# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES 3:30 p.m.
**FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015**
Central Administration Conference Room

## 1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order 3:30
1.02 Tobacco Policy Statement
1.03 Pledge of Allegiance
1.04 Roll Call
Present: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee McGillicuddy, Trustee Moor, Trustee Davis
Not Present: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Osmond

1.05 Clerk Pro Tem
*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby appoints Victoria McLaren as Clerk Pro Tem in the absence of the District Clerk
Motioned: Trustee Kurnit
Seconded: Trustee McGillicuddy
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee McGillicuddy, Trustee Moor, Trustee Davis
Not Present: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Osmond

## Now Present

Trustee Osmond arrived at approximately 3:30 pm

## 2. Policy Review

2.01 The Board will review the new policy on State and Local Assessments
The Board reviewed the new testing policy and created the new policy to be adopted on 4/7/15:

20157260 By-Laws
SUBJECT: TESTING: STATE ASSESSMENTS GRADES 3 THROUGH 8

The Board of Education is committed to providing a quality educational program for the students of the District.

Purposes of Assessment

The Board of Education believes that the primary purpose of evaluating student and school performance should be to provide information which helps to improve student learning. Assessment helps the school to improve learning by prompting changes in, for example, curriculum or teaching methods. It also allows families, teachers and schools to understand, and therefore to address, students' academic strengths and weaknesses.

While the Board is opposed to the over-testing of students, particularly using proprietary instruments that serve limited educational purpose and are intended primarily for evaluation of teachers and principals, the Board recognizes its responsibility to comply with the laws and regulations governing public school districts. Therefore, it is the policy of the District that students must complete the requirements of the public school program, which includes taking quizzes, tests, as well as other state and local assessments, to help accomplish the following objectives:

- To provide one means of evaluating student growth through individual, inter-district, and intra-district comparison;

- To provide teachers with diagnostic information which will enable them to better address the instructional needs of their students and to differentiate instruction, and
- To evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum, as well as methods of instruction.

The Board recognizes that tests provide only a limited source of information regarding a student, and should be used in conjunction with all other information known about a student and to assist the student in improving his/her learning.

State Assessments in Grades 3 through 8

All public schools are required by Commissioner's Regulations to participate in state assessments that reflect the knowledge, skills and understandings expected of all students and indicating they are able to perform at certain grade levels. If a student is in attendance at school on mandated test days, tests will be administered to him/her. If a student is absent on these days in accordance with the District's Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy (Board Policy 7110), he/she will be marked "absent" and the test will be administered on the make-up day. All students will be accounted for and reported to the State Education Department (SED) in accordance with SED's Validity Rules.

Neither the Education Law nor the Commissioner's Regulations provide a mechanism for parents to opt their child out of required state assessments in grades 3 through 8; similarly, neither the Education Law nor the Commissioner's Regulations expressly prohibit parents and students from refusing these assessments.

Should any student refuse to take the state assessment in Grades 3through 8, he or she will be provided with a designated location and be allowed to read silently or engage in other activity in compliance with current State regulations.

REF: No Child Left Behind Act
8 NYCRR SS100.3, 100.4, 100.5
SED Memo to Superintendents of Public Schools, "Information on Student Participation in State Assessments" dated January 2013

## No Longer Present:

Trustee McGillicuddy left at approximately 4:30

## 3. Adjournment

3.01 Adjourn the meeting

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby adjourns the meeting at 4:45
Motioned: Trustee Davis
Seconded: Trustee Moor
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Osmond, Trustee Davis
Not Present: Trustee McGillicuddy, Trustee Schnell

Minutes Recorded By:
Victoria McLaren, District Clerk

Victoria McLaren

Minutes Typed By:
Fern Amster

Fern Amster

Board of Education: Tony Fletcher, Rob Kurnit, Laurie Osmond, Ann McGillicuddy, Gideon Moor, Tanya Davis, Barbara Schnell