

Minutes of **Tuesday, October 11, 2022, Public Meeting** of the Orange Board of Education held at 6:00 pm.

Shawnee Johnson is presiding over tonight's Meeting.

Ms. Guadalupe Cabido

Ms. Sueann Gravesande

Mr. Derrick Henry (**Absent**)

Ms. Samantha Crockett

Ms. Fatimah Turner, Ph.D.

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
- Mr. Jason Ballard, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Mr. Lamont Zachary, Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- 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 Ms. Gravesande

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

Ms. Johnson re-opens the public meeting and introduces Mr. Yearwood, Lincoln Avenue principal to greet the staff and everyone watching tonight's meeting.

Mr. Yearwood, principal at Lincoln Ave, thanked the custodian, tech coordinator, and library media specialist for setting up the room to host the board members.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates with the board and communicates with Orange Public Schools STAR students.

Dr. Fitzhugh introduces Ms. Karen Harris, executive director of the Office of Humanities, and Mr. David Scutari executive director of STEM-Focused Learning, and Gifted Learning.

Ms. Harris communicates how Orange Public Schools did on NJSLA in the subject of English Language Arts to the board and community.

Ms. Harris communicates that the learning loss was not as significant as they thought it would be.

Ms. Harris communicates that yes; we experience some loss just as the rest of the state however we are moving in the correct direction.

Ms. Harris communicates that the district had many students in the approaching area. The district also had a few middle school teachers that outperformed the state.

Ms. Harris communicates the next steps the district is taking to ensure that more students get into the approaching area or met the expectation area.

Ms. Harris presents to the board member and community members of the closing the achievement gap.

(Glows)

- Learning loss was not as extreme as anticipated; grades 4,5,8, and 9 reduced gaps between the district and the state
- A Large number of students performing in the “Approaching” performance level close to the “Meets” marker
- There were middle school teachers whose classes outperformed the state; these teachers lead PD during district professional development days.

(Grows)

- Institute Tier 2 and 3 interventions in four key schools
- Utilize the data from more precise diagnostics to plan Tier 2 instruction
- Strengthen the delivery of instruction for a small group through CPTs
- Focus on the reading and writing sub-skills to strengthen the reading and writing connection
- Utilize new district-wide Grade level common planning times to foster lesson planning collaborations and review of student work
- Ensure students are doing the “heavy lifting” when executing lesson plans
- Focus on student engagement strategies that foster reading and writing connectivity

Mr. Scutari communicates the mathematics scores and data to the board members and community.

Mr. Scutari communicates that the math learning loss was not extreme and the district closed the gaps between 7,8, and Algebra I.

Mr. Scutari communicates that the district outperformed the state significant district performance in grades 6-8, in Algebra II and Geometry.

Mr. Scutari communicates how the standards were evaluated and how the district is moving forward to get the district moving more into the approaching category.

(Glows)

- Learning loss was not as extreme as anticipated; grades 7, 8, and Algebra I reduced the gap between the district and the state
- Algebra II and Geometry significantly outperformed the state

- Significant District performance in grades 6-8 in Ratios and Proportions and Expressions and Equations domains
- A Large number of students performing in the “Approaching” performance level close to the “Meets” marker

(Grows)

- Grades 3, 4, and 5 experienced larger regressions
- Number and Operations in Base Ten and Number Sense domains are areas of focus
- Strengthen the delivery of instruction through professional development and revised curriculum/resources
- Shift the cognitive load to students (productive struggle)

Ms. Harris presents to the board and community overall data for how each school did and what is the district doing to make sure those schools whose scores are not where they want to be.

Dr. Fitzhugh introduces Ms. Shelly Harper, executive director of Special Services to discuss the Dynamic Learning Map Assessment.

Ms. Harper communicates what is the Dynamic Learning Map (DLM) to the board and community. Dynamic Learning Maps assessments are for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities for whom general state assessments are not appropriate, even with accommodations. DLM assessments offer these students a way to show what they know and can do in English language arts, mathematics, and science.

Ms. Harper communicates that DLM assessments also help parents and educators set high academic expectations for their students. Results from DLM assessments are used to inform instruction and meet accountability requirements for reporting student achievement.

Ms. Harper communicates the DLM accessibility DLM assessments are designed to maximize accessibility for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Assessments are built to allow multiple ways for students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and understanding.

Ms. Harper communicates the achievement level as outlined on the DLM The student demonstrates an emerging understanding of and ability to apply content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements. The student’s understanding of and ability to apply targeted content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements is approaching the target. The student’s understanding of and ability to apply targeted content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements is at target. The student demonstrates an advanced understanding of and ability to apply targeted content knowledge and skills represented by the Essential Elements.

Ms. Harper is proud to announce to the community and board members that the district has students in grade 12 in ELA and mathematics that were targeted or advanced.

Dr. Fitzhugh thanked the students for working hard on these assessments and all the staff.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the school self-assessment for determining grades under ABR.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the purpose of these types of programs and how they are beneficial to the district.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that to assess the effectiveness of the harassment, intimidation, and bullying (H.I.B) process and implementation for all schools in the Orange Township School District.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the core elements of H.I.B.

- Core Element #1: HIB programs, Approaches, and Initiatives
- Core Element #2: Training on the BOE-Approved HIB policy
- Core Element #3: Other Staff Instruction and Training Programs
- Core Element #4: Curriculum & Instruction on HIB & Related Information & Skills
- Core Element #5: HIB Personnel
- Core Element #6: School-Level HIB Incident Reporting Procedure
- Core Element #7: HIB Investigation Procedure
- Core Element #8: HIB Reporting

Dr. Fitzhugh presents the district self-assessment under ABR throughout the district.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the attendance report and encourages schools, staff, and parents to ensure that our students are in school every day.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that over 54% of students are in school every day.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the early childhood center's absent data and the data looks a lot better than what it looked last year.

Dr. Fitzhugh introduces Mr. Ballard to provide the community and board members with the facilities update throughout the district.

Mr. Ballard communicates to the community and board members that going into September and October the district was focusing on the school and classrooms are ready for the staff and students.

Mr. Ballard communicates the repairs that were made to Heywood Avenue School. The stairs were replaced because the old ones were hazardous to the students and staff.

Mr. Ballard communicates that Forest Street Community School Forest Street School needed a boiler replacement. The boiler could not be installed in time for the winter months, so the district had to install a temporary boiler.

Mr. Ballard communicates that Central Elementary School front doors at Central Elementary School were in need to be replaced. The door frames had rusted; therefore, making it difficult to secure the building.

Mr. Ballard communicates that at STEM, the gymnasium doors did not have the means to be locked, making it an unsafe area in case of a lockdown. So, the district added hardware to the doors for them to lock in case of an emergency.

Mr. Ballard communicates that the team and I will continue to meet with the Schools Development Authority and Terminal Construction alongside Mr. Vasquez, Manager of Security to keep the district up to date with the ongoing progress at the orange HS renovation project.

Mr. Ballard communicates the steps the districts must follow

Mr. Ballard communicates that the rest of the work will continue to happen throughout the district.

Dr. Fitzhugh encourages the community to stay on top of all the new great things that are happening within the district, and you can do that by downloading the district app and staying in touch with our social media handles.

Dr. Fitzhugh re-introduces Mr. Ballard to communicate to the board members and community what is a collaborative report.

Mr. Ballard communicates the background of the report and the objective funding initiative.

Mr. Ballard communicates how the dollars are being spent via Title I funds.

Mr. Ballard communicates the difference between grants and title I funds and explains the current state of those funds.

Mr. Ballard communicates that the corrective action plan has begun and although the auditors presented the findings for the 2021-2022 audit. However, Mr. Ballard is happy to report that the business office is already taking action to eliminate that from happening in the incoming years.

Mr. Ballard communicates the importance of using the correct budget lines when purchasing items for the school, classroom, and students.

Mr. Ballard communicates that he hopes the board members approve the correction plan that he has put in place and hopes that in the next 6 months he can deliver better news.

That concludes the Superintendent's report.

Ms. Johnson motions to approve September 11, 2022, public meeting minutes

Moved by Mr. Armstrong Seconded by Mr. Henry
ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (0)ABSTAIN

Ms. Johnson motions to table September 11, 2022, closed meeting minutes to the next board meeting

Moved by Ms. Cabido by Ms. Gravesande
ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN

Curriculum Report: Ms. Cabido communicates with the committee that met two weeks ago to discuss the NJSLA assessment and data collection.

Ms. Cabido communicates the partnership with Orange HS juniors and seniors and Saint Barnabas Medical Center. Students will have the opportunity to follow areas of the hospital they're interested in. The only cost to the district is the transportation and this program will take place after school if approved at tonight's board meeting.

Ms. Cabido communicates that the committee discussed the opportunity for one of our staff members for qualitative and quantitative math course study for their doctoral degrees.

Ms. Cabido communicates the honor of being a part of a district that is moving its staff forward in its career.

Facilities Report: Mr. Armstrong communicates to the community that Mr. Ballard's previous presentation is sufficient with all the updated repairs that have been done throughout the district. Mr. Armstrong communicates to the community that the facilities department has done an amazing job to have the schools ready for the winter months and soon Orange will be 100% and it's excited about the new upcoming projects.

Finance Report: Mr. Sherif communicates that he does not want to go over the same information Mr. Ballard did previously however as far as the finance committee is considered is doing well, the district is doing well financially, budget transfer, budget reports. Mr. Sherif communicates to the community that all budget transfers are on the agenda for public information. Mr. Sherif communicates that the district is doing well with its audits which is very important to ensure financial success next school year. Mr. Sherif encourages the community to come to the board meetings.

Public Relations: Dr. Turner communicates that the public relations committee is a very fun meeting to watch, and you get to see what goes on behind the scenes of all the great things that are coming to the district.

Dr. Turner communicates to the community that the district was just awarded a grant that will allow the district to provide take-home COVID-19 tests for the staff.

Dr. Turner communicates that the committee discussed the district's welcome-back ceremony. Dr. Turner communicates how great that event was and what she remembers about her welcome-back ceremony.

Dr. Turner communicates that the community, staff, and parents came out to support the students.

Public Comments

Ms. C is a teacher at Lincoln Avenue School. Ms. C wants to give a huge thank you to Mr. Armstrong for the Elves crew for the trip to the Turtle Back Zoo and Mr. Yearwood for securing the bus for the special

needs students. Ms. C communicates a time when she was able to take the students on more sensory field trips and she is asking if that is something that could be brought back into the budget.

Dr. Fitzhugh makes Ms. C aware that trips of that type have been allocated in the school's budget please see her principal discuss the matter further.

Community member Tisa Singleton would like to suggest that the district can do a better job with the calendar because the parents were not given enough time to prepare for aftercare with such short notice.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that the district revised the letter right before Friday, and it was decided that the students and staff needed some time after sitting for so many hours however the district will do a better job with the communication.

Ms. Sawyer, a teacher at Lincoln Avenue School communicates to the board that she has been recently appointed OEA evaluation committee chairperson and is seeking a collaboration with the district with the expectations of evaluations throughout the district.

Ms. Gloria Stewart community member, grandparent, and a staff member would like to say thank you for bringing back the board meetings in different locations. Ms. Stewart wants to congratulate Mr. Yearwood on his new position as Principal at Lincoln Street School. Ms. Stewart communicates that she did not hear any update on the Cleveland Street School construction. MS. Stewart communicates the parking situation around the school must improve. Ms. Stewart thanked the board members.

Mr. Dwight Holmes communicates that as a member of the health committee they were advised to collaborate with their district health committee.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that Mr. Ballard's department is taking care of curating a health committee and all information regarding that will be posted on the website.

This concludes public comments.

Ms. Johnson motions to close the public comments.

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

Ms. Gravesande motions to resolve to approve the corrective action plan as a walk-on resolution.

**Moved by unable to detect Seconded be unable to detect
ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT**

BOARD RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Johnson motions to approve a consent agenda removing C22-605, C22-071, E22-018-E22-021, F22-036, F22-038, F22-040, F22-041, F22-042.

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve C22-065

Moved by unable to detect Seconded by Unable to detect
ROLL CALL (7) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Ms. Johnson motions to approve C22-071

Ms. Cabido asks Mr. Ballard if there is a response and to whom it goes to.

Mr. Ballard communicates to Ms. Cabido that this report is due to fiscal accountability and provides the information to the county and ultimately to the state.

Moved by Dr. Turner Seconded by Ms. Gravesande
ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Ms. Johnson motions to approve E22-018-E22-021

Ms. Johnson asks Mr. Ballard to speak on all these resolutions and vote for them all together.

Mr. Ballard communicates that E22-018 is for multiple programs to be offered at several schools throughout the city. This is a partnership between the city and the school district. The city has agreed to provide the district with \$50,000 for the cost of the custodians. Mr. Ballard communicates the several programs they will offer.

Ms. Johnson asks Mr. Ballard if all the schools approve of the programs being hosted at their school.

Mr. Ballard communicates that to his knowledge the schools do agree.

Ms. Johnson wants clarification if these programs will be offered at a rate or for free to our students.

Ms. Cabido has a few questions regarding resolution E22-019 regarding the program from 6:30-12:00 am time frame.

Ms. Johnson wants to table these resolutions until they can confirm how much these programs are charging our students even if they're paying us \$50,000.

Mr. Sherif communicates that the board should discuss each resolution by itself so that this doesn't hold off any programs.

Ms. Johnson wants the community to know that she is not stopping these programs from taking place at our schools however she doesn't see the reason why the city will be charging the students to play a sport at their school when the district can provide these accommodations.

Dr. Tuner communicates that the price for the program is \$25 for each student.

Ms. Gravesande asks Ms. Johnson if perhaps the board member or Mr. Ballard can meet with the city of the program to set a permanent price of registration to fear of overcharging the parents.

Ms. Cabido communicates her feelings towards not board not agreeing to this resolution over a fee the district already charges students. Ms. Cabido reminds the board that they must work together collectively to ensure the success of children.

Ms. Gravesande suggests that the district cover some of the cost of the student's registration fee.

Ms. Cabido communicates that from the programs her kids participate the cost of \$25 is fair.

Ms. Johnson communicates that she would like a list from the school of students who will have a difficult time affording the registration fee.

Mr. Ballard communicates the next resolution of Roaringstock Production to be able to use the Bell Stadium to film the NJGM film based on New Jersey with stars Seth Rogen and Paul Dano for a total cost of \$1,800 for three days.

Mr. Wingfield is not happy that the district is only charging high celebrities like Seth Rogen more money to use the district's facility however we're charging our students more than to use our facilities. Mr. Wingfield does not agree with undercharging a big project like this but charging our students \$25 to use and play in a facility they are already a part of.

Mr. Ballard communicates to Mr. Wingfield that the cost of the use of the stadium is on the website and that was the price the board members all agreed upon and those are the district's standard fees. Mr. Ballard agrees with Mr. Wingfield.

Dr. Fitzhugh suggests that perhaps maybe the production company a nice donation for our students.

Dr. Turner and Ms. Johnson also agree with Dr. Fitzhugh's suggestions.

Ms. Johnson motions to approve F22-036

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve F22-038, F22-040, F22-041, F22-042

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that the following are donations that are given to the district. The firemen will provide the students with bookbags and Forest Street to accept 100 bookbags from Costco in Union NJ.

Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded be unable to detect
ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Ms. Johnson motions to approve HIB cases for the month of September

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve the Human Resource agenda
Moved by unable to detect Seconded by Mr. Wingfield

ROLL CALL (7) 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 October 27 at 3:30 pm

The facility virtual meeting will be held on November 7 at 3:30 pm

Public Relations virtual meeting will be held on November 1st at 3:30pm

The financing committee virtual meeting will be held on November 9 at 5:30 pm

Orange Board of Education public meeting will be held on November 15 at 7:30 pm at Rosa Parks Community School Cafeteria

Policy Committee virtual meeting will be held on November 14 at 4:00 pm.

Board Comments

Mr. Sherif wants to give all the thanks tonight to Mr. Yearwood. Mr. Sherif can see the flow and he can see himself in the flow. Mr. Sherif communicates that Mr. Yearwood is what the district is looking for in a principal. Mr. Sherif thanks the teachers that come to the board meeting to express their needs and wants to ensure the success of our students. Mr. Sherif encourages the community to come out to the board meetings. Mr. Sherif communicates that he can see the district moving from Good to Great.

Mr. Armstrong wants to shout out to Lincoln Street School

Ms. Crockett gives the district a huge shout-out to all those who have made it happen. The district is now providing daycare services for aftercare and before-care pre-k programs.

Dr. Fitzhugh wants to give a great shoutout to Dr. Blanton for making this happen along with his team.

Dr. Turner gives a huge shoutout to Lincoln Street School and wants to mention that the parking lot is too dark and needs more lighting. Dr. Turner gives Ms. Sawyer huge props on her writing skills. Dr. Turner also reminds the community that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Ms. Cabido communicates that she is so happy to be out on their little tour and is excited to see more of the community throughout the different locations they will host the board meeting. Ms. Cabido is excited about all the new curriculum and new resources happening in the district.

Ms. Gravesande thanked Lincoln Avenue School and the love was felt in the room. Ms. Gravesande thanks all the staff that participates in the preparation for the board meeting. Ms. Gravesande express her love for the community. Ms. Gravesande makes Mr. Ballard aware that the student needs more presentation. Ms. Gravesande also wishes good luck to the student who will participate in the SAT.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that he takes responsibility for the agenda not having the information needed.

Mr. Wingfield thanked Lincoln staff for all that great staff for making tonight happen. Mr. Wingfield shared that he went to Lincoln Avenue School as a child and this was the best school he ever attended.

Ms. Johnson communicates that after the last meeting where parking was discussed the board member and the city met to discuss a relaxed parking schedule. Ms. Johnson wants to thank Mr. Yearwood and his amazing staff. Ms. Johnson encourages the community to come out to the different locations that the boards will be in.

Ms. Johnson moves to have the meeting adjourned

Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Cabido

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