

ORANGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
507 South Main Street
Orange, MA 01364

Regular Meeting

September 17, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM in the Library of Fisher Hill School by Chairperson Stephanie Conrod. Other members present were: Dianne Salcedo, Alexander Schwanz and Amy White.

Others present: Tari Thomas, Superintendent/Clerk
Daniel Haynes – Director of Finance and Operations
Claudia Mallet – Assistant Clerk
Principal: Maureen Donelan
Staff: Anna Channing
Visitors: Kathy Reinig and Courtney Long

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment – None needed.
4. Approval of Minutes – On motion of Amy White, seconded by Dianne Salcedo: “that the minutes of the regular meeting of June 6, 2018 be approved.” Vote: Unanimous.
5. Report of the OETA – Anna Channing reported (in Carla Chilton’s absence) a great, smooth start to the year; teachers are setting routines for students; Kindergarten teachers have high class numbers and are setting expectations; Breakfast in the Classroom is fully implemented at both schools – cleanup is the biggest challenge and is being worked on with students; open houses are next week; Friday brings Jog-a-thon, as well as author Paul Reynolds to the schools for a read aloud of his book ‘Going Places.’
6. Matters for Action/Vote
 - a. Appoint Delegate and Alternate to MASC Annual Business Meeting

On motion of Amy White, seconded by Dianne Salcedo: “that the Orange School Committee approve Stephanie Conrod as delegate to the MASC Annual Business Meeting.” Vote: Unanimous.

The Committee requested Chairperson Conrod to vote her conscience on the resolutions’ votes. Discussion will follow at the Committee’s January meeting.

- b. Band Proposal - Over the summer, Matt Parsons and James Mercier met with the Resource and Capacity Subcommittee about the instrumental program. In the last year, it was supported by the ORA and lessons had been provided to over 100 students. Mr. Mercier was hoping to do some fundraising to fund a 5th-day salary for the music teacher. There also was the thought it might make sense as an after-school curriculum and a music teacher could be compensated in that way instead. Since the discussion took place, Helene Holmes said work through the ORA will fund this as an after-school program for this year. This gives the district a little breathing room to revisit the idea in FY2020. A discussion of the prospect will most likely take place in November. A big shout out to Helene Holmes and the ORA!

7. September Items

- a. School Committee Schedule for the Year – (On file.)

Superintendent Thomas said the staff would like to see School Committee members do walkthroughs with her and the building principal, with the member then commenting on what they observed. Mrs. Thomas said we can learn from each other and inform the thinking of how to wade through these difficult financial times. Chairperson Conrod will go on the walkthrough in October and report back to the Committee in November.

- b. Blizzard Bag Data – Tabled until later in the meeting.

8. Sub-Committee/Liaison Updates

- a. Report of Union #73 – No meeting held.
- b. Report of the R.C. Mahar Representative – Mrs. White said the committee met last week and reported that Carla Halpern put together a fundraiser with 25 participants that raised \$1500 for Mahar; voted in AP exam reimbursements (with the vote also allowing for 5 scholarships); voted in trips to Washington, D.C. and Quebec; lawn service has been re-implemented – the district has equipment issues and it is less expensive for this service than to repair existing, or buy new, equipment; the committee voted to move forward with the Regional Amendment Committee.
- c. Report of the Leadership, Accountability & Measurement Subcommittee
 - i. Superintendent Evaluation – The four-member subcommittee (2 from RCM and 2 from Union #73) went through the provided information from the Superintendent and concluded that she is doing a great job. Leadership skills and how she models expectations are particular strengths. She was deemed overall proficient.

On motion of Dianne Salcedo, seconded by Amy White: “that the Orange School Committee approve the Superintendent’s annual evaluation for 2017-2018 with an overall rating of proficient.” Vote: Unanimous.

- d. Report of the Resources & Capacity Subcommittee – Dianne Salcedo reported that the subcommittee went over the FY18 budget and found that 4% more was spent in special education and \$48,000 less in regular education than in FY17. This pattern is not sustainable over the long term. There was also shown to be deficits in the teachers’ and substitute teachers’ salary lines of \$120,000 and \$46,000, respectively. The overall deficit of \$19,000 was covered with Circuit Breaker funds.

Director Haynes noted that the district has received \$4000 in Puerto Rican aid earmarked for students attending our district, as a result of hurricane displacement. Principal Donelan has some good ideas for how to utilize these funds.

- e. Report of the Communications and Policy Subcommittee –

- i. Policy Project Update – The Superintendent said a lot of time and energy has gone into this project and Mrs. White said it was a very informative process.

Mrs. Thomas said the policy manual needs two votes, the first of which will be taken tonight.

On motion of Dianne Salcedo, seconded by Amy White: “that the Orange School Committee approve the revised Union #73 and Ralph C. Mahar Policy Manual.” Vote: Unanimous.

The Superintendent said the MASC will host the manual on their website and we will link it to ours. They will inform us as new ones or updates to current ones become necessary.

- f. Report of the CES Representative – Chairperson Conrod reported, at the June meeting, the Director’s evaluation was accepted. A new program is starting in the Berkshires with them providing the funding and CES the personnel with the hope to have their own program in the future. CES’ next meeting is at the end of this month.

- g. Report of the CAPS Representative – Mrs. Salcedo reported the year is off to a good start. Enrollment is at 125 students, but they need more referrals for their budget to be in balance; they should have the numbers they need soon. They were able to work with Orange to bring 2 students back to the district. We now only have 2 students at CAPS. They are looking to provide professional development opportunities so their staff can help ours. The next meeting is October 10th.

- h. Report of the School Building Committee
 - i. Member Appointment – On motion of Dianne Salcedo, seconded by Amy White: “that the Orange School Committee accept the resignation of Stephanie Conrod from the School Building Committee and appoint Alexandre Schwanz to the School Building Committee.” Vote: Unanimous.

 - ii. OPM Selection - Dianne Salcedo told the Committee that all 6 applicants were interviewed, then the field was narrowed down to 2, with the final choice then selected. The committee met with them to negotiate a contract on September 14th and all the information will be sent to the MSBA for the selection to be approved. They will meet on October 1st to confirm the appointment and then the committee can make an official announcement at a posted meeting on October 2nd. The hope is that as many members as possible from Town committees can join them.

- i. Report of the Regional Planning Committee – A meeting was held at the beginning of August to finalize a timeline – there will be 6 Thursday dates between now and spring. The biggest points of what has hindered the process in the past will be discussed during this time. Looking to bring votes to Town meetings in the spring with possible implementation in FY21.

The Committee now moved back to:

7. September Items

- b. Blizzard Bag Data – (On file.) Anna Channing went over the findings.

The Committee now moved to:

- 9. Superintendent’s Report – The Superintendent presented a new format for her report (on file), now a web-based interactive newsletter. She went over what to expect in her report in the future and this month’s highlights.

Chairperson Conrod reminded everyone of Friday's 'No Junk Jog-Athon.'

Mrs. Conrod also said the MASC has a tool allowing for school committees to be evaluated and inquired as to whether this Committee would want to evaluate themselves. Mrs. Salcedo said the Committee has a lot on its plate with the MSBA and regionalization and would rather focus on substance rather than outlying structure. She said, if regionalization passes, the time spent on the evaluation would be moot. The Committee agreed not to move forward with this.

Finally, Chairperson Conrod said there will be 3 open seats on the Orange School Committee as of March 2019.

- 10. Executive Session – None needed.
- 11. Next Meeting – Monday, November 19, 2018
- 12. Adjourn – On motion of Dianne Salcedo, seconded by Amy White: “that the meeting adjourn.” Vote: Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:33.

DATE: _____

Chairperson

Secretary

ctm/cm
9/21/18