



**Wednesday, December 13, 2023
Regular Public Board Meeting
Orange Preparatory Academy of
Inquiry and Innovation Auditorium
Roll Call 6:00 p.m.**

Minutes of **Wednesday, December 13, 2023, Public Meeting** of the Orange Board of Education held at 6:00 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Shawneque Johnson is presiding over tonight's Meeting.

- Ms. Shawneque Johnson, President
- Ms. Sueann Gravesande - **ABSENT**
- Mr. Derrick Henry - **LATE**
- Ms. Samantha Crockett - **LATE**
- Dr. Fatimah Turner
- Mr. Siaka Sherif - **ABSENT**
- Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield
- Mr. David Armstrong
- Mr. Tyrone Tarver

ROLL CALL (5) PRESENT (2) ABSENT (2) NOT PRESENT AT ROLL CALL

ALSO PRESENT:

- Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. Jason Ballard, Business Administrator
- Mr. Lamont Zachary, Assistant Business Administrator
- Ms. Jessika Kleen, School Board Attorney with the firm of Machado Law Group
- Mr. Oluwatitofunmi (Tito) Oshuntolu, Student Representative

2. FLAG SALUTE

A. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. *Recess Into Executive Session – Closed*

Motion to convene into Executive Session. Will Recess until 6:45 pm but no later than 7:30pm.

Motion by David Armstrong, second by Jeffrey Wingfield.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Fatimah Turner, Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Samantha Crockett, Sueann Gravesande, Derrick Henry, Siaka Sherif

ROLL CALL (5) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (4) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE



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2. Return to Open Session

Ms. Johnson motions to close the Executive session and move into a public meeting.

Motion by Derrick Henry, second by David Armstrong.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry, Fatimah Turner, Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif

ROLL CALL (7) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

Ms. Johnson asked Ms. Faith Alcantara, Executive Director of Innovation & Community Engagement to speak on behalf of herself and the Orange Board of Education in recognition of the loss of Mrs. Diana Harmon.

- Ms. Alcantara highlighted that Mrs. Harmon's legacy includes her 40 years as a Math Teacher to several members of the Orange Board of Education, Mentor, Interim Principal at Orange High School and Principal at Cleveland Street Elementary School. Mrs. Harmon is a longtime resident of Montclair, NJ, and HBCU Graduate of Delaware State University and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She will always be remembered for her significant impact and contributions as Phenomenal Woman and Mentor to the Orange Public School District.

B. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT - OLUWATITOFUNMI (TITO) AYODELE OSHUNTOLU

Ms. Johnson introduced Oluwatitofunmi (Tito) Oshuntolu, Student Representative.

Mr. Oshuntolu extended his thanks and gratitude to the teachers, and educators who have worked tirelessly for our students.

Mr. Oshuntolu also highlighted the updated gym at Orange High School and commended the awesome work that was done. He spoke about possible future expansions and renovations across the Orange School District. He stated, "This includes providing our students with enhanced resources, particularly in the realm of athletics. One example would be the presence of athletic facilities at Orange High School, which would be highly beneficial. It would eliminate the necessity for students to journey off-campus to engage in their sports interests, enhancing both convenience and guaranteeing that our students can access the necessary resources to excel academically and athletically within the school premises."

Mr. Oshuntolu also pointed out that Mr. Frantantoni stated at the October BOE meeting that the Girl's Tennis was to be implemented at Orange High School. A few students were excited to join, but to date nothing has been started.

He concluded his presentation by wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.



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C. SUPERINTENDENT'S PRESENTATION

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Johnson noted that Dr. Fitzhugh will not be presenting his Superintendent Report for December, he will reconvene with his Report in January.

D. BOARD MINUTES

Ms. Johnson motions to approve November 8, 2023, public meeting minutes.

Motion by Jeffrey Wingfield, second by Samantha Crockett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry, Fatimah Turner

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif

ROLL CALL (6) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

Ms. Johnson motions to approve November 8, 2023, closed meeting minutes.

Motion by Jeffrey Wingfield, second by David Armstrong.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry, Fatimah Turner

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif

ROLL CALL (6) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Johnson requests for a motion to open public comments.

Motion by Fatimah Turner, second by Derrick Henry.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry,
Fatimah Turner, Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif

ROLL CALL (7) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

- **Sakeynah Sawyer - Lincoln Avenue School, Orange Education Association:**
 - Commended Dr. Fitzhugh and the Executive Team on their response to the concerns of teachers throughout the district regarding the recalibration of the SGO.



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- She recognized Ms. Harper - Executive Director of Special Education/Interventions hardwork and dedication to Special Education Teacher and the Child Study Team.
- She wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

Ms. Johnson motions to close public comments.

Motion by Derrick Henry, second by Fatimah Turner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry, Fatimah Turner, Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif

ROLL CALL (7) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE

F. BOARD RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Johnson motions to approve the consent agenda including all agenda items, HR agenda and HIB cases.

- Mr. Wingfield abstained from anything related to Montclair State University.
- Each Board Member abstained from anything related to their individual travel to the School Board Conference held in October 2023. The reimbursement checks were disbursed after the vote was taken.

Motion by Jeffrey Wingfield, second by Samantha Crockett.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry, Fatimah Turner

Abstain: Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif

ROLL CALL (6) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE



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G. BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Johnson asked Ms. Crockett to announce the upcoming District Meeting dates.

District Meetings - Public

1. Public Relations Committee Virtual Meeting - Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 4:00 pm
2. Reorganization Meeting - Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., held at Orange Board Of Education, Administrative Building, Board Conference Room, 451 Lincoln Avenue, Orange, NJ, 07050.
3. Orange Board Education Public Board Meeting - Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., held at Orange Board Of Education, Administrative Building, Board Conference Room, 451 Lincoln Avenue, Orange, NJ, 07050. Will Recess until 6:45pm, but no later than 7:30pm

District Meetings - Closed

1. Curriculum Committee Virtual Meeting - Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 3:30pm
2. Facilities Committee Virtual Meeting - Monday, January 8, 2024 at 3:30pm
3. Policy Committee Virtual Meeting - Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 4pm
4. Finance Committee Virtual Meeting - Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 5:30pm
5. Human Resource Committee Virtual Meeting - Monday, January 8, 2024, at 5:30pm

Ms. Johnson asked the board to make a comment.

- Mr. Tarver wished everyone a Happy Holiday.
- Mr. Henry commended Tito on his outstanding “straight talk, no cap” monthly insights from the student’s perspectives, and also recognized Ms. Harmon.
- Mr. Wingfield recognized Ms. Harmon and the way she was a mother figure to many throughout the district.
- Dr. Turner thanked Tito for his hard work. She also reminded everyone that it’s the season to give grace to one another.
- Ms. Crockett thanked all the staff of the district and wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.
- Ms. Johnson wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

Ms. Johnson moves to have the meeting adjourned.

Motion by Derrick Henry, second by Fatimah Turner.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Shawneque Johnson, Jeffrey Wingfield, David Armstrong, Samantha Crockett, Derrick Henry, Fatimah Turner, Tyrone Tarver

Not Present at Vote: Sueann Gravesande, Siaka Sherif

ROLL CALL (7) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (2) NOT PRESENT AT VOTE