

Minutes of **Tuesday, September 13, 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, Ph.D.

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. 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 Mr. Jeffrey Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Cabido

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 presented a snapshot of this year's Superintendent convocation.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the district's back to school night reminders.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates Hispanic Heritage Month.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the districts COVID-19 dashboard.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the Mock Trial Program at the Orange Township Courthouse that occurred on September 10,2022. Dr. Fitzhugh how amazing and how proud he is of our scholars.

Dr. Fitzhugh introduces Mr. Scutari to communicate the status of the new Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, Honors Environmental Science, Honors Physics, & AP Chemistry Curricular Resources via Savvas Learning Company curriculum adaptation and its process.

Mr. Scutari communicates to the board members and community that the reason why now is due to the following:

1. The return to in-person instruction has provided additional insights into the instructional needs of staff and learning needs of students
2. Selecting 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 interests and needs (Joshua Starr, *To Improve the Curriculum, engage the whole system*)

Mr. Scutari communicates the process of the RFP. Sub-committee convened to review submissions using guidelines outlined in RFP. Top 3 vendors invited to present and unpack the curricular resources to full committee (McGraw Hill; Bedford, Freeman, and Worth Publishing; and Savvas Learning Company) committee convened for instruction on use of the EQuIP Rubric for Science.

Mr. Scutari communicates that the committee probed each vendor's materials during in depth Q&A session. Committee members completed assigned sections of EQuIP Rubric for Science. Open dialogue amongst committee members. The committee's findings presented to Superintendent.

Mr. Scutari communicates who was on the community, as well as any evaluation tools.

Mr. Scutari communicates the Rubric for Science to the board and community.

Mr. Scutari communicates introduces the textbooks, workbooks, and resources that will be used in classroom and how it will benefit our students.

Mr. Scutari communicates the key features Savvas Learning Company had to offer our district such as: Savvas provides various language support options for their solutions, including eText, translations, and assistive technologies for students who are visually and/or hearing impaired. This proposal includes language translation for text-to-speech. Access to Virtual Labs (Honors Biology). Access to Hands-on Labs and Experiences (Honors Chemistry, Honors Environmental Science, & Honors Physics).

Mr. Scutari continues to discuss key features on Savvas programs include Savvas Realize™, an award-winning learning management system. The digital platform features program-specific resources, flexible agnostic resources, assessments, and interactive features to promote student engagement. With Savvas Realize, teachers have the **flexibility to use a digital, print, or blended format** in their classrooms.

Mr. Scutari communicates the cost of the student and teacher materials to the board and community.

Mr. Scutari moves on to discuss AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, & AP Physics Curricular Resources via Bedford, Freeman, and Worth Publishing.

Mr. Scutari communicates to the board and community why now and the rubric for Science.

Mr. Scutari also communicates the textbooks and workbooks the teachers will be using for this new curriculum adaptation.

Mr. Scutari communicates the key features of this curriculum:

- Follows the AP® Biology Course and Exam Description
The organization and content of the book follows the course framework. Teachers can progress through the year without having to determine what content should be covered. The book weaves the Big Ideas throughout, building a deep network of connections across course content. The eight units match the units of the Course and Exam Description (CED) for easy alignment with the course and resources.

Easy-to-use modular organization

- A modular organization pulls together content and AP® Exam practice into brief 1- to 2-day lessons. Shorter modules help students absorb the information without being overwhelmed and help you to more easily pace your Course.
- Learning goals are listed at the beginning of each module to focus your students' reading and guide their comprehension. Bulleted summaries conclude the modules, highlighting key takeaways that students should master before moving on to the next module.
- Four detailed in-text tutorials
Longer Tutorials presented throughout the book provide comprehensive explanations of statistics, growth equations, probability, and graphing skills used throughout the course. The tutorials are a great review tool. Tutorials also point you to relevant **Analyzing Statistics and Data** boxes for additional practice.

Mr. Scutari communicates the cost of this new curriculum.

Mr. Scutari communicates the new curriculum for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II Illustrative Mathematics Curricular Resource via Kendall Hunt Publishing.

Mr. Scutari communicates why and the rubric for Algebra, Geometry and Algebra.

Mr. Scutari communicates the instructional materials and evaluation tools.

Mr. Scutari communicates the curriculum materials, and its resource.

Mr. Scutari communicates the design principles, applying mathematics, the use of the digital tool and developing conceptual understanding and procedural fluency.

Mr. Scutari communicates the cost of the different curriculum RFPs.

Dr. Fitzhugh introduces Mr. Vasquez to communicate the district's facilities report.

Mr. Vasquez communicates to the community that in the month of August, we continued our summer cleaning in preparation of the new school year.

Mr. Vasquez communicates that the district has tackled some big projects this summer, from repairing roofs to replacing gym floors.

Mr. Vasquez communicates the several repairs done at each school such as the high school getting a new amphitheater, Heywood's new gym floor, a new playground was installed at John Robert Lewis Early Childhood Center.

Mr. Vasquez communicates that the team and I will continue to meet with the Schools Development Authority and Terminal Construction alongside the School Business Administrator, Mr. Jason Ballard in order to keep the district up to date with the ongoing progress of the Orange HS renovation project.

This concludes the Superintendent's report.

Ms. Johnson communicates to the community that the last presentation will be the district's 2020 into 2021 school year audit from Samuel Clean Company LLC.

Mr. Ballard introduces Mr. Walter Wally who will present the district's audit report.

Mr. Walter Wally communicates that he has gone over all the data collected with the board members and welcomes any questions regarding the information.

Ms. Johnson asks Mr. Wally are there any other findings?

Mr. Wally communicates that due to the administration they removed a recommendation of the removal of the sick time.

Ms. Johnson asks Mr. Wally if his office have all the necessary documents needed for this decision.

Mr. Wally thanks the district and the executive team for their assistance.

Mr. Ballard communicates to the community a brief explanation of what transpired and the challenges for the district to reach the level that they are in now.

Ms. Johnson asks Mr. Ballard to clarify what is the district will be doing differently to make sure the district stay on track and on time with their audits.

Mr. Ballard communicates to the community and board members on the district's plan to stay on track with the audit and its due date.

Mr. Sheriff asks Mr. Ballard how the district can decrease the amount of the fee for the new audit firm the district has hired.

Mr. Ballard explains to the board members and community the reasons why the district is moving forward with a different company.

Ms. Johnson motions to approve August 9, 2022, public meeting minutes

Moved by Ms. Gravesande Seconded by Mr. Henry

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve August 9, 2022, closed meeting minutes

Moved by Mr. Henry Seconded by Ms. Gravesande

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

Mr. Sheriff communicates that he would like the amount to reflect \$100,000 and not \$120,000.

Community Report

Curriculum Report: Ms. Cabido communicates that the committee met last Tuesday and the meeting began with the beginning of the school year report, it was continued by several members of them committee reviewing the new changes on the curriculum and confirm that they are in alignment with the states standards.

Ms. Cabido communicates the changes that were made to English Language Arts, Visual Performing Arts, and Social Studies.

Ms. Cabido communicates the changes that the Math department had in their curriculum as well as Ms. Alcantara with high school students.

Ms. Cabido communicates that she is proud that these partnerships are providing an opportunity with our former student to become educators in their hometown.

Ms. Cabido communicates the new community new school programs that are being offered to our students.

Finance Report

Mr. Sheriff communicates to the community that he was not actually present at the meeting however Mr. Armstrong will be providing the community with the finance report this month.

Mr. Armstrong communicates that the meeting went well. He explains that the BA's office did a great job with being transparent and did a great job.

Facilities Report

Mr. Armstrong communicates that the facilities meeting also went well. He communicated that the presentation that Mr. Vasquez provided earlier in the meeting explains all the updates and status on repairs around the district.

Mr. Armstrong communicates how great it was to be apart of the opening day, he had a wonderful time and got a chance to visit a lot of the schools.

Ms. Johnson asks Mr. Ballard to communicate the heat status at Forest Street School.

Mr. Ballard communicates that the boiler at Forest Street School is shot and it must be replaced.

Mr. Ballard communicates that full demolishing occurred during the summer and they will not be able to get the new boiler by winter however the district has come up with a resolution in the meantime until the new boiler is replaced.

Mr. Ballard communicates to the community not to be alarmed that the school will have heat and the district is on time with their deadline of October 15 for all heaters to work in the district.

Mr. Ballard communicates the new yellow lines that you will see at the entrance of schools that were put in place to allow easy access for drop-offs.

Mr. Sheriff communicates his concerns about the traffic around the schools and makes suggestions on how to improve the morning rush hour.

Mr. Ballard communicates that he is working on a plan on how to improve morning traffic.

Public Relations

Dr. Turner communicates that the committee met on September 6 and it was a very brief meeting.

Dr. Turner communicates that Mr. Devone discussed the district COVID-19 resources.

Dr. Turner communicates that Ms. Jones was present at the meeting to discuss the states regulations on COVID-19 and how the district will be implementing those regulations.

Dr. Turner communicates that the district had a great start off to the new year with the district administration retreat at Keany University.

Dr. Turner communicates that the district had the new staff orientation to welcome our new employees, and the district also had the Superintendent convocation, and it was amazing.

Public Comments

Ms. Tisa Singleton communicates that she has four items that she would like to discuss. Ms. Singleton's communicates her disappointment on the new school year's schedule not being available a few days ahead of time like it in previous years. Ms. Singleton's second concern is directed to Ms. Jones regarding the staff still waiting for the new contract. Ms. Singleton wants clarity on facilities request E22-016. Ms. Singleton would like to suggest a new High School graduation for those students who don't have anyone in the crowd or for those students who wish someone was in attendance however is not able too such an empty seat as a place holder for those loved ones who can't be there in body but in presence.

Dr. Fitzhugh thanks Ms. Singleton about discussing her last concern and he could not agree more with her. Dr. Fitzhugh agrees that everyone student should be feeling as a hole.

Dr. Powell communicates the reason why the schedule was done a little differently this year. Especially with the new contract that has now taken place.

Dr. Powell communicates that it did take a little longer but all the acts that were in the contract were adhered to.

Ms. Jones communicates to the community that there has been ongoing communication between your union leadership and in NJEA representatives. Ms. Jones did communicate that they did run into a program issue, and it had to be revamped.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates to Ms. Singleton and the community regarding the facilities request the board will circle around back to that inquiry once they pull up the resolution.

Community member Zanosha Ward starts off by thanking the board members and staff who are present at the meeting. Ms. Ward proposes a new start time for the kindergarten students. Ms. Ward communicates that the start time is not sustainable to parents who are working in out of state. Ms. Ward also communicates to the board if after care can be negotiated before school starts. Ms. Ward communicates that she is very apricated for the new drop offs. Ms. Ward communicates how beautiful the gym floor is and asks if the district do anything with the remaining boards?

Ms. Ward provides the board members with a few suggestions on how to improve blackboards, heaters.

Ms. Ward communicates that her child attended the summer program and that it is a wonderful program and is very thankful and grateful for the district to offer such a great program for the kids.

Mr. Dwight Holmes, community member, commands everyone who was apart of the new drop off at each school location and it's a beautiful thing to have not to worry.

Mr. Holmes communicates that although it is a great thing to have those designated areas however he is concerned for the residents in those areas as the new drop offs have taken away from their parking. Mr. Holmes asks the board members if the district plans on providing notice to those residents to use the parking space while school is not in session?

Mr. Ballard communicates that they are currently working on a plan with the city and essentially, they will have the correct signage going up soon.

Math high school teacher Ms. Marpesa Bell thanks the board members for utilizing the staff for a new program being offered to the students and not outsourcing those roles.

Ms. Bell also thanks what the district is doing for mental health and is very proud to be apart of a district that prioritizes on mental health.

Ms. Bell asks the board members if the district outsourced to anyone who was contracted to assist with the schedules because she was under the impression that the district did outsource that task?

Ms. Bell asks Ms. Jones if she has a release date for the new contracts?

Dr. Powell communicates to Ms. Bell in terms for outside source for schedule the district used Jigsaw Education. That team collectively consisted of people who have more than 40 years of experience in Newark.

Dr. Powell communicates that regarding the cost it was \$44,000 for the bulk of the scheduling.

Board attorney Ms. Klein communicates that in terms of board contracts, the district was going back and forth, and it really is essentially a formatting issues into a new program, however the changes are still being made. Ms. Kelin provides the community with a two-week due date.

Mr. Fleurnoy OEA vice president communicates a small clarification regarding the previous contract and not the current.

Ms. Jones thanks Mr. Fleurnoy for bringing this up to her attention and she will make sure that all the principals have what is already approved in the contract.

This concludes public comments.

BOARD RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Johnson motions to approve a consent agenda removing B22-024, B22-025, C22-058, C22-061-C22-063, E22-015-E22-17.

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve B22-024

Ms. Gravesande asks where is the district in the process to obtaining the necessary materials?

Mr. Scutari communicates that the new curriculum vendors are ready to ship once it has been approved by the board members.

Unable to hear Mr. Henry's question to Mr. Scutari.

Ms. Johnson asks Mr. Scutari regarding the price for the additional copies.

Mr. Scutari communicates that the prices already include the additional copies.

Moved by Ms. Gravesande Seconded by Unable to detect
ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Ms. Johnson motions to approve B22-025

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve C22-058

Moved by unable to detect Seconded by Ms. Gravesande
ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Ms. Johnson motions to approve C22-061, C22-062, C22-063

Ms. Johnson wants clarity on why we have so many transfers.

Mr. Zachery provides the community and the district with a quick synopsis regarding the transfers.

Ms. Johnson motions to approve C22-061

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve C22-062

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve C22-063

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve E22-015

Ms. Jonson asks for clarification for the above resolution.

Mr. Ballard communicates that the resolution is for the district to use Park Avenue school for an after-school program.

Mr. Ballard communicates that he is happy to report that the district will be profiting from this facility request and those proceeds will be going towards the custodian and security.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates this facility request will also benefit the students having these type of after school activities and now we will be able to provide this throughout the district.

Ms. Crockett wants to clarify on which schools will be participating in the after-school programs.

Ms. Johnson clarifies the amount of the facility request.

Ms. Crockett requests clarification on the start dates of this program.

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

Ms. Johnson motions to approve the resolution to approve E22-015

Moved by unable to detect Seconded by Ms. Cabido
ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Ms. Johnson motions to approve the resolution to approve E22-016

Mr. Ballard communicates what is resolution E22-016 and the cost and the purpose for request.

Ms. Crockett asks for clarification of what this after school program will be used to benefit our students.

Dr. Turner asks Dr. Fitzhugh if he can address enrollment for the after-school programs staff.

Dr. Fitzhugh encourages the community to be apart of the curriculum and public relations meeting to stay in tuned with all the great things that are coming to the district.

Ms. Johnson asks to have the board resolution amended to reflect who will be using the facilities.

Ms. Klein suggest that the resolution is not changed since this is a third-party resolution.

Moved by unable to detect Seconded by Ms. Cabido
ROLL CALL (9) YEA (0) NAY (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Ms. Johnson motions to approve the resolution to approve E22-017

Mr. Ballard communicates that this resolution is also another facility request for an after-school program where the district will also benefit financially from.

Dr. Fitzhugh thanks Ms. Ward for bringing back the wonderful program back to our districts.

Mr. Ballard also thanks Ms. Ward.

Dr. Fitzhugh communicates the needs for after care support for certain location throughout the district.

Ms. Johnson wants clarification on the time they will be using our facilities since the district will be having two different organization at one location.

Ms. Johnson wants clarification on snacks for the kids.

Mr. Ballard provides Ms. Johnson the clarify she needs.

Unable to hear Dr. Turner's question to Dr. Fitzhugh due to her mic issues.

Ms. Gravesande asks clarification of times for early drop offs and locations.

Dr. Fitzhugh confirms locations and will provide the correct times once he has that information at hand.

Mr. Sherif expresses concerns about the drop off time and the money being spend on the early drop off and does not agree with the cost.

Dr. Tuner communicates that ensuring that the district has opportunities to the working-class community we service is a great thing to do.

Mr. Henry communicates on behalf of the staff of the building and the safety of those children who are dropped of early, the first question parents will be asking where the supervision of these students is.

Moved by unable to detect Secoded by Ms. Cabido
ROLL CALL (8) YEA (0) NAY (1) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT

Ms. Johnson motion to approve Human Resources Agenda

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

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

The curriculum virtual meeting will be held on September 27 at 3:30pm

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

Public Relations virtual meeting will be held on October 4 at 3:30pm

The financing committee virtual meeting will be held on October 6 at 5:30pm

Orange Board of Education public meeting will be held on October 11 at 7:30pm at Lincoln

Policy Committee virtual meeting will be held on October 7 at 4:00pm.

Board Comments

Ms. Cabido welcomes back to staff and families. Thanks, the district for the after-school programs, somethings that was discussed two weeks ago and a huge thank you for making that happen. The district will continue to work on early drop offs for all grades. Ms. Cabido wants the community to make the board members aware of how the drops off are going around their area.

Dr. Turner communicates that drop off is still not working smoothly around Oakwood. Dr. Turer thanks the community and the Superintendent, and the board member for showing support and love at Inner City Café it was an overall neutral space where we can all share our thoughts. Dr. Turner wishes the board president Ms. Johnson a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Henry thanks to all those parties involved for pushing the agenda for that drop offs zones. Mr. Henry communicates to the community to be mindful of those areas because police will be ticking if any cars are parked. Mr. Henry clarifies any allegations that have been made about budget cuts to the library.

Ms. Gravesande communicates would like feedback regarding the meals that are being provided to the students. Ms. Gravesande communicates that the community can also reach out to the student rep to express their concerns and questions.

Ms. Johnson wants to give Dr. Powell a special thank you for all her hard work she provides the district. Ms. Johnson also wants to thanks all the staff from different schools for coming out and expressing their concerns. Ms. Johnson thanks staff, and the community for all the hard work they have been providing the board members to move the district into greatness.

Dr. Fitzhugh wants to give a huge thanks to those students who have been giving outstanding feedback on the new menu.

Mr. Armstrong communicates to the community that the board members are going out to the schools to make sure they are getting the food the members are tasting.

Ms. Johnson moves to have meeting adjourned

Moved by Mr. Wingfield Seconded by Ms. Cabido

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