



Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Orange Elementary School Committee

Day/Date: February 12, 2024

Time of Meeting: 6:00PM

Location: Fisher Hill Elementary School

Media Center

59 Dexter St.

Orange, MA 01364

MINUTES

1. Call To Order - Mallory Ellis, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. She welcomed the new School Committee members and explained the mentoring process and MASC's Charting The Course requirements to them.
Members present: Yarelyn Ramos-Martinez, Josefa Scherer, Frank Hains, Jessica Reske
Others present: Dr. Zielinski, Michele Tontodonato, Marie Cole, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Fraleigh, Phil Saisa, David Mastroianni, David Welenc, Bruce Scherer, Kelly Therrien, Jayne Fleck, Jean Powling and many other OES staff members.
Minutes taken by Christine Rodriguez.
2. Pledge of Allegiance - The pledge of allegiance was led by Mallory Ellis.
3. Public Comment - Crystal Clarke mentioned that there is an attendance issue and her childrens' attendance is not being recorded accurately. Marie Cole and Phil Saisa will work to correct the issue.
4. Approval of Minutes - On a motion made by Josefa Scherer and seconded by Yarelyn Ramos-Martinez, the committee voted to approve the minutes of January 8, 2024. Frank Hains abstained. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.
5. Principal's Report - Dr. Lewis reported that the "Read Across America" and "Glow" events are happening in March to promote their reading initiative. There is no charge for the events.
6. Report of the OETA - David Mastroianni welcomed the new School Committee members and thanked Crystal Clarke for the time she served on the committee. He addressed concerns regarding the growing number of administrative positions in the district which often lead to budget cuts of student-facing positions. They have not been able to implement a co teaching model. (There are currently only four paras in all other grades other than Pre-K and they are constantly being pulled to sub). They are noticing a spike over the past several years of educators seeking to leave OES due to a variety of reasons including low morale, lack of trust and respect, job training concerns and salary discrepancies with neighboring towns.
7. February Items

a. Spotlight in the Classroom - Catherine Lee reported on Art class at Fisher Hill. She said her classroom is a busy and fun place. She explained how to talk to children about their art and to ask a lot of questions. Students are learning about art history and music and are used in the art room to build creativity and to teach. They are focusing on Egyptian and Greek art right now in grades K - 6 and Dr. Suess in Preschool. There are currently some field trips in the planning stages.

b. FY25 Budget Presentation (on file) - Dr. Liz, Michele Tontodonato, Dr. Lewis and Marie Cole presented a slideshow on the FY25 Budget. Dr. Liz explained that this is the first look at the budget as a whole by the School Committee. They will continue to revise the budget between now and the March 11th budget bearing where the community can ask detailed questions. The local Board of Selectman and Finance Committee will be invited to the March meeting. She explained that they also show the budget to the town in separate meetings which are currently being scheduled.

Josefa Scherer suggested a study be done on how much time each cost share employee is spending on each district. Bruce Scherer requested a brief follow up on reasons for staff leaving last school year.

8. Matters for Action or Vote

a. FY24 District Grants (on file) - Marie Cole went through the current grants the district has received and the amounts.

On a motion made by Josefa Scherer and seconded by Frank Hains, the committee voted unanimously to approve the FY24 grants received by the Orange Elementary School District as outlined. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.

b. District Calendar (on file) - Dr. Liz explained that the Administration met with the Association leadership in all three districts to review the proposed calendars. The committee will need to review and vote on the final proposed FY25 calendar presented tonight. Jacki Graziano suggested a change to the Kindergarten screening dates and Marie Cole stated that she will make the adjustment.

On a motion made by Josefa Scherer and seconded by Frank Hains, the committee voted unanimously to approve the FY25 School Calendar. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.

c. Subcommittee & Liaison Reorganization - Due to having three new members, the School committee needed to reorganize/update roles.

Chair - Yarelyn Ramos-Martinez moved to appoint Mallory Ellis as Chair of the Orange Elementary School Committee for FY24. Josefa Scherer seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Vice Chair - Mallory Ellis moved to appoint Josefa Scherer as Vice Chair of the Orange School Committee for FY24. Frank Hains seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Secretary - Josefa Scherer moved to appoint Jessica Reske as Secretary. Yarelyn Ramos-Martinez seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

On a motion made by Josefa Scherer and seconded by Yarelyn Ramos-Martinez, the committee voted unanimously to appoint the following members to the subcommittees and liaison positions:

Communication and Policy Subcommittee - Jessica Reske

Resource and Capacity Subcommittee - Frank Hains & Josefa Scherer as an alternate

Leadership, Accountability and Measurement Subcommittee - Josefa Scherer & Mallory Ellis

Payroll Warrants Signer - Mallory Ellis

Bill Warrants Signer - Mallory Ellis

CES Collaborative Representative - Mallory Ellis

CAPS Collaborative Representative - **Jessica Reske**
 Union 73 Supervisory Committee - **Mallory Ellis, Josefa Scherer & Jessica Reske**
 Joint Labor and Management Committee - **Mallory Ellis, Jessica Reske & Josefa as an alternate**
 School Building Committee for the Town of Orange - **Josefa Scherer**
 Teacher Negotiations (2 members are needed) - **Mallory Ellis and Frank Hains**
 ESP Negotiations (2 members are needed) - **Mallory Ellis and Frank Hains**
 R.C. Mahar Regional School Committee - **Frank Hains**
 SEPAC Representative - **Mallory Ellis & Yarelyn Ramos-Martinez**
 Sick Bank Liaison - **Yarelyn Ramos-Martinez**

d. Policies - The Communication and Policy Subcommittee continues to work through the Policy manual as advised by MASC.

i. First read - the following policies were presented for a first read:

GBA
 GBEA
 GBECB
 GBEBD
 GBEC
 GBGE
 GBI
 GCBB

ii. Second reading/Vote - the following policies were presented for a second reading/vote:

EB Safety Program
 EBB First Aide
 EBC Emergency Plans
 EBCD Emergency Closure
 EC Buildings and grounds maintenance
 EC-1 Regional Buildings and Grounds maintenance (*vote to delete this policy*) - *this is covered under EC*
 ECA Buildings and Grounds Security
 ECAF Closed Circuit Television policy and procedures
 EEAA Walkers and Riders
 EEAE Bus Safety Program
 EFC Free and Reduced price food services
 IHBG Home Schooling

On a motion made by Josefa Scherer and seconded by Yarelyn Ramos-Martinez, the committee voted unanimously to approve the following policies as presented: EB, EBB EBC, EBCD, EC, ECA, ECAF, EEAA, EEAE, EFC, and IHBG and to rescind policy EC-1 which is now covered under policy EC.

9. Sub Committee / Liaison Updates

- a. Report of Union #73 Committee - have not met.
- b. Report of the R.C. Mahar Representative - budget presentation main topic
- c. Report of the Leadership, Accountability & Measurement Subcommittee - have not met
- d. Report of the Resources & Capacity Subcommittee - Michele reported that there was an unofficial meeting

- i. Journal Entries for approval (on file) - ***On a motion made by Frank Hains and seconded by Jessica Reske, the committee voted unanimously to approve the journal entries as presented.***
 - e. Report of the Communications & Policy Subcommittee - discussed and voted changes above.
 - f. Report of the CES Representative - There is currently no representative for this but the CES Director's report and January Board agenda were provided (on file).
 - g. Report of the CAPS Representative - Dr. Liz reported that they discussed new hire approvals, completed a financial statement review and will be starting budget meetings in next few weeks.
 - h. Report of the School Building Committee - No updates.
 - i. Report of the SEPAC Representative - There is a meeting coming up.
10. Next Meeting - March 11, 2024
 11. Executive Session - ***The committee voted at 8:25pm to enter into executive session for the purpose of M.G.L. Chapter 21(a)(3), to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union personnel. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.***
 12. Adjournment

Approved: 3/11/24

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.