

Minutes of **Tuesday, September 14, 2021, Virtual Public Meeting** of the Orange Board of Education held at 6:00 pm.

Shawneque Johnson is presiding over tonight's Virtual 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 (10) PRESENT (0) ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT:

- Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Tina Powell, Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Systems
- Mr. Jason Ballard, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Ms. Jessika Kleen, School Board Attorney with the firm of Machado Law Group

FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Ballard motions to close Executive session and move into public meeting.

Moved by Shawneque Johnson Seconded by Siaka Sherif

ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN

Ms. Johnson re-open public meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh II, Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Report:

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates to the community that there are 4 core components in moving the district from Good to Great.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that he will discuss core value number four, the rigorous and relevant curriculum and instruction. More importantly we will discuss of the student safety data system from period two which is required by NJ QA requirement.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates reporting from generator of January 2021 through June 2021 and reminds the community that the data encapsulated in this report we were either in a remote and hybrid approach to teaching and learning.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates looking at the report in the violence section we have a zero. In vandalism we a total of zero, in substance we have a total of zero, in weapons we have a total of zero, in computer trespass we have a total of 1, HIB confirmed we are at a zero, HIB alleged we have a total of 1 from Heywood Avenue.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that the district did a lot of work with our social workers, guidance counselors, our administrators, and our teachers to provide small group counseling sessions even throughout the course of the pandemic. He thanks the staff and teachers on their hard work in welcoming students back.

Dr. Fitzhugh introduces Executive Director Mrs. Harper to the community and informs the community of all the hard work and diligently that she and Mr. Ballard are doing for the transportation in district.

Dr. Fitzhugh informs the community that we are one of the few districts that had full routes for our Cleveland swing space students and our Special Needs students. Dr. Fitzhugh thanks Mrs. Harper for all her hard work and diligence with transportation.

Dr. Fitzhugh thanks community for being so resilient with all the work that needs to get done to bring our district from Good to Great however the students are at the center of apex.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that the district had a mobile vaccine clinic for student who are 12 years old and older. Clinic is running from September 14 1st dose, and Tuesday October 5 for the second dose. The mobile clinic is for everyone 12+ eligible to receive the vaccine. The clinic is open to all students, faculty, families, etc.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates it was something he was recommending not forcing because he doesn't force the vaccine on children.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates instructional time and masks policy being practiced throughout the district, and he sees that our parents are also modeling the masks policy with our students and is thankful.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the mandates of masks with the community and reassures the community that we are doing everything in our power to make sure our children remain safe.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette protocols with community and board members.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the Meals the School site to the community. He communicates the importance of social distancing between staff and students, maintain student cohorts and limiting mixing between group.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates Illness while on the school site protocols. Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should be separated away from the others until they can be sent home. Student and staff who have had potential exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days should undergo a COVID-19 test. Schools with testing capacity should test ill students and staff consistent with any federal and state requirement.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates reporting procedure if COVID-19 positive results are shared at the school/ district level. The district will notify LHDs when students or staff are ill and have potential COVID-19 exposure. If a student or staff test positive when in school the district must be prepared to provide the following information when consulting with the LHD.

Dr. Fitzhugh introduces Dr. Tina Powell, Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Systems to discuss Start Strong Assessment.

Start Strong Assessment

Dr. Powell communicates to the community that we have already started to monitor the students progress through our diagnostics and ELA, mathematics, as well as science.

Purpose:

- To supplement existing efforts to gather standards-based data about students at the beginning of the school year.
- Maximize instructional time and quickly provide critical data to teachers and school leaders.
- Address students' unique needs at the beginning of the school year.
- Determine where "Strong Support May Be Needed"
- Intended to satisfy the federal statewide assessment requirement to administer general assessments in ELA, mathematics, and science for the 21-22SY.

Overview:

- Can be administered in a single class period
- Aligned to the previous year's academic standards to help educators understand the level of support students require for current grade level instruction.
- Available across content areas ELA, mathematics, and science.
- Duration of unit 45-60 minutes one per unit per content area (1 unit per day)

Testing dates:

- Week 1- October 4-8,2021
- Week 2- October 11-15,2021
- End of window October 22, 2021

Reporting:

- Districts are strongly encouraged to share information with parents, guardians, and the education community.
- Raw scores should not be calculated or used as % correct or translated into A-F grades.
- Results are not intended to be used for decision-making in isolation of the other data.

Dr. Powell communicates Start Strong provides a data point to support curriculum and instructional planning.

Dr. Powell communicates the Academic Intervention Strategies such as identifying end of course and interim goals, identify students based upon a specific criteria, set short term, and measurable academic goals that speak to ON GRADE LEVEL PERFORMANCE. It also provides students with acceleration opportunities to address gaps while maintaining grade level standards.

Dr. Powell ends the presentation for Start Strong assessments.

Dr. Fitzhugh encourages the community to download that district app to stay tuned with all up to date information regarding the student.

Dr. Fitzhugh also encourages everyone to follow the districts social media handles to stay in tune with the latest district news.

That concludes Dr. Fitzhugh's Superintendent Report

Mrs. Johnson asks the Board Member for a motion to approve the June Board closed minutes from June 8, 2021, minutes.

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson asks the Board Member for a motion to approve the July 12,2021 special closed minutes

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson asks the Board Member for a motion to approve the July 13,2021 public minutes

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson asks the Board Member for a motion to approve the July 13,2021 closed meeting minutes

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson asks the Board Member for a motion to approve the July 26,2021 special closed meeting minutes

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson asks the Board Member for a motion to approve the August 10th ,2021 public meeting minutes

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson communicates that Ms. Turner will now discuss the community report.

Community Report

Ms. Turner communicates to the community the Public Relations community had a virtual meeting on September 7 3:30pm.

Ms. Turner communicates to the community to always email them committee at publicrelationsmeeting@orange.k12.nj.us with any questions or concerns. The committee is always open to listen to all concerns and suggestion regarding about the district, board and committee.

Ms. Turner communicates that the committee discussed COVID-19 testing and reminds that Dr. Sampson is in district to provide testing to anyone in the district who needs it. Reminds the district that we must follow by example and wear our masks over our noses so that we can ask our students something we don't do ourselves.

Ms. Cabido communicates to the community that on August 24th a curriculum meeting was held and many of the resolutions that are up for voting today were discussed. Including the district hosting a graduate from Fordham University counseling student worth 300 hours towards their master's degree.

Ms. Cabido communicates that all students across the district will now be able to take of tennis education.

Ms. Cabido communicates that they talked about the resolution to accept the donation for all third-grade students for dictionary.

Ms. Cabido communicates that they discussed the new ELA 3-8 curriculum from HMH

Ms. Cabido communicates that they also discussed the addition of social studies to kindergarten dramatic play.

Ms. Cabido communicates that they discussed to include LGBTQ historical impact on social sciences. Those courses were African study, sociology, peer leadership, civic law.

Mr. Henry communicates that the facilities committee met to discuss several topics such as the progress of Cleveland Street School.

Mr. Henry communicates that the new OHS is functionally open. Areas that are not available are the new media center, new lunch areas, and the bridge.

Mr. Henry communicates that they were advised of damages from tropical storm IDA and repairs are being done.

Mr. Henry communicates that the building is going from AC to HVAC

Mr. Henry communicates that they will be cutting on the heat on October 15th, 2021.

Mrs. Johnson asks the board members for a motion to approve all committee reports

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Public Comments

Community member communicates that there was a dangerous intersections meeting that uncovered a lot of intersections in Orange are near schools. There has been a lot of double-parked cars on one-way streets due to pick up and drop offs like Cleveland, Frankfurt, Jackson, and traffic has been very intense. She mentioned that the city is open to discussing a resolution with the board members. She also discusses the staggered time of dismissal of the OHS, elementary and middle school is causing a mess.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates to the community member that all elementary schools have the same schedule. Secondary school also have the same time. He assures community member that working on recommendations to the board and to both unions regarding dismissal time.

Community member communicates that the OHS cafeteria has a very long line, sometimes they are running out of certain items, not enough food. She communicates that the students were excited to be at the High school because of the snacks and those options are no longer available.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that they must be mindful due to COVID-19. Mr. Dorsey sends out the school menu that is on the website so the students know exactly what they will have throughout the month of September.

Community member wants to know if the schools are not going to be closed for deep cleaning is the district hiring additional custodial help to maintain the schools safe and clean.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that they are doing strategic cleaning throughout the day to assure the schools remain clean and safe.

Community member Natasha Ward communicates that her biggest concern is student safety. There is a big parking and speeding issue around Heywood Avenue School. She also wants to mention that there is a crossing guard issue city wide. There is no zero-crossing guard at Central Ave and Carter and there were students holding hands and they are running across the streets. She is concerned for the safety of the students.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates to the community member that on the district Facebook page there is a post for a wanted position for crossing guards, and they are conducting interviews for more crossing guards.

Natasha Ward communicates the needs for after care is needed as after COVID-19 community members are not expected to return to work. She understands that after care has started however

there was poor communication on the topic. She knows of at 15 families that need after care starting from PRE-K. Some locations that offered before care no longer have them.

Natasha Ward communicates the traffic of Heywood Ave she also presents the board members with a map for them to view. Ms. Ward makes a few suggestions on how to fix those areas of concerns such a parking, one way street.

Dr. Fitzhugh thanks Ms. Ward for bring artifacts and suggestions to the board members.

Community member Mr. Ward communicates that there are at least 100 children killed in the us making their way to and from school. 25 thousand students are injured in the United States from and to school. Two thirds of drivers exceed the legal speed in school zone. He communicates that he's brought these issues to the municipality but if we can all come together and get something done. This topic has been brought up the last two years early on and nothing has been done. He advised the board members that there is not a single sign around any school that he's seen in our district that indicates to slow down because they are in a school zone. He also brings up our sidewalks are not ADA compliant in front of our schools. He also brings up soil erosion around Heywood Avenue school. Which will start to make structural impacts. Our sidewalks are erroring, and children can get hurt, break their ankles. Some of the retaining walls are also erroring and this needs to be adjusted.

Dr. Fitzhugh thanks Mr. Ward for bring artifacts to the board members because now they have the information to think through those problematic issues.

That concludes the Public Comments.

BOARD RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Johnson motions to pull these items and get a consent agenda
821-071
821-072
821-074
821-075
C21-5053

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson asks board members for a little bit of clarification on 821-071 resolution.

Mr. Ballard communicates that the resolution is for an online platform called Facillitron that will allow the district to lease its facility eliminating the paper trail process that we have in motion right now. It will allow the 3rd party will allow the request of the facility and provide and thread renderings and viewing of each space. Which will give a clear understanding of what it's being leased. There is not up-front cost to the district.

Mrs. Johnson asks board members for a motion to approve 821-071 for the use of Facillitron.

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson asks board members for a motion to approve 821-072 and asks Mr. Ballard for clarification.

Mr. Ballard communicates that is an online budget platform that was designed by former school administrators, Superintendents and principals are intimately involved with the budgeting process. The district is currently using a variation of spreadsheets and paper documents in order to craft the

budget and it's very antiquated. This budget will allow access to direct access for them to see their budget and to make adjustment within that budget platform.

Mrs. Johnson communicates that the initial fee is \$16,000 and what does that cost includes?

Mr. Ballard explains that the \$16,000 is to allow this platform to come in and gather all our spreadsheets, meet with different administrators to be able to create this online platform. It will have 24/7 technical support and it will also train the staff. There is an annual subscription of \$11,000 after the first initial fee.

Mrs. Johnson asks board members for a motion to approve 821-072 for the use of online budget system.

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson asks board members for a motion to approve 821-074 and clarification.

Mr. Ballard communicates the Board Docs platform is an online platform that will allow us to run the administrator aspect to the meeting mor sufficient and with less paper. Ensuring that the board member will have access to. It will allow to record the minutes as well as the votes. This platform will allow the process to be done more quickly. The cost for this platform is a fixed amount of \$17,500 per year.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates that he used this platform when he was an Assistant Superintendent in Hoboken. This platform is efficient and would like to thank Ms. Dobbs for scanning in all the documents.

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson asks board members for a motion to approve 821-075 and clarification.

Mr. Ballard communicates that Avid Exchange is another online platform that we are piggybacking off the state contract. Platform allows district to audit their utilities bill. This is step one to allow the district to know the building spending in utilities. It will also allow the vendor to contact PSE&G directly. The cost is \$2500 and there is a \$3 per bill fee which \$1008 for the year to allow them to assist us with this process.

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson asks board members for a motion to approve C21-5053

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Mrs. Johnson asks board members for a motion to approve Human Resource agenda

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

That concludes the Board Resolutions.

Ms. Crockett communicates the scheduled upcoming public virtual meetings:

- Curriculum committee will be held on September 28, 2021, at 3:30pm
- Facilities meeting virtual Monday, October 4th, 2021, at 2:30pm

- Public Relations committee meeting Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 3:30pm
- Finance virtual committee meeting Thursday, October 7th, 2021, at 5:30pm
- Orange Board of Education public meeting Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 7:30pm

Board Comments

Mrs. Johnson wants to give thanks to all those who make all this possible especially Dr. Fitzhugh.

Mrs. Johnson wants to give the Administration team a huge thank you for all that the do.

Mr. Siaka thanks the Administration for all their work. He states we have some mistake that must be corrected but he reassures the community it will be fixed.

Ms. Jones communicates to the board that she is being nominated and recommended to represent the northern region to participate in a panel to discuss recruiting, retention and relations.

Mr. Henry thanks all the staff and administration who pitched anticipated on for the first day of school. Many issues and yet our district adapted.

Ms. Gravesande thanks to all the staff and board members for paying attention. She encourages the community to reach out to the member and staff about any questions or concerns.

Ms. Cadibo thanks and welcomes everyone back to the 21-22SY and is excited to see everyone there and excited to be back. It was very heart warming. She thanks Mrs. Lisa Spotswood-Brown and Ms. Colon for all their hard work with enrollments.

Ms. Turner wants to remind that it takes a village to raise kids and she is excited to be back in school and is happy to see a familiar face. Thanks everyone is making everything possible for our children.

Mr. Armstrong communicates that it was chaotic at Lincoln because over 200 parents did not sign their COVID-19 form and our district got right on top of it and assisted the parents.

Ms. Johnson moves to have meeting adjourned

Moved by Jeff Wingfield Seconded by Mr. Armstrong
ROLL CALL (10) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT