



Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Orange Elementary School Committee

Day/Date: September 11, 2023

Time of Meeting: 6:00PM

Location: Fisher Hill Elementary School

Media Center

59 Dexter St.

Orange, MA 01364

MINUTES

1. Call To Order - Vice Chair Mallory Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.
Members present: Kimberly Scot and India Eadie.
Members absent: Stephanie Conrod and Crystal Clarke
Others present: Dr. Liz, Michele Tontodonato, Marie Cole, Phillip Saisa, Dr. Lewis, Paul Fraleigh and other OES staff members.
Minutes taken by Christine Rodriguez.
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Mallory Ellis led the pledge of allegiance.
3. Moment of Silence for Dianne Salcedo - A moment of silence was held for Dianne Salcedo, a long time school committee member who recently passed away.
4. Public Comment - Kimberly Scot read a statement thanking and applauding the staff for all of their hard work. She said she has observed an intense lack of respect from both sides and that has resulted in mistrust and she believes this has been toxic to the learning environment. She is afraid adequate help isn't coming in the near future and there is a need to rely on each other with honesty and respect.
5. Approval of Minutes - ***On a motion made by Kimberly Scot and seconded by India Eadie, the committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 12, 2023. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.***
6. Report of the OETA - Kelly Therrien thanked Kim Scot on behalf of the OETA for her service. She reported that everyone is excited to be in the beautiful new building all together. The HVAC system worked great in the heat. They are looking forward to a year of strong collaboration with all stakeholders. Dr. Liz stated that 11/18/23 is the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new building.
7. September Items
 - a. Announcement of New Staff - Dr. Lewis read the names of the new staff members (on file) for the 2023-2024 school year. She thanked Marie Cole for filling in as second grade teacher.

- b. Summer Program Review (on file) - Marie Cole presented a powerpoint on the summer program which had 145 students attend and highlighted the curriculum, very good attendance, and rocket launching. In general she had positive feedback about the program. The program was made possible by using multiple funding sources/grants. Marie also presented a curriculum report. She said OES is now on a curriculum cycle. New this year is an anti-bullying curriculum, Appleseeds, ST Math, Ignite & My World.
- c. Opening of Schools Report - Dr. Lewis reported kids and teachers are excited to be back. Construction is ongoing but not impeding the educational process. The traffic flow has been good. They have had a very successful three days and no incidents to report. A lot of what's left of construction is being done on the second shift and weekends. Connie Salone introduced herself as the school's social worker. She reported that the family room is done and ready. There is a parent group starting in October.
- d. School Committee Information for New Members - Kim discussed the work that is being done related to the new School Committee member information book. She created an ad hoc committee to help get information specific to our district out to new school committee members. In the document will be links and a page about each school and each subcommittee as well as School Committee and Superintendent goals and the budget.
- e. Garlic and Arts Festival - Dr. Liz reported that the three committees will have a booth at the festival to answer questions and promote our schools. Kate Woodward from Mahar is leading the set up crew and Peter is leading the clean up crew. They Are working on various brochures (special education, school choice, new building etc.) to hand out and QR code for people to access all relevant information.
An audience member (an OES parent) spoke about the lack of communication from the school regarding the start of school.

8. Matters for Action or Vote

- a. School Committee Meeting Schedule for the year - Dr. Liz recommended the following dates for this year's school committee meetings:
September 11, 2023
November 13, 2023
January 8, 2024
February 12, 2024
March 11, 2024
April 8, 2024
June 10, 2024
On a motion made by Kimberly Scot and seconded by India Eadie, the committee voted unanimously to approve the recommended dates for the FY24 School Committee meetings. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.
- b. Subcommittee/Liaison Reorganization (alternates needed) - Dr. Liz explained that Kim Scot will be leaving the School Committee since she is moving therefore, the School Committee needs to review the list and re-appoint others for the positions Kim was serving on subcommittees. With Stephanie and Cyrstal absent, the committee decided only to re-appoint a Mahar representative. India Eadie accepted the nomination as representative to the Mahar School Committee.
- c. Discussion of memorial for Diane Salcedo - Dr. Liz said that Diane Salcedo, a long time Orange resident and School Committee member both for the Orange Elementary Schools and Mahar Regional, passed away recently. Consideration should be given by

the School Committee if they would like to name an area of the school or grounds in her honor and place a memorial bench or plaque. One suggestion was putting a bench or plaque in the learning meadow with wildflowers. Dr. Liz suggested School Committee members think about it and send memorial suggestions.

- d. Draft Budget Timeline (on file) - Michele reviewed the standard budget timeline/budget cycle. On a motion made by Kimberly Scot and seconded by India Eadie, the committee voted unanimously to approve the timeline for the FY25 budget cycle.

e.

- 1. Reviewed policies - Dr. Liz explained the school committee's role in reviewing, updating and voting policies. She said the subcommittee has spent four hours reviewing MASC's suggested changes to policies. Some have typos but no changes to the policy itself, some have no reviewed and approved dates on them and some policies are not gender neutral.

- 2. Minor changes (gramatical, etc.) to vote

On a motion made by Kimberly Scot and seconded by India Eadie, the committee voted unanimously that all reviewed and updated School Committee policies include a month and year of review if there is no change made to the policy. If there is a change made to the policy, that policy should include the date each School Committee voted on the respective policy. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.

On a motion made by Kimberly Scot and seconded by India Eadie, the committee voted unanimously to allow the Communications and Policy subcommittee to make typographical corrections to policies as they review without the need to re-vote an entire policy for a typo. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.

On a motion made by Kimberly Scot and seconded by India Eadie, the committee voted to approve that all policies moving forward use gender-neutral language. Such language will change as we work through the policies that are in the review process. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.

On a motion made by Kimberly Scot and seconded by India Eadie, the committee voted unanimously to include the following statement as a forward to our policy manual. "For this Policy Manual, the approved policies represent the collective School Committee(s) of the R.C. Mahar Regional Middle/High School, The Orange Elementary School, and the Petersham Center School." Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.

On a motion made by Kimberly Scott and seconded by India Eadie, the committee voted unanimously to accept the first reading of policy ACA, ADC, BA, BB, BG, BGC, BIBA, and BID as suggested by the Communications and Policy subcommittee. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.

- 9. Sub Committee / Liaison Updates

Report of Union #73 Committee - No report.

Report of the R.C. Mahar Representative - There is a Mahar School Committee meeting on Thursday.

Report of the Leadership, Accountability & Measurement Subcommittee - This committee hasn't met.

Report of the Resources & Capacity Subcommittee - Michele reported that general information was provided at the last meeting. There is nothing to vote at this time since we are still closing out FY23. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be on October 4, 2023 at 10am.

Report of the CES Representative - This committee hasn't met.

Report of the CAPS Representative - Dr. Liz reported that CAPS is meeting on Wednesday.

Report of the School Building Committee - Michele reported that the murals have gone up and a new roadway will be complete in the next couple months. All materials from Dexter Park are being sorted and removed.

Report of the SEPAC Representative - Mallory reported that the first meeting will be on October 4th and will be virtual.

10. Next Meeting - November 13, 2023. There was some discussion regarding parents needing more communication before the start of school. The committee stated that in the future the district can be more organized in communication.

11. Adjournment - ***On a motion made by Kim Scot and seconded by India Eadie, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm.***

Approved: 11/13/23

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.