

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2011

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School art room.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Falcetti, Mr. Noone, Mr. Shuhi

Also present: Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Longobucco; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Kubisek; Mr. Zaremski; the public and the press.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move item II c from the consent agenda.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the consent agenda with the following correction on page 2523 change the name from Mr. Galumpi to Mr. Colombie.

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular meeting January 5, 2011.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices for 2010-2011 budget as required.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Mr. Simone abstained.

Mr. Katzin arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Dr. Wheeler distributed and reviewed a proposed "Memorandum of Agreement" between the Board and LEA that will be needed to extend the deadline for retirement request submission.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to add to the agenda a discussion of the "Memorandum of Agreement."

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to accept the Memorandum of Agreement.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Letters of Resignation

Dr. Wheeler reviewed a letter of retirement from Denise Parker as of June 30, 2011.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to accept the letter of retirement from Denise Parker as submitted.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Board members thanked Mrs. Parker for her years of service.

Dr. Wheeler reviewed a letter of retirement from Mary Connelly Pereira as of June 30, 2011.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to accept the letter of retirement from Mary Connelly Pereira as submitted.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Board members thanked Ms. Pereira for her years of service.

Public Comment and Correspondence

Ms. Fabbri reported that the next STPC meeting will be held on Thursday as a Parent Meeting with Mr. Prescott's advanced web design class presenting their redesigned link to the website and Andrew Lautz presenting his Capstone Project. LHS student will be making the refreshments.

Dr. Wheeler reported that the next general meeting of the PTO will be held on January 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Zaremski reported on students placed by DCF in out of state facilities due to lack of foster homes in Connecticut. Costs and reimbursements amounts are always varied each year.

Ms. Della Volpe reported on the following activities at the high school; exam schedules will begin on Friday and student council is in the process of raising \$3,500 for conference attendance in April.

Ms. Murphy reported on the following activities at the Intermediate School: Katie Sullivan was a presenter at the CT Reading Association Conference and much of her material went forward to the National Conference.

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:
- Constant Contact is up and running and parents and community members are encouraged to sign up for it.
 - The World Language trip to Quebec in February has been cancelled due to lack of interest.
 - The Sports Booster Club will have a dedication ceremony on February 11, 2011 for the Wall of Fame displayed in the high school lobby.
 - With the two retirement letters accepted, postings will be made soon as both are designated shortage areas.
 - Jack Healy has hired a contractor to shovel the snow from the roofs tomorrow at the three schools and Bantam School.
 - Torrington Schools have offered proposals for Litchfield students to participate in grant-funded opportunities to reduce economic, ethnic and racial isolation including: LIS ice-skating inter district on Saturday; a preschool program and a program related to Kids Marathon.
 - On January 17th Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Simone attended the BOF meeting to review the recent settlement with LEA. The BOF recognized the efforts of both the BOE and the LEA in reaching a settlement beneficial to all.
 - On February 14th the BOE will attend the BOF meeting for an informal discussion of the FY 2011-12 budget proposal.
 - During the January 17th meeting the BOF inquired about the BOE's willingness to continue the discussion of building maintenance takeover by the town.

Old Business

Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Petricone (who has volunteered his time to serve as a critical friend) reviewed the Strategic Plan draft including the following: key areas identified by the Board; adding intermediate objectives and timeframe; adding benchmarks; supporting document showing where we are; adding a brief glossary of acronyms; living document for periodically revisiting and revision; 2 goals; 8 objectives with activities, participation, outcomes/benchmarks, tentative completion dates; reviewed objectives; reflect input from Board and staff.

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Board members discussed the following: need for Board to be kept informed of progress with the plan; possible district building objective becoming a benchmark; excellent document, thanks to the people who worked on it; benchmarks are a good idea; second paragraph under #2 and #3 could be a benchmark; need for extended dialogue with external agencies as stated in #8; lack of prioritization is a good thing; and Board's next step.

Board consensus was to have a group meet with Dr. Wheeler to develop a final copy of the plan. Ms. Carr, Ms. Fabbri and Mr. Simone agreed to finalize the document.

Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Buccitelli reviewed the OPEB document and the changes that were made.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to accept the OPEB document as amended.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

New Business

Discussion of the Strategic School Profile is tabled at this time.

Committee ReportsFacilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will be meeting next with the Finance committee to discuss technology in the Strategic Plan which will be added to the Finance Committee agenda.

Curriculum and Personnel

Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met last Thursday and discussed the Science Curriculum 7-12; budget discussion regarding programming and the Memorandum of Agreement document.

Finance Committee

Mr. Noone reported that the committee will be meeting on the 24th at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Shuhi will be taking Mr. Simone's place on the committee.

Policy Committee

Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet tomorrow night.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Policy #4118.51 – Social Networking Websites and regulation as amended.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Policy #5114.1 – Suspension and Expulsion as amended.

Board members discussed the following: objections to removing item C “The use of obscene or profane language or gestures to a member of the school staff,” 1st amendment issues; lack of definition of what is “obscene;” student behavior; sexual harassment issues; not a suspendable offense; covered under other statements in the policy; detentions possible; means of expression; language that is disruptive to the learning environment is within the policy; and possible need to keep in G “Participating in walkouts from, or sit ins within, a classroom or school building,” as recommended by the administration.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative except Mr. Noone and Mr. Shuhi who voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve Policy #5131.2 – Bullying Behavior in the Schools and regulation as amended.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Policy #5131.4 – Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Internet Safety and regulation.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Policy #6172.6 – Virtual/Online Courses.

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MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to move to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss mid-year Superintendent Review.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Executive Session

Present were all the above Board members. Dr. Wheeler was invited to attend.

Return to public session at 8:40 P.M.

No action was taken.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Falcetti, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary