



Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Orange Elementary School Committee

Day/Date: December 18, 2023

Time of Meeting: 6:00PM

Location: Virtual Meeting at: meet.google.com/nnc-dukp-fyw

Phone Numbers

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PIN: 175 918 365#

Minutes

1. Call To Order - Stephanie Conrod called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Since it was a virtual meeting, Mallory Ellis, Crystal Clarke and Yarelyn Ramoz-Martinez roll called into the meeting. Others present: Dr. Zielinski, Dr. Lewis, David Mastrionni, many OES staff members. Minutes taken by Christine Rodriguez.
2. Subcommittee & Liaison Reorganization - The committee decided to reorganize at their February meeting, waiting until after town elections are held.
3. Snack Policy - Dr. Liz explained that the sub-committee for Policy and Communications met to discuss ideas related to allowing a "working snack" for students in grades 4-6. Currently there is a scheduled snack time in grades K-3. However, last year students in grades 3-6 (Dexter Park) had often two snack times per day or a snack time and several "brain breaks. In total there was a loss of learning time of almost 45 minutes per day. She said that given that our district is one of the lowest performing in the state we need to ensure that we maximize time for students to be engaged in the learning. When the sub-committee met they were split on the idea of permitting snacks in grades 5 & 6 since they will not be getting a snack time when they enter middle school. The sub-committee proposed the following:

A pilot program to begin after the winter break and to run until the February break.

- Students can have a working snack during DEAR time only
- A working snack is just that, students can eat while they are reading, this is not a social time for students.
- Students must provide their own snack and it should be a single healthy item (this should not become bags of chips and drinks)
- Teachers will keep a record (a google form will be provided to them) each day of students who bring a snack

- Administration will monitor if snack time is running longer than the allotted time during the DEAR block.

On a motion made by Mallory Ellis and seconded by Crystal Clarke, the committee voted unanimously to implement the pilot snack program for grades 4 - 6 to run after winter break through February break. Roll call taken by Stephanie Conrod.

The School Committee will assess the results of the program in March and will determine if a working snack will continue. The committee agreed that information on implementing the pilot snack program should be sent to parents through Dexter’s Den and the Swift Reach system.

4. Public Comment - Josefa Scherer explained that Valuing our Children received a response regarding their request to use the community room for the playgroup stating that it would not be possible because of construction and an occupancy permit. She stated that the building should be available for community work and organizations. Dr. Liz explained that it is her understanding that we haven't taken actual ownership of the building yet. Josefa is requesting a meeting for the Director of Valuing our Children and the Superintendent. Bruce Scherer said the Town of Orange does have ownership of the building and any punch list items can happen on weekends. The building committee had visioning sessions going back to the building planning stages and the gym, library and cafeteria were designed to be open to the community. They planned these as multi use spaces and he hopes the Superintendent can allow the wishes of the town.

Leanne Lovell mentioned that the snack times for grades 4 and 5 do not make sense. Mallory said that part of the schedule was misunderstood when they were . Crystal stated it was difficult to figure out where the timing of the snack should be. The committee will hear back after the

5. Adjournment - ***On a motion made Mallory Ellis and seconded by Crystal Clarke, the committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm.***

Approved: 1/8/24

Signature of Secretary: _____

The agenda reflects topics that the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed.

Public Comment Protocols

The School Committee welcomes public comment on items that are within the scope of the School Committee’s responsibilities. The Public Comment agenda item is reserved for this purpose. Members of the public wishing to address the Committee should be aware of the following guidelines:

- ❑ The Chair will recognize those wishing to speak and give them the floor. Only persons recognized by the Chair may speak. For purposes of the minutes, speakers should identify themselves at the beginning of their remarks.
- ❑ The purpose of Public Comment is to receive input from the community, not to engage in prolonged conversation with the Committee. The Chair will ensure that any comment or question that requires a response from the committee or the School Department will be addressed in a timely manner.
- ❑ All comments should be addressed through the Chair, not any individual committee member or to others in attendance.
- ❑ Speakers are expected to respect confidentiality. This includes the confidentiality of the speaker’s own child/ren as well as that of school staff and personnel.