

Minutes of **Tuesday, March 8, 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

Ms. Fatimah Turner

Mr. Siaka Sherif

Ms. Shawneque Johnson, President

Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield

Mr. David Armstrong

ROLL CALL (8) PRESENT (1) ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT:

- Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Tina Powell, Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Systems
- Mr. Jason Ballard, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Shebra Jones, Executive Director of Human Resources
- 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 Executive session and move into public meeting.

Moved by Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Sherif

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

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

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates a reminder of the district strategic plan and it's four focus areas. The district will continue to invest and promotes a culture of excellence in teaching and learning through increased and improved opportunities for quality and sustained professional

development that address districts needs and individual school needs as outlined by the data points.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the data that is reviewed in the curriculum monthly meeting.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the targeted and intentional support for our students as well as the intervention curriculum. It is a small group instruction where the ratio is eight to nine students to three adults.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that the district goals are set to ensure that we can do the critical work.

Dr. Fitzhugh introduces Mrs. Lisa Spotswood-Brown to go over the Genesis presentation.

Mrs. Lisa Spotswood-Brown communicates a few of the changes in the policy and guidelines.

Mrs. Lisa Spotswood-Brown encourages those who do not have the Orange Public Schools app to download it to stay in touch with all the latest updates and news.

Mrs. Lisa Spotswood-Brown communicates and goes over how to navigate the parent and student portal.

Mrs. Lisa Spotswood-Brown goes over the overview of page of the forms library where you can find the daily COVID form.

Mrs. Lisa Spotswood-Brown communicates the different sections on the COVID forms.

Mrs. Lisa Spotswood-Brown communicates that are benefits of having the district app and encourages those who have not downloaded it yet to do so.

Dr. Fitzhugh congratulates February's Students of the Month throughout the district.

Ms. Alcantara communicates an overview of the Career Technical Education (CTE) program and its components.

Ms. Alcantara communicates that CTE is an option that provides learners the opportunity to earn industry-valued credentials, college credit, and workplace experiences incorporating a rigorous academic core coupled with high-level technical curriculum.

Ms. Alcantara communicates the components of CTE programs of study such as high wage, high skill, high demand.

Ms. Alcantara communicates the seven programs the district is offering and value credentials that will be offered to our students. First one being Introducing to Business Accounting I and II, Audiovisual Technology and Film I, II, III, Culinary Arts I, II, III, Entrepreneurship, I,II,III, Graphic Design, I, II,III, Health Science, I, II,III, Naval JrROTC, I-IV, all programs offer exposure to careers, real world experiences, equitable access, and opportunities to explore.

Dr. Powell communicates a brief update on our mask mandates, survey results regarding the universal use of masks.

Dr. Powell communicates that the total responses to the survey was 1,236, 54.6 % of respondents were from parents and 45.4 % were from staff members.

Dr. Powell communicates vaccination status on the survey. 27.3 % are fully vaccinated plus booster, 37.5% fully vaccinated, 32% are unvaccinated and a very low percentage of the responses are partially vaccinated. 81.6 % of the respondents voted for children wearing their masks always. 71.6 of the responders voted that the mask mandate should not be lifted.

Dr. Powell communicates that mask will continue to be worn in all offices and classrooms through April 14,2022. The district will reassess where we are as a district and provide an update after Spring Break. Temperature checking reading will still happen until the week of March 14, after that it will no longer be required. Testing will continue weekly until the end of March as we continue to assess this process.

Mr. Davone continues the presentation to discuss Covid clinics, and testing dates throughout different location in the district.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the importance of keeping the student's home if they are not feeling well. The district wants to continue the low Covid related cases.

Mr. Vasquez communicates a brief update on the facilities report.

Mr. Vasquez reports that the district is continuously cleaning touch points in every building in the district. Thorough cleaning is still getting done and will continue.

Mr. Vasquez makes the community aware that the walkthroughs of the facilities are still being conducted with the Superintendent and the Business Administrator as well as PCI to ensure that our buildings are up to code with repairs, and maintenance.

Mr. Vasquez goes over the repairs that have been made throughout the district since the last facilities report.

Mr. Vasquez provides an overview and update on the progress in the Orange High School project. More pictures to come for our next board meeting with all the new updates that have been made.

Mr. Vasquez communicates that there will be a town meeting that you will have to register for being held on March 28th at 5:30pm to meet with the Cleveland Families and Staff regarding the renovation of the project.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates chronically absence categories data throughout the district.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates school's configuration for next year 2022-2023. Elementary schools will remain up to seventh grade. Central Elementary will remain as a K-2 building. John Robert Lewis will be Pre-K 3 & 4 as well as Orange Early Childhood Center. Scholars' academy G&T Grades K-5 as well as Pre 3 & 4.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates a reminder of school closure days and proposed change in calendar for 21-22 SY. OEA day is being changed from March 10th to June 2nd. Spring Break will begin on April 15 and conclude April 22. School will reopen April 25, 2022.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates one last announcement on establishing a school that can be Blue Ribbon certified. The district is now in talks to have our first Blue Ribbon certified in the city of Orange.

This concludes the Superintendent's report.

Ms. Johnson motions to approve February 8,2022, public meeting minutes

Moved by Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Sherif

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve February 8, 2022, closed meeting minutes

Moved by Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Sherif

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

Community Report

Public Relations: Ms. Turner communicates that the committee met on March 1 , 2022, at 3:30pm. In attendance were Dr. Fitzhugh and Mr. Davone, Ms. Alcantara, Mrs. Lisa Spotswood-Brown, Ms. Turner

, and Ms. Jones attended the meeting to discuss clinics, and the updates on, vaccination cards, quarantine periods.

Ms. Turner communicates that Essex County Mobile unit are now available to everyone. The district is providing one at home test kit to all.

Ms. Turner communicates that Ms. Purkiss provided February 3rd and February 16th opportunities for testing.

Ms. Turner communicates that the committee went over the programs and activities that went on in the month of February.

Ms. Turner communicates all the CTE programs were discussed in more depth and detail.

Curriculum Report: Ms. Cabido was not present to provide a curriculums report.

Financial Report: Mr. Sherif communicates to the community that they financial report can be view at any time on the district website.

Mr. Sherif communicates the few topics that were discussed at the financial meeting two of them being, student transportation and acquiring new poison for the treasury report.

Mr. Sherif communicates that reporting the treasury were sometimes a hard task at times therefore the district acquired someone to assist with the treasury deadline.

Mr. Sherif communicates the bill list and supporting balance sheet was reviewed to make sure the district is in a good financial position.

Facilities Report: Mr. Henry communicates to the community that what was discussed before from Mr. Vasquez were the main topics discussed at the facilities committee meeting however the conversations were more in depth with the repairs and maintenance that was done.

Policy Report: Ms. Crockett communicates to the community that the meeting was held last week. All the policies are mandatory. The committee talked to the implications of and how that would impact the district.

Public Comments

Community member Tisa Singleton from Fairview Avenue thanks the board for providing the high school students with some reprieve after testing on the second and today. Also, for removing the trailers from the side of the High School. Ms. Singleton asks the board if they have thought of putting

back the green house that was taken away, the culinary students could benefit from those goods in their class. Ms. Singleton was also wondering if the district will be going back to hiring their own substitute like it was done in the past. Maybe that can help raise the prices and help with the substitute shortage. Lastly, Ms. Singleton wanted to know about resolution C22-018 what exactly those buses will be used for?

Mr. Ballard response to Ms. Singleton's question regarding the buses. He explains resolution C22-018. Yes, the district still owns the two buses however one is not operable, and a pass inspection is required before transporting students. The other bus which is a 2013 Freightliner chassis is a bus that could be potentially work however we have had a few mechanics look at it and there is something wrong with the wheels which doesn't allow the bus to be steered. This is an electrical issue that seems to be a big problem. It's very problematic technical issue. The district has looked at multiple options. The board currently has a bid for two 2018 fully air conditioned for passenger school bus which is a cost around \$150,000.00. the district was able to get both buses for less than \$200,000.00.

Ms. Singleton asks Mr. Ballard if the district is moving towards having our own buses and bus drivers like we did in the past.

Mr. Ballard makes the community aware that the district is putting together a position to get school drivers to hopefully get back to transporting the students.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that these types of financial decision are discussed in the financial committee meeting which you can find on the district Facebook website for those that would like to stay on top of the district finances.

Community member Mr. Dwight Holmes, North Ward resident, has a question, request, and a suggestion. Mr. Holmes question that during the Superintendent's presentation last month he mentioned computer for staff or someone. Mr. Holmes would like more clarification.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that the district is waiting for the final shipment to come in. The computers are for the instructional staff.

Mr. Holmes request is to be able to participate in the facilities committee meetings as the member of the City of Orange Township planning board. How can he become a part of that meeting?

Mr. Henry addresses Mr. Holmes and makes him aware that the facilities meeting is virtual and Mr. Henry can provide him with a zoom link where he can view the meeting and ask any questions he may have.

Mr. Holmes suggests the district considers some preliminary planning for or gatherings, such as a workshop, trainings, or something for those students so they can get to know each other since this will be their first time meeting their other peers from different wards throughout the district.

Dr. Fitzhugh asks Mr. Holmes has he been reading the district goal book because he is right on point into what the district is moving towards.

Mr. Ballard advises Mr. Holmes that he can also view the meeting online on our Facebook page. He advises Mr. Holmes that the zoom link is only for the member of the board and executive team not for the public, however the meeting is live streamed via our website.

Ms. Johnson motions to close public comments.

Moved by Mr. Fatima Seconded by Ms. Sherif

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

BOARD RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Johnson motions to approve a consent agenda of resolution -B22-004, C22-14, C22-018, E22-002-E22-006,

Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Crockett

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve B22-004

Ms. Johnson asks Dr. Fitzhugh to provide clarity on resolution. Dr. Fitzhugh asks Dr. Powell to clarify on resolution.

Dr. Powell communicates the MSU grants to provide additional counseling to our students, that support anxiety in young adults in levels of academic rigor. It's a two-year initiative with hopes it continues.

Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Sherif

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve C22-014

Moved by Mr. Sherif Seconded by Mr. Henry

ROLL CALL (7) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (1) ABSENT

Ms. Johnson motions to approve C22-018.

Ms. Johnson asks Dr. Fitzhugh to provide clarity on this resolution.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that was the essential purchase of the school bus.

Ms. Johnson asks Mr. Ballard on how much money will the district be saving with the purchase of these buses for \$76,000.00

Mr. Ballard response that just for the Park Avenue route it costs the district around \$600,067.00 for a total of 9 7- passenger rides. Generally, with that population the district will be saving \$517,000.00 that is not factoring the other routes. The overall saving could be near 2 million dollars.

Ms. Gravesande asks Mr. Ballard if we will still be maintenance on the bus that is stopped due to mechanical issues.

Mr. Ballard response that the bus will eventually be used as a back up vehicle once it has been repaired.

Ms. Turner asks Mr. Ballard to clarify on why the district needs the buses.

Mr. Ballard response that one population is Our Lady of the Valley, due to the on-going construction the students meet at the meet up point and get transported to the school. As a district we are responsible for those students that have IEP. The intent is to corral in transportation. This is a mechanism for us to save on transportation due to the budget that we already have.

Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Gravesande

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve E22-001- E22-006

Ms. Johnson asks Dr. Fitzhugh to speak on this facilities request.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that these were amended dates that were affected by COVID.

Dr. Fitzhugh asks Mr. Ballard to discuss on E22-05 and E22-06.

Mr. Ballard communicates that an addition to those items there has been a request from the Orange City Township to use the Belle stadium for recreational games, which historically has been provided with the same exact way. E22-06 was requested to use the gymnasium. There is no cost to have the facility open.

Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Turner

ROLL CALL (6) YEA (2) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (1) ABSENT

Ms. Johnson motions to approve home instruction cases 3103103223,31451910765.

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve out of district placement cases

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

Ms. Johnson motion to approve alleged HIB case for February

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

Ms. Johnson motion to approve hearing for March.

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

Ms. Johnson motion to approve Human Resource agenda

Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Henry
ROLL CALL (7) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (1) ABSENT

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

Curriculum virtual meeting will be held on March 28th at 3:30pm

Facility virtual meeting will be held on April 4 at 3:30pm

Public Relations virtual meeting will be held on April 5 at 3:30pm

Financing committee virtual meeting will be held on April 8 at 5:30pm

Orange Board of Education public meeting will be held on April 12 at 6:00pm

Board Comments

Mr. Henry communicates his feelings about the state of the library. He mentions that he is disappointed. He relives the moments that he has a young child and how much the library inspired and helped with him throughout his life. He talks about the disappointment, and all the failed attempts. He's asking the community, speaking from the heart, to please do whatever it takes to save it the way the library saved him.

Mr. Sherif communicates his appreciation to everyone who is in attendance, and those who are doing everything for our students. Being an active participant of the children's success take a great work and discipline to ensure the success of the district and its students.

Mr. Wingfield communicates his thanks to the community, faculty, and staff at Orange Public Schools. He wants to acknowledge three of our alumni. William Collins, Prince Buzza, and Cariola Richards, these are three individuals who are being very productive at MSU. They are creative, respectful, and thoughtful and he is proud to work with those amazing alumni students.

Mr. Armstrong thanks to allow the board to continue to serve the community. He urges the community to continue to ask the board any questions, no answer will be hidden from the public.

Ms. Turner wants to enlighten of Women's History month she wants to enlighten all our women. She quotes Dorothy White who was a social worker and was an activist for women. Ms. Turner praises the district for allowing the students to explore and opening door to opportunities for our students.

Ms. Gravesande wants to say Happy International Women's Day and thanks all the women in this district. She congratulates the students at Park Ave who decorated their doors. She thanks Dr. Fitzhugh for inviting her, she had a great time. She also attended a meeting Dr. Cooke had with her parents about the conversation of converting Forest Avenue as a Blue-Ribbon school. She takes pride and is happy to be apart of the board, and thanks those who paved the way for these members now who continue to do the work.

Ms. Crockett gives kudos to all the staff and teachers for all their hard work. She thanks everyone at Lincoln Avenue for allowing her to go see all the interventions, see the kids having fun and enjoying their time learning, it was wonderful, and she cannot wait to see Forest becoming a Blue-Ribbon school.

Ms. Johnson communicates that this is the year of building relationship. The more relationship is built the more resources we can gather for our students. This board doesn't push papers, we dive in, we have questions, we ask for reports, we ask him about everything and anything, and Dr. Fitzhugh's staff is outstanding. They have provided everything and all evidence. This board is making sure that every student, every staff member has what they need. This board wants what's best for its community and will continue to provide that.

Ms. Johnson moves to have meeting adjourned

Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong

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