

Minutes of **Wednesday January 11, 2023, Public Meeting** of the Orange Board of Education held at 6:00 pm.

**Shawneque Johnson is presiding over tonight's Meeting.**

Ms. Sueann Gravesande

Mr. Derrick Henry

Ms. Samantha Crockett

Ms. Fatimah Turner, Ph.D.

Mr. Siaka Sherif

Ms. Shawneque Johnson, President

Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield

Mr. David Armstrong

Mr. Tyrone Tarver

**ROLL CALL (9) PRESENT (0) ABSENT**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

- Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. Jason Ballard, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Mr. Lamont Zachary, Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Ms. Christine Martinez, School Board Attorney Substitute with the firm of Machado Law Group

**FLAG SALUTE**

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

**Moved by Unable to detect Seconded by Ms. Gravesande**

**ROLL CALL (7) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN**

Ms. Johnson congratulates Ms. Gravesande for being elected Vice President.

Ms. Johnson introduces Mr. Belton, principal of the Orange High School.

Mr. Belton introduces and welcomes the staff, students, board members, and community members for coming to today's board meeting.

Ms. Johnson introduces the district's student representative, Sukanya Salmon.

Ms. Salmon introduces herself to the district and her duties as student representative.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Fitzhugh congratulates the district's STAR students.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates to the community the district's scholarships update.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that he requested scholarship totals for the Orange High School and STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges. As shared previously, I will report out on scholarships, so the

community and Board of Education are very much aware of information in real time. OHS - \$3,476,963, and STEM - \$1,085,453.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that January is board member appreciation month.

Dr. Fitzhugh thanks the board members for all their meaningful contributions to the community.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the district's strategic plan. Goal #1: 21st Century Integration the Orange Public Schools will continue to invest in its teachers. The district values and promotes a culture of excellence in teaching and learning through increased and improved opportunities for quality, sustained professional development that address district needs and individual school needs as outlined by data points. The emphasis has been on best practices in teaching and learning. As a result of the pandemic and performance on assessments, a continued understanding of providing targeted and intentional delivery of instruction is paramount district wide.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates goal #2: Community Engagement

The Orange Public Schools will continue a system of consistent communication system for disseminating and receiving information between school administration, teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates goal #3 The Orange Public Schools will continue to redesign the fiscal management, operations, and human resources of the organization to ensure a system of accountability, transparency, and efficiency for the optimal delivery of services.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates goal #4 The Orange Public Schools will continue to ensure that all students will receive social and emotional support to become adaptable, confident citizens who embody self-awareness and strong interpersonal skills, and who are capable of responsible decision-making and managing their emotions and behaviors.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the attendance for the month of December 2022.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the importance of student coming to school.

Dr. Fitzhugh introduces Mr. Ballard and Mr. Vasquez to communicate updates of the district's facility maintenance and custodial services.

Mr. Vasquez communicates that the district is still continuing to do thorough cleaning daily and disinfecting at each of our locations.

Mr. Vasquez communicates that PCI and District Meetings based on Updates related to COVID-19 mandates and expectations facility projects continued so we can Ensure a safe and clean learning environment for our children and staff, preparation for the winter months.

Mr. Vasquez communicates the latest update with Orange High School. The Orange High School media center had to be used as an area for students to eat as the cafeteria was under construction. As a result, the carpet and chairs needed to be cleaned. The next few slides will show you some before and after pictures.

Mr. Vasquez communicates that at OPA In room B16 we re-directed the copper pipe to go outside to prevent any further flooding in the room due to heavy rain. Also, it was reported to the facilities team that there was a steam leak in Room 201. the steam leak was preventing the SDA and TCC to lay down the new floor in the room.

Mr. Vasquez communicates the repairs at Forest Street School it was report to the facilities team that we had a leak in one of our TCU's (Trailer that houses pre-kindergarten.) The team and I investigated the issue and addressed it immediately.

Mr. Ballard communicates that Workorders are being entered into Brightly (work order reporting system) from classroom lights being out to steam pipes breaking. The team and I under the guidance of Mr. Ballard will continue to address all issues as they are entered into the system. In doing as such, we can Ensure that we have a safe and clean learning environment for our children and staff.

Mr. Vasquez communicates that the district does one thing they do it for all.

Mr. Ballard communicates an update on the Cleveland construction and is hopeful to begin construction in late spring.

Mr. Vasquez communicates that panic button has been installed as well as the new camera system and that provides a safe environment all around.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the district updates regarding the new monthly board meeting dates in the effort of gathering more community input, the Board of Education has elected to visit several school locations. The Board of Education Meetings take place the second Tuesday of each month. Further, meetings begin at 6:00 PM for Roll Call. The board members alongside members of the Superintendent's Team will retreat into Executive Session from 6:05 PM to 6:45 PM the earliest and 7:30 PM the latest. Next month, the board meeting will take place at Oakwood Avenue Community School in the Gymnasium on Wednesday, February 11, 2023.

Dr. Fitzhugh thanks Mr. Devone on this amazing new initiative called Young Men's Conference In celebration of National Mentoring Month, Orange Public Schools, in collaboration with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Eta Pi Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc., Maplewood-Oranges (NJ) Alumni Chapter, Cleo Clicks, Inc., and the Greater Essex Community Uplift Foundation, present the "Mentoring Matters: Male Youth Conference," on Saturday, January 21, 2023, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Orange High School (400 Lincoln Avenue, Orange, NJ). The program will offer opportunities for male students in grades 7 - 12 to participate in career readiness workshops facilitated by professionals, including Entertainment,

Entrepreneurship, Gaming, and more! Students will have an opportunity to participate in a Dress for Success Neck-Tie Competition.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the reminder of school closure days forthcoming.

This concludes the superintendent's report.

Ms. Johnson motions to approve December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, public meeting minutes.

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Gravesande**

**ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1)ABSTAIN**

Ms. Johnson motions to table December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, closed meeting minutes to the next board meeting.

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by (unable to detect)**

**ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1)ABSTAIN**

**Facility Reports:** Mr. Armstrong states that he will not repeat what Mr. Ballard and Mr. Vasquez mentioned a few moments ago. Mr. Armstrong did want to mention that the committee met and discussed water pipes and infrastructure.

**Curriculum Meeting:** Ms. Cabido communicates that the committee did not meet this month because there's was only one thing to discuss, and it was moved to the next month's meeting.

**Finance Meeting:** Mr. Sheriff communicates that the district is having progress and the district is discussing new health insurance to reduce the cost and remain with the same quality of care or better. Mr. Sheriff also communicates that they are trying to have a bank come into the district to make sure we are in good standing for the staff and the students.

**Public Relations:** Dr. Turner communicates that the committee met. Dr. Turner communicates the importance of the public being present and apart of these meetings. Dr. Turner encourages to attend or tune in the meeting to see all the great things happening in Orange. Dr. Turner communicates that the public relations meetings just as the rest of the meeting. Dr. Turner communicates that they discussed COVID-19 updates, OHS and Fairleigh Dickerson, Romeo and Juliet play, NJIT and our student receiving credits with them, and thanks Mrs. Spottswood-Brown on all her hard work in keeping the district updated with all the news.

**Public Comments:** Ms. Tisa Singleton wants to thank the district for the tennis program that is occurring at Lincoln Avenue. Ms. Singleton would like to see the program go through the entire year. Ms. Singleton shares that the board meeting have always been on a Tuesday, and it has been moved to Wednesday. She wanted to know if there was a survey that went out, and the meeting being changed to Wednesday conflicts with the city's meeting.

Ms. Johnson address Ms. Singleton that there was no survey that was sent out however this initiative to build a better relationship with the city so that the board members can attend their meetings and as well as the city attend our district meetings.

Ms. Antionette Hall communicates her concern about the cameras that were installed new cameras in the building. She wants to know if the cameras will be installed outside the buildings. Ms. Hall states is a safety issues when the staff leaves the building and is dark and she is speaking from experience.

Mr. Ballard communicates that we currently have cameras outside the building, but they will be updated very soon.

Ms. Hall communicates to the community that the Harlem Wizards will be at the Orange High School and it's a free game and she wants to encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the game.

**This concludes public comments.**

## **BOARD RESOLUTIONS**

Ms. Johnson motions to approve a consent agenda removing K6.

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Gravesande**  
**ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Mr. Tavers states that as a board member he can remove resolutions from the consent agenda.

Mr. Ballard respectfully replies to Mr. Taver that the motion that was on the agenda was to remove item K6. Once the motion is on the table, we cannot add a new one until this one has been voted on.

Mr. Tavers states that don't allow him to vote and discuss on the item.

Ms. Kleen makes Mr. Taver aware that he can discuss this at the time of when he votes.

Ms. Johnson motions to approve K1-K11, L1, L2, L3, N1-N5, 01-02

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Cabido**  
**ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motions to approve K6.

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Cabido**  
**ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motion to approve HIB cases.

**Moved by Unable to detect Seconded by Mr. Wingfield**  
**ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motion to approve Human Resources agenda.

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Gravesande**  
**ROLL CALL (7) YEA (0) NAY (2) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Mrs. Crockett makes the district aware of the scheduled meetings.

The curriculum virtual meeting will be held on February 6 at 3:30pm  
The facility virtual meeting will be held on February 9 at 3:30pm  
Public Relations virtual meeting will be held on February 31 at 3:30pm  
The financing committee virtual meeting will be held on February 9 at 5:30pm  
Orange Board of Education public meeting will be held on February 15 at 7:30pm at OPA.  
Policy Committee virtual meeting will be held on February 9 at 4:00pm.

### **Board Comments**

Dr. Turner communicates that we all must remind ourselves that sometimes our egos need to take a backseat for the sake of our community and our children.

Mr. Taver communicates that he has the right to remove and have a comment.

Mr. Ballard has made Mr. Taver aware that he is allowed to have a comment and explains how the motions and voting works.

Mr. Taver communicates that the motion to close the meeting is out of the order.

Ms. Johnson moves to have meeting adjourned.

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Gravesande.**

**ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**