting are in the board packets.

A motion by Mr. Derian, seconded by Mrs. Walker, and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, the board approved B1.

- B1. Use of School Facilities- It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education approves the following requests for use of school facilities for the **SY 2022 - 2023** in accordance with **Board Policy #1330**:

#	Organization	Event	Area of Building	Dates	Time	Custodian OT	Facility Charge
1	Caldecott Book Club	Book Club	2 - 1 st Grade Classrooms	2/15/2023	3:00 PM	N/A	N/A
2	Oradell Girl Scouts	International Night	MPR	3/10/2023	5:00 – 9:00 PM	N/A	N/A

3	PTA Kindy Book Club	Kindergarten Book Club	Kindergarten Classroom	3/20/2023	3:00 PM	N/A	N/A
4	PTA Book Fair Committee	PTA Book Fair	MPR	3/27 – 3/31/2023	3/27 – 3/31 school hrs. plus 3/28: 3-4 PM 3/29: 6:30-8 PM	N/A	N/A
5	Cub Scouts – Pack 136	Boy Scout Ceremony	Auditorium	3/31/2023	6:00 PM	N/A	N/A
6	Oradell Public School	Art Show	MPR	5/23/2023	7:00 – 8:30 PM	N/A	N/A

C. CURRICULUM- Mrs. Bhatia-Nigam, Chairperson

A motion by Mrs. Bhatia-Nigam, seconded by Mr. Griffin, and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, the board approved C1.

C1. Approval of Field Trip(s) – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves the following field trip(s) for **SY 2022-2023**:

#	Destination	Grade	Date	Cost to District	Cost to Parents
1	Liberty Science Center (Jersey City, NJ)	2	April 2023	\$0	\$46 per student*
2	Newark Museum (Newark, NJ)	3	April 2023	\$0	\$46 per student

*cost offset by PTA mini grant

D. FINANCE/ TECHNOLOGY- Mr. Jeremy Griffin, Chairperson

Mr. Griffin mentioned that there is an increased frequency in finance committee meetings and thanked the PTA for their donations. Mr. Marmora provided additional context for some of the resolutions on the agenda. Mrs. Bhatia-Nigam inquired about item D15. Mrs. Nichols and Mr. Derian responded. Mrs. Nichols inquired about items D7 & D8 and Mr. Marmora responded.

A motion, led by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mrs. Walker, and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, the board approved D1-D15.

D1. Hand Check Payroll Register for **JANUARY 30, 2023**– It is hereby moved, upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Board

retroactively approves the disbursements on the Payroll Hand Check Register for **JANUARY 30, 2023** in the amount of **\$380,635.80**.

- D2. Check Register for **FEBRUARY 15, 2023** - It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, that the Board approves the disbursements on the **FEBRUARY 15, 2023** Check Register in the amount of **\$848,891.70** check numbers **023568 – 023615** and **990134-990138**.
- D3. Approval of the **Financial Reports** of the Board Secretary and Treasurer – It is hereby moved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approve the Report of the Board Secretary, A148, and the Treasurer, A149, as of **JANUARY 31, 2023**.
- D4. **Transfer of Funds** – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves the Monthly Transfers Report as of **JANUARY 31, 2023** in accordance with Title 18A:22-8.1 and furthermore, designates the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to make budget transfers between line items, and to make additional transfers as necessary between monthly meetings of the Board.
- D5. **Monthly Budgetary Line Item Certification** – RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary for the Oradell Board of Education certifies that pursuant to N.J.A.C 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 3 as of **JANUARY 31, 2023**, that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C 6A:23A-16.10 (a); and
- FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oradell Board of Education certifies that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10 (c) 4 that after review of the Board Secretary’s Report (A148) and Treasurer’s Report (A149) and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that any major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C 6A:23A-16.10 (b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligation for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- D6. **Acceptance of Oradell Public School PTA Mini-Grant Monies for the SY 2022-2023** – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accepts with deep appreciation, mini-grant award money from the Oradell Public School PTA for the following:

Grade	Grant	Amount
Pre-K	Jam Cats Children’s Musical Program	\$300
Kindergarten	Aesop Bops! Assembly & Turtle Back Zoo	\$1,500
First	Unique Creatures Program	\$975
Second	Smarty Plants Program & Liberty Science Center	\$1,500
Fourth	Bronx Zoo	\$1,500
Fifth	A Day in the Life of a Revolutionary Soldier Program	\$1,100
Sixth	Liberty Science Center Assembly	\$825

D7. APPROVAL TO PURCHASE ELECTRIC GENERATION SERVICES THROUGH THE ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE ENERGY SERVICES (“ACES”) Bid Cooperative Pricing System ID#E8801-ACESCPS

WHEREAS, the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as “ACES”), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as “NJSBA”), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, will from time to time during the Effective Period as defined below solicit bids from electric power suppliers for electric generation services through an energy aggregation program in which NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in accordance with the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et seq. (“EDECA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and is eligible thereby to obtain electric generation services for its own use through one or more contracts to be awarded to electric power suppliers following said bids for electric generation services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will from time to time during the Effective Period (from date of adoption through May, 2028 hereinafter referred to as “Effective Period”) issue one or more Requests for Bids for electric generation services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law and EDECA; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale electric market, Participating Members will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award contracts for Electric Generation Service in each service territory to one or more

electric power suppliers that submit bids which are reasonably forecasted to provide estimated savings to the Participating Member based upon its previous electric usage and utility provided Basic Generation Service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said electric generation services to electric power suppliers that submit bids with pricing reasonably estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic generation service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period through any electric power supplier(s) awarded a contract, it being understood that the term of any one contract shall be subject to the provisions of Public School Contracts Law;

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will notify the Department of Community Affairs' Division of Local Government Services by mail prior to the issuance a Request for Bids for electric generation services, with the understanding that if the Division of Local Government Services does not respond within 10 business days, it will be deemed to have approved the issuance of the Request for Bids or the Request for Rebids

NOW, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period from the electric power supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for electric generation services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase electricity at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the Districts relative to the price charged for basic generation service by the electric public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain electric generation services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission or expiration of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

D8. APPROVAL TO PURCHASE NATURAL GAS SERVICES THROUGH THE ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE ENERGY SERVICES (“ACES”) Bid Cooperative Pricing System ID#E8801-ACESCPS

WHEREAS, the Alliance For Competitive Energy Services (hereinafter referred to as “ACES”), an alliance composed of the New Jersey School Boards Association (hereinafter referred to as “NJSBA”), the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials, will from time to time during the Effective Period as defined below solicit bids from natural gas suppliers for retail natural gas supply services including interstate transportation to the local natural gas distribution utility company (Natural Gas Supply Services) through an energy aggregation program in which NJSBA will act as Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS in accordance with the “Public School Contracts Law”, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., and the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et seq. (“EDECA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder; and

WHEREAS, the ORADELL BOARD OF EDUCATION is a Participating member of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System and is eligible thereby to obtain natural gas services for its own use through one or more contracts to be awarded to natural gas suppliers following said bids for natural gas services pursuant to the aggregation program; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will from time to time during the Effective Period (from date of adoption through May, 2028, hereinafter referred to as “Effective Period”) issue one or more Requests for Bids for natural gas services on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law and EDECA; and

WHEREAS, due to significant volatility and the potential for price increases in the wholesale natural gas market, Participating Members will preauthorize the Lead Agency to award contracts for Natural Gas Supply Service in each service territory to one or more natural gas suppliers that submits bids which are reasonably forecasted to provide estimated savings to the Participating Member based upon its previous natural gas usage and utility provided Basic Gas Supply Service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will only award contracts for said Natural Gas Supply Services to natural gas suppliers that submit bids with pricing reasonably estimated to be lower than the utility-provided basic gas supply service; and

WHEREAS, the District agrees to purchase all Natural Gas Supply Services for its own use during the Effective Period through any natural gas supplier(s) awarded a contract, it being understood that the term of any one contract shall be subject to the provisions of Public School Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Lead Agency will notify the Department of Community Affairs' Division of Local Government Services by mail prior to the issuance a Request for Bids for natural gas supply services, with the understanding that if the Division of Local Government Services does not respond within 10 business days, it will be deemed to have approved the issuance of the Request for Bids or the Request for Rebids.

NOW, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System ##E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all natural gas supply services needed for its own use during the Effective Period from the natural gas supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for natural Gas supply services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase natural gas at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the districts relative to the price charged for basic gas supply service by the natural gas public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain natural gas services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until

May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

- D9. **APPROVAL FOR MEMBERSHIP IN BERGEN COUNTY REGION V 2023-2024-** FURTHER, that the Board of Education continue its membership in the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education, does hereby accept, adopt and agree to comply with the Region V by- laws; designates the District Superintendent as its representative to Region V; and empowers him/her to cast all votes and take all other actions necessary to represent its interest in Region V; until the next organization meeting and

FURTHER, approve the Joint Transportation Agreement for all Oradell students who are transported through Region V.

- D10. **Approval of Shared Services Agreement for 2023-2024** – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves the Shared Services Contract between the Oradell Board of Education and **Bergen County Technical Schools for the services of a site technician and technology support services in the amount of \$112,020** for the SY 2023-2024.

- D11. **Approval of Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) waiver for SY 2023-2024** - It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Oradell Public School District approves the following:
WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) program for the 2023-2024 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Oradell Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that it projects having fewer than 40 Medicaid eligible classified students;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Oradell Borough Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Bergen, an appropriate waiver of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3 for the 2023-2024 school year.

- D12. **Acceptance and Approval of 2021-2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)** - It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the Board accept and approve the 2021-2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and the Auditor's Management Report on Administrative Findings, containing two audit recommendations to be addressed, as prepared by the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP:

School Purchasing Programs

1. **Finding** –Our audit of compliance with purchasing and contract award procedures revealed that the required procedures and documentation were not adhered to or made available for audit for the purchase and installation of security cameras through a National Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Recommendation –Procedures be reviewed and revised to ensure that National Cooperative contract awards are procured and approved in accordance with the State procurement regulations.

Facilities and Capital Assets

2. **Finding** –Our audit revealed that the District’s capital asset accounting records were not in agreement with audit balances. The financial statements were adjusted to reflect these capital assets and related depreciation.

Recommendation –The District’s capital asset accounting record be reconciled with the audit balances

- D13. **Acceptance and Approval of 2021-2022 Corrective Action Plan** - It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, that the Board accept and approve the Corrective Action Plan prepared by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary in response to the 2021-2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) recommendation, for submission to the New Jersey Department of Education.
- D14. **Approval of Special Education Services for SY 2022-2023**– It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board approves The Therapy Gym, LLC for Physical Therapy at a rate of \$100 per 30-minute session or \$140 for a 45-minute session for SY 2022-2023.
- D15. **Approval of HVAC Upgrades** – It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the board approves the submission of the HVAC Upgrades at Oradell Public School by LAN Associates to the State of New Jersey, Department of Education. The Board will be seeking a Regular Operating District (ROD) Grant for this project as part of the submission. This project was not included in the 2021 Long Range Facilities Plan list of projects to be completed, and therefore, the Board of Education authorizes LAN Associates to submit an LRFP amendment request to include this project.

E. **NJSBA/ BCSBA DELEGATE REPORT**- Mr. Walsh, Delegate

F. **PERSONNEL**- Mrs. Walker, Chairperson

A motion by Mrs. Walker, seconded by Mr. Griffin, and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, the board approved F1.

F1. It is hereby moved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board accepts and approves the Personnel Committee Report dated **February 15, 2023**.

G. **POLICY**- Mrs. Norian, Chairperson

Mrs. Nichols noted that a policy committee meeting will be scheduled when Mrs. Norian returns.

H. **PUBLIC RELATIONS**- Mrs. Acosta, Chairperson - *None*

I. **COVID-19 TASK FORCE**- Mr. Griffin, Chairperson - *None*

XII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - None

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Walker commented on this Friday's Wizards game at River Dell High School, which is being sponsored by the Rotary and PTA.

Mrs. Walker inquired about the district's e-mail list, Ms. Bozios and Mrs. Hawley responded.

Mrs. Nichols inquired about Mr. Walsh and Mr. Griffin's approval for the Board Delegate Meeting. Ms. Bozios responded.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Walker mentioned an NJEA article highlighting best practices in forming threat assessment teams. Ms. Bozios responded.

XV. CLOSED SESSION-

A motion by Mr. Derian, seconded by Mr. Griffin, and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, the board entered closed session at 8:24 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.

A motion by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mrs. Walker, and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, the board exited closed session at 9:14 p.m.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mrs. Walker, and carried by a roll call vote of 7-0, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John M. Marmora
Business Administrator/Board Secretary