

Minutes of **Tuesday, July 12, 2022, Public Meeting** of the Orange Board of Education held at 6:00 pm.

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

Ms. Guadalupe Cabido

Ms. Sueann Gravesande

Mr. Derrick Henry

Ms. Samantha Crockett

Dr. Fatimah Turner

Mr. Siaka Sherif

Ms. Shawneque Johnson, President

Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield

Mr. David Armstrong

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

- Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. Lamont Zachary, Assistant Business Administrator
- Ms. Jessika Kleen, School Board Attorney 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 Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong**

**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN**

Ms. Johnson re-open the public meeting and introduces Dr. Fitzhugh for his Superintendent report.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates to the community that Summer School has begun at several locations. The district is offering several programs from academic acumen to the social emotional support, arts and craft, summer programming will encompass the whole child.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that summer attendance is vital to acquisition of instructional understanding. The attendance will allow to district to collect data necessary for instructional implementations.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the summer lunch opportunities for enrolled students.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates to the district the dates, times, and location where the student can collect a lung bag.

Dr. Fitzhugh introduces Mr. Scutari to discuss the new Math's textbook adoption for grades kindergarten through fifth grade.

Mr. Scutari communicates that the return to in-person instruction has provided additional insights into the instructional needs of staff and learning needs of students.

Mr. Scutari communicates a quote by Joshua Starr, "that the selection of curricular resources and implementing a new curriculum is an opportunity to foster cohesion, trust, and professional learning, as well as to assess and respond to interest and needs".

Mr. Scutari communicates the process of obtaining the new curricular.

Mr. Scutari communicates the sub-committee convened to review submissions using the guidelines outline in RFP and select top 2 vendor (Open Up Resources Illustrative Mathematics and McGraw Hill Reveal Math).

Mr. Scutari communicates the who was on the committee. He explains the representations from across the title, grade level, and servicing of student sub-group which consisted of 9 teachers who service grades K-5, 3 teacher coaches and 6 administrators (1 Assistant Superintendent, 2 Executive Directors, 1 Principal and 2 Supervisors).

Mr. Scutari communicates the evaluation of materials using New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Mathematics, IMET, Standards for Mathematical Practice, and Student Achievement Partners: Where to Focus.

Mr. Scutari communicates an overview of Illustrative Mathematics via Open Resources.

Mr. Scutari communicates that the materials were created by Illustrative Mathematics, and they were piloted and revised in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. Each grade level contains 8 or 9 units. Each unit depending on the grade level has pre-unit practice problems in the first section, checkpoints, or checklists after each section.

Mr. Scutari communicates how IM K-5 will support our students and teachers. Culturally responsive pedagogy is offered by I.M. Collaborative learning opportunities, instructional routines that invite students to bring their whole selves to math class, and problem-solving contexts that positively reflect ethnically diverse cultures.

Mr. Scutari communicates that the academic language development is introduced to formalize student ideas, and Mathematical Language Routines are embedded as lesson activities to

support academic language development for all learners and included as suggested supports for English Learners.

Mr. Scutari communicates the universal Mathematical Language Development and Access for English Learners such as supporting sense-making scaffold tasks and amplify language so students can make their own meaning. It also supports strengthening opportunities for students to describe their mathematical thinking to others, orally, visually, and in writing.

Mr. Scutari communicates the universal design for learning and access for students with disabilities such as UDL strategies to enhance access, such as conceptual processing, maintaining focus, organization skills, working memory and short-term memory, social emotional functioning, fine motor skills.

Mr. Scutari communicates direct quotes from the committee such as “Tasks allow student to demonstrate understanding”, “There are many opportunities for single and multi-step problem solving opportunities”, “Students are challenged to think, analyze, and solve problems in ways that are not typically structured the same.

Mr. Scutari communicates the cost of the new curricular adoption. Student materials is an average of \$24 per student edition equaling to \$56,568, Teacher materials \$110 per teacher totaling \$22,000.

Mr. Scutari finalizes his report and re-introduces Dr. Fitzhugh.

Dr. Fitzhugh introduces Edwin Vasquez to communicate the facilities report.

Mr. Vasquez communicates the facility updates that occurred in the month of June.

Mr. Vasquez communicates that thorough cleaning is still being conducted throughout the district, minor and major repairs on AC units through the district, summer landscaping, PCI and District meetings take place based on COVID-19 mandates and expectations.

Mr. Vasquez communicates the repairs that occurred at STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges such as the flat roof needed to be fixed for the roof to drain properly, the district took the precautionary matters and addressed this issue before it became a bigger problem.

Mr. Vasquez communicates an update on the repairs at the Orange High School and its ongoing process.

That concludes Mr. Vasquez’s facility report.

Dr. Fitzhugh discusses the school year attendance and its importance of attendance for the summer programs.

Ms. Lisa Spotswood-Brown communicates about the virtual registration for kindergarten through 12 grades will be opening on July 5 through August 31, 2022, from 9am-1pm.

Ms. Spotswood-Brown also communicates that if any changes such as address changes, phone numbers changes to please use this time to update with the district.

Dr. Blanton communicates the preschool 2022-2023 in-person and virtual registration will take place from July 5-July 14, 2022, from 9am-1pm.

Dr. Blanton communicates that the program will offer special needs and ELL services, high scope curriculum, certified and trained staff, breakfast and lunch, and a lot more.

Dr. Blanton explains the process for the virtual registration for those parents who don't know how to navigate or know of virtual registration.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the importance of downloading and staying in the loop with all the great things the Orange Public Schools is doing.

This concludes the Superintendent's report.

Ms. Johnson motions to approve June 14,2022, public meeting minutes

**Unable to hear who moved and seconded this motion**

**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN**

Ms. Johnson motions to approve June 14, 2022, closed meeting minutes

**Moved by Ms. Gravesande Seconded by Ms. Cabido**

**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN**

## **Community Report**

### **Public Relations**

Dr. Turner communicates that the committee held a virtual meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm and it was broadcasted live via the district Facebook page.

Dr. Turner communicates the Mr. Davone went through the COVID-19 details, clinics, and testing. The optional mask mandates were discussed, vaccination status shared with each school nurse. Dr. Turner urges the community that if they have not done so yet, to please share the vaccination status of their children with the school nurses it is very important to share that information.

Dr. Turner communicates that the district will still support our staff and students, everyone will be eligible for testing. The district will make expectations for families. Dr. Turner also makes the district aware that health insurance is not needed for testing.

Dr. Turner communicates the wonderful presentation done by Mr. Davone, and Ms. Purkiss regarding the summer programs that are currently taking place.

Dr. Turner urges the community to watch the Public Relations meeting because Mr. Davone does an excellent job in mentioning everything that is occurring in the district, any upcoming events, Mr. Davone is always updated with all the great things the district is doing.

Dr. Tuner communicates the Ms. Cabido inquired about COVID-19 testing can continue.

Dr. Turner communicates that Ms. Johnson is proud of the committee and the board engagement and how great of a job Dr. Turner is doing.

### **Curriculum Report**

Ms. Cabido communicates that this month's curriculum meeting was very short and the top of the discussion what Mr. Scutari presented in today's meeting.

Ms. Cabido thanks Mr. Scutari for the presentation.

Ms. Cabido communicates that the critical thinking and the vigorous thinking that the children will be obtaining from this new curriculum is very exciting for her as math teacher.

Ms. Cabido communicates that the committee also discussed the internship Passion Driven Leadership program. A program ran by the district to assist our teachers and make sure our teachers are happy teachers. The district is taking the initiative to make sure that all the district is being taken care of. One part of the program will focus on emphasize on guidance and managing stress and the other part will be focused on research and assessing growth, this great program if approved by the board will be free at no cost.

Ms. Cabido communicates that the committee is extremely excited to see how the program will do.

### **Finance Report**

Mr. Sherif communicates that Prana is one of the major components of however the district is doing every good decision they could to make sure that our finances are in order. The committee has five items that are up for approval tonight. One of those items for student transportation, and some school equipment.

Mr. Sherif communicates that the district is spending less and not overspending which allows the district to have a savings.

Mr. Sherif communicates that the public meetings are for everyone especially for community members. Mr. Sherif states that he does not see the community attending those meetings and ask questions and raise concerns about the money the district is spending on.

Mr. Sherif communicates that the budget is going good however it would make him happy if the community would be more engaged in the meetings.

### **Facilities Report**

Mr. Henry apologizes to the community and to the board members because he was not present at the last facility meeting that was held on July 6<sup>th</sup> due to professional obligations.

Mr. Henry communicates that Mr. Armstrong acted on behalf of him and Mr. Armstrong will be discussed anything that Mr. Vasquez did not discuss.

Mr. Armstrong communicates that the water dispensary was on the agenda to discuss, small business grants, the district is waiting for CCC Tv camera to go along with our security system.

### **Policy Meeting**

Ms. Crockett communicates the committee had a closed meeting to go over the second reading of the policies that we're to approve today.

### **Public Comments**

Ms. Tisa Singleton community member communicates that she is standing at the board meeting today wearing many hats. First, as a parent she would like to thank the board members for inviting some of the community members to go try out the new school lunch menus. Ms. Singleton express the joy she has knowing her daughter will get to eat lunch at school.

Ms. Singleton inquiries regarding resolution C22-049 does this mean the district will be getting new water dispensers as well as upgrades to those who already have water dispensers. Ms. Singleton makes the board members aware of the water dispensers at Park Avenue never running out however the water dispensers at Lincoln are always running out of water by 2pm.

Ms. Singleton inquiries to the board on when the staff will receive their copies of the new contract, some staff have not yet received their retro payment, and what is the status with the longevity pay as well.

Ms. Johnson communicates that resolution C22-049 is something she will pull to investigate to answer her question.

Mr. Zachary communicates to Ms. Singleton that there are some people that separated or left there's a calculation that must be done to properly provide them with the correct amount of money from the time they separated from the time the change took effect.

Mr. Zachary communicates that the system doesn't necessarily calculate that payment however they are working on it, and they are hopeful that they can provide that to them as soon as possible.

Ms. Jones communicates that the contract is in the process of being finalized it will be available electronically for all members first and then they will receive a hard copy once it comes back from printing.

Mr. Clements with Orange Bengals, President of Football organization with Orange. Mr. Clements to make the board members aware that the organization has submitted a form for facility use and hopes that everything goes through smoothly and hopes this year the team can have a chance to play at home.

Ms. Johnson motions to close public comments.

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

**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

## **BOARD RESOLUTIONS**

Ms. Johnson motions to approve a consent agenda removing A22-035, A22-040, A22-041, A22-043, A22-045, B22-011, B22-013, C22-043, C22-040

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Sherif**

**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motions to approve A22-035

**Unable to detect who moved or seconded**

**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson ask if someone can speak into resolution A22-035

Ms. Cabido elaborates on what Ms. Singleton spoke about regarding the new menu that the schools will be providing. Ms. Cabido urges the community to speak up and let the board members know how it's going whether is good or bad.

Ms. Johnson makes the community that the board member did a lunch tasting and next the members will try the breakfast. Ms. Johnson expresses how great the lunch was and the presentation and she hopes that presentation carries out to our students.

Ms. Crockett communicates that Chartwells did a good job, the board members were provided with emails where they can share their feedback and concerns to make sure we can get it right for our students.

Dr. Turner communicates that she agrees with everything that board said and wants to make the community aware that the board member did listen to community however the community need to be fair with the requests that they demand.

Mr. Armstrong communicates that the board will be holding Chartwells accountable the ambiance was fantastic however Chartwells was already made aware that the board member will be doing pop ups throughout the schools to make sure that the experience they had is carried out to the students.

Ms. Cabido communicates that the board members talked about what is the best way for the student to obtain their lunches which was also discussed at the Chartwells meeting.

Mr. Sherif communicates that this is the way the community should continue to be engaged. The community spoke up and said something about the lunch and the board took the necessary steps to hear out the community and act.

Mr. Wingfield wants to thank Dwight Holmes for stepping up and taking that up to the board members attention and urges the community to keep bringing up issues that they are not happy with.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the importance of good food for our students and would like to extend the taste test if they can express interest via email to our district email.

Ms. Gravesande makes the community aware that the district will have a student representative in September. She hopes that by having the student representative the board will be able to hear that students voice since the board members are not getting the feedback needed from the community.

Dr. Tuner communicates the importance of the school lunch because the board member and community should be able to eat whatever our students are being given.

Ms. Johnson motions to approve A22-040

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that contract must be in place for our vendors and we currently do not have a contract in place with this vendor. Open Systems the new vendor that the district will be using. This motion to approve the new security systems and they will be interwind with the security system we already have in place.

The board members have a discussion on different situations that may occur at buildings and how the security will help in case of an emergency.



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

**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motions to approve A22-041

Ms. Gravesande asks Mr. Zackary to talk about the backup documents not showing any processed dates of when the district is going to start the asbestos testing in the schools.

Mr. Zackary communicates that this is a mandatory test that the district must do, however he does not have the dates with him at the time however there are proposed dates.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates to the community that the district does not have any asbestos issues airborne issues however it is something that needs to get tested often.

Mr. Sherif is requesting the dates of testing that occurs every 6 months.

**Moved by Ms. Gravesande Seconded by Ms. Crockett**

**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motions to approve A22-043

Ms. Harper communicates that last year the district adopted Frontline for the Special Programs where they handle the student IEP and aids the department with placement.

Dr. Turner asks Ms. Harper since this would be the second year if she can please provide based off her experience any feedback.

Ms. Harper communicates that this is a great program, the department did have a few hiccups however after talking to a few other districts who have been using this platform have expressed great things.

Ms. Harper communicates all the great benefits the platform has to offer for our teachers and our paraprofessional who can get more familiar with the needs that the student requires.

Ms. Cadibo inquiries regarding the cost for the second year.

Ms. Harper communicate this resolution is for this new incoming year, and its paid increments throughout the time.

**Moved by Ms. Gravesande Seconded by Ms. Crockett**

**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motions to approve A22-045

Ms. Harper communicates that this is a resolution for a student who has an issue with eating therefore the district would like to do a feeding assessment and to also train the student on appropriate eating interventions.

Ms. Johnson wants confirmation of pricing of the assessment which is \$750.00 each test.

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded unable to detect**  
**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motions to approve B22-011

Dr. Powell communicates that the program about mindfulness, which has a secondary in education however it is a primary of mental health.

Dr. Powell communicates that this program is federal grant funded and there is no cost at this time. In hope that this could roll around to other schools.

Dr. Powell communicates that the schools were selected by the representative bodies of the district.

Ms. Johnson inquires what if the district would like to have this program throughout the district.

Dr. Powell communicates that she does not have that amount since the program is a federal funded program and won't know the amount until the program starts to see what goes into the cost.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates thanks to the group who thought of the program because they came to the district and thought of Orange.

Dr. Turner communicates that she wants to make sure the program bring quality and since it's stretched so thin, she is concerned about the quality and making it fair to the rest of the district.

Dr. Powell communicates that this group is also doing a data and it will assist with the pilot of the programming.

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Crockett**  
**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motions to approve E22-013

Ms. Gravesande asks Dr. Fitzhugh if this resolution is approved what is the process of ordering these books? The last time they had conversation with textbooks a parent stated her student did not have the proper books for their math class.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that the district will go based on the registration number of students and order 5% more to assure that the district has extras for those new students entering the school year mid-way.

Dr. Turner communicates that if the district is using those registration numbers who can we make sure that those numbers will be enough for those extra students.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that the school has also ordered additional books to avoid that from happening.

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield   Seconded by Mr. Armstrong**  
**ROLL CALL (9) YEA   (0) NAY   (0) ABSTAIN   (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motions to approve C22-043

Ms. Cabido communicates that why are we not having a contract resolution for Genesis for that amount, but we have contract resolution for other contracts.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that this is a continuation of the platform.

Mr. Zachery communicates that this often happens when the contract has passed for multiple years, and it does not have to keep going up for approval renewals for the board to approve.

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield   Seconded by Ms. Cabido**  
**ROLL CALL (9) YEA   (0) NAY   (0) ABSTAIN   (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motion to approve C22-049

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates to the resolution of the water fountain throughout the school district.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that the district has upgraded the water fountain in each school building. The water fountain will communicate with the vendor when there is an issue with dispensing water.

Ms. Gravesande wants to know what the district is doing with the old water dispensers.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that those water dispensers are a lease therefore the water company will be taking charge of those.

Ms. Cabido suggests for those students who will need water bottles and how the district will make that sustainable.

Dr. Turner wants confirmation how the students will be able to access water and bring them to their class, or gym.

Ms. Crockett wants confirmation on how long the lease for the water dispensers is.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that this lease is for one year to make sure the district is content with the services the water company will be providing.

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by unable to detected who**  
**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motion to approve HIB cases

**Moved by Mr. Armstrong Seconded by Ms. Cabido**  
**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

Ms. Johnson motion to approve Human Resources Agenda

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

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

The curriculum virtual meeting will be held on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm

The facility virtual meeting will be held on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm

Public Relations virtual meeting will be held on August 2 at 3:30pm

The financing committee virtual meeting will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

Orange Board of Education public meeting will be held on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Policy Committee virtual meeting will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

Closed budget hearing meeting will be held on August 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

### **Board Comments**

Mr. Henry thanks the entire community for holding the board members accountable as far as the food service in the district. Without the knowledge of the day-to-day basis without that information the new menu taste test would have not been possible.

Ms. Johnson thanks Ms. Singleton for advocating for only her student but for all students and she would like if Ms. Singleton could bring more community members to the meetings.

Ms. Gravesande adds to Ms. Johnson comments that they plan to hold board meeting at schools to get more community members to come out to the meetings.

Ms. Johnson moves to have meeting adjourned

**Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong**

**ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**