

Oakland Public Schools
Work Session Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
5:30 PM

A Work Session of the Board of Education was held at the Oakland Board of Education Administrative Offices in person on December 12, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by Mr. Mazzilli.

Mr. Mazzilli led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Open Public Meeting announcement as follows: The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Oakland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on December 5, 2023 in the Municipal Building, the Board Offices, all school offices and copies sent to newspapers serving Oakland: The Record News. The Board reserves the right to limit public discussion of personnel items, so as to preserve individual privacy.

The Board appreciates the concerns and comments expressed by the public and will take them into consideration. However, please remain advised that, neither the Board nor the administration may comment on or respond to public inquiries or statements regarding any internal personnel matters involving a District employee.

Please be further advised that there is no privilege or qualified privilege with regard to any statements that you make before the Board of Education. Furthermore, in addition to their respective rights to privacy, employees of this school district retain all rights regarding defamation and slander according to the laws of New Jersey.

Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise, sign in, and state their names and addresses. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. A speaker who has not finished in the allotted time will be directed by the presiding officer to summarize quickly and relinquish the floor within 30 seconds.

Roll Call

The following members were present: Ms. Kilday, Mr. Mazzilli, Mr. Scerbo, Ms. Shelkin.
ABSENT: Ms. Cooper.

Also present: Dr. Gina M. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Annette Wells, Board Secretary/Business Administrator, Mr. Joseph Tumminia, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Gregg Desiderio, Valley Middle School Principal, Mr. Jim Cerullo, from Wilkotsz & Co. and 0 members of the Public.

Mr. Desiderio provided an update on the 8th Grade trip. He discussed that the per student cost for the 3-day trip is \$650 for a quad and \$725 for a double. He stated that the expense is a concern and by changing to a 2-day trip, the cost would be \$216 less for a quad and \$250 less for a double. He recommended changing to a two-day trip which would provide a full day in Gettysburg and a full day in Hershey Park. The students would still experience the dinner dance at the hotel, but would not be going to Dave & Busters. The board discussed the recommendation and agreed to the 2-day trip.

Mr. Desiderio left the meeting at 5:48 pm.

Mr. Cerullo, district auditor from Wilkots and Co., provided highlights of the district's June 30, 2023 audit report. He discussed that the business office was able to provide everything to the auditors and there were no findings. Ms. Wells commended the business office staff for their daily work resulting in a clean audit. New staff have transitioned seamlessly and are very detail oriented. Time was allowed for questions and comments from the board.

Mr. Cerullo left the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Dr. Coffaro shared a schematic of the McCoy Road new development and discussed the Facilities meeting that took place on December 5, 2023. The board discussed the potential impact and possible alternatives for cost savings due to referendum costs. The district will look at maximizing space in our current buildings with possible construction in the front of Dogwood, converting the Dogwood library and small group classrooms, and renovating the Manito locker rooms. The district would also look at placing the students from the first phase in Manito Elementary School. The district will continue to look into areas to lessen the impact of a referendum.

Mr. Tumminia updated the board on the Dogwood Air Handlers. Repairs will be performed during the holiday break while the architect is working on plans for replacement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Ms. Shelkin seconded by Ms. Kilday to enter executive session at 6:44 pm.

WHEREAS, The Board of Education must discuss subjects concerning personnel matters, legal issues, Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, and/or contract negotiations concerning the District, and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects are not appropriate subjects to be discussed in a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid subjects to be discussed are within the exemptions which are permitted to be discussed and acted upon in closed executive session pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, it is therefore

RESOLVED, that the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in a closed executive session by this Board and administrative staff and information pertaining thereto will be made available to the public as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.

Upon call of the roll, the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION-

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:55 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Shelkin, seconded by Ms. Kilday to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm.
Upon call of the question, the motion carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Annette M. Wells
School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary