

Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Orange Elementary School Committee

Day/Date: September 8, 2025

Time of Meeting: 6:00PM

Location: Fisher Hill Elementary School

Media Center

59 Dexter St.

Orange, MA 01364

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/jgu-xcig-tbz>



School Committee Minutes

1. Call To Order - Mallory called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.
Members present: Crystal Clarke, Frank Hains, Jessica Reske
Absent: Josefa Scherer
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Mallory led the pledge of allegiance.
3. Public Comment - none
4. Energy Committee Update on Outdoor Classroom/Solar Project - Ms. Lawson provided the School Committee with an update on the solar project. The storage battery has arrived and National Grid will be able to get it online soon. October 23rd will be a ribbon cutting and celebration on the school grounds, solar panels and outdoor classroom.
5. Approval of Minutes
On a motion made by Frank Hains and seconded by Crystal Clarke, the committee voted unanimously to approve the School Committee minutes of June 9, 2025.
6. Glimpse Into the Classroom - Craig Newton presented on the STEM programs at OES. He thanked all the teachers and the administration for their support. They are focusing on Google suite and some MCAS prep. Current topics are paper techniques, paper tower challenge and internet safety. Highlights in STEM have been 3D castles, pop up books, building an Oregon Trail game and coding (not teacher lead, but student led). They have been chosen for the MassCue fall conference.
7. Report of the OETA - David Mastrionni stated they are fully staffed with licensed professionals. His report highlighted Para PD, ELA curriculum, new computers, and concern over budget and health insurance rate increases.
8. September Items
 - a. Announcement of New Staff - Dr. Lewis reported that everyone has shown enthusiasm and commitment in the new year. Enrollment stands at 507 + 10 outplacements and all core teaching positions are filled and are highly certified. A reminder has been sent to parents about safety in arrivals and dismissals. They are continuing implementation of the curriculum. Attendance is being closely monitored. The open house is 10/7 and 10/8 and they anticipate a very strong attendance. The weekly Principal report to staff and Dexter Den reports to parents are sent weekly and daily memos are sent from the office everyday. There is a PTO scheduled event this Thursday which is a BMX presentation on anti-bullying. Health records are being reviewed and updated. All fire drills and lockdown drills have been scheduled.

- b. Summer Program Review - Danielle Boucher presented on the summer programs held at OES. Her report highlighted 148 students registered for the 4 week program and 4,736 meals were served. All educators are trained to deliver the content of each program and the program is creative and done in a “camp style”.
- c. Policy/Law of the Month - Mallory reviewed policy, HA - Negotiations Goals.
- d. Policies - First Read - The following policies were presented for a first read.

- IKFE
- JJE
- KBE
- ECAB
- KI
- EFBA
- KBG
- JICDA
- IMBC

9. Matters for Action or Vote

- a. School Committee Goals -
 - #1 Enhance New Member Orientation
 - #2 Strengthen Public Relation
 - #3 Community Engagement
 - #4 Student Learning

On a motion made by Crystal Clarke and seconded by Frank Hains, the committee voted unanimously to approve the FY27 School Committee Goals and Budget priorities as outlined in the July 22, 2025 memo. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.

- b. School Committee Meeting Schedule for the year - ***On a motion made by Crystal Clarke and seconded by Frank Hains, the committee voted unanimously to approve the 2025-2026 OES School Committee meeting schedule*** (on file).
- c. Draft Budget Timeline (on file) - ***On a motion made by Crystal Clarke and seconded by Jessica Reske, the committee voted unanimously to approve the FY27 budget timeline as presented.***
- d. Disposal of Materials - Dr. Liz explained that as part of keeping our classrooms up to date, the district is preparing to surplus an older edition of the Wonders English Language Arts curriculum. The estimated value of these older (past edition) materials is \$1,500–\$3,500 in total. Following a School Committee vote, the district will responsibly dispose of or donate the materials in line with state regulations. This step helps ensure our students continue to learn from current, high-quality resources while also managing space and resources effectively.
On a motion made by Crystal Clarke and seconded by Frank Hains, the committee voted unanimously to declare the Wonders ELA reading program as surplus and further ask that the administration to appropriately dispose of or donate the materials which are no longer used.

10. Sub Committee / Liaison Updates

- a. Town of Orange Liaison Report - There was no rep present but the town manager reported that the North Main St. project will remain in place until the ground freezes and will continue in the spring. The solar panel battery energy storage system will be installed no later

than 10/1. Health insurance rate increases and mid-year increases were unexpected and created a budget shortfall. They are working with FRCOG to evaluate alternatives for FY27.

- b. Report of Union #73 Committee - This committee has not met.
- c. Report of the R.C. Mahar Representative - They are meeting on Thursday.
- d. Report of the Leadership, Accountability & Measurement Subcommittee - No report.
- e. Report of the Communications & Policy Subcommittee - See policy report above.
- f. Report of the Resources & Capacity Subcommittee - Expenditures are in line and this year will be challenging.
- g. Report of the CES Representative - Mallory reported that their Executive Director resigned in July and they have decided to hire a firm to do the new director search.
- h. Report of the CAPS Representative - Crystal reported that the first meeting is on Wednesday at 3:30.
- i. Report of the School Building Committee - No report.
- j. Report of the SEPAC Representative - Crystal and Mallory reported that they worked on wings beneath our wings award and Phil Saisa presented the awards at convocation. Deb Bousquet received the award for OES.

11. Next Meeting - November 10, 2025

12. Items for Future Consideration

- a. Superintendent Contract - Dr. Liz has sent to the three School Committee Chairs, per her current contract, a request to enter into negotiations for a successor contract. Her current contract expires at the end of June 2026.

13. Executive Session- 7:16pm - *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.*

On a motion made by Frank Hains and seconded by Mallory Ellis, the committee voted unanimously to enter into executive session, not to return to regular session, under 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.

14. Adjournment

15.

Approved 11/10/25

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.