

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2011

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 5, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in Litchfield Intermediate School art room.

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

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to add to the agenda as Iaa a request for non-resident attendance.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Gorman and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the consent agenda with the following corrections: on page 2516 in the motion change “eliminate” to “eliminated,” on page 2517 the last item under Superintendent’s Report should change “in” to “is,” and on page 2518 under Motion withdrawn, correct to read “...and second withdrawn by Mr. Gorman.”

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting December 8, 2010.
- b. Approve the Minutes of Special Meeting December 16, 2010.
- c. Approve the payment of invoices for 2010-2011 budget as required.

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

Board members reviewed a letter from Mrs. Pamela Rickmers regarding her daughter completing her senior year while living outside of Litchfield as per Board policy. The Superintendent and Principal endorse this request.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Mrs. Rickmers’ request to permit Ashley, who is temporarily living in Goshen, to complete her senior year at LHS as per Board policy # 5118.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. Mrs. Fabbri reported that STPC has started the concession stand at the basketball games, which is their biggest fundraiser. Volunteers are sought to help in this effort.

Mrs. Moore reported that the PTO is planning a walk-run in honor of Joanne McCormick to be held on Saturday, April 9th.

- b. Jessica Blasavage reported on the high school student council activities.
- c. Board members received the following correspondence:
 - Thank you note from Center School office staff for the cookies from the Board.
 - Email from Audra MacLaren regarding cutting an administration position.
 - A letter from Ann Marie Ashford regarding a family matter.
 - A pamphlet from CABA regarding Legislative Day on the Hill scheduled for March 9th in Hartford.
- d. Administrators Reports:
 1. Mr. Zaremski reviewed a handout from CJR outlining vocational programs provided for students at CJR.

Mr. Katzin arrived at 7:10 p.m.

2. Mrs. Longobucco reported that Joanne Moore has been published in "School Library Monthly." Her article reflects the quality of the program in our school library/media centers.
 3. Ms. Murphy reported that Junior Achievement activities regarding Connecticut and national government have begun in the Intermediate School.
- e. Other Public Comment:
 - Mr. Hula urged the Board to consider funding for a trainer as a permanent employee.
 - Mrs. Andrulis commented that an athletic trainer is a necessity in this day and age.
 - Mrs. Parsons commented that the Board should consider making funds available for a trainer.
 - Mrs. Harrison commented that the Board should consider a trainer as a priority.

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, January 5, 2011

- Mr. Colombie supported funding of the athletic trainer position.
- Mrs. Moore commented that we are very lucky to be able to work with Dr. Wheeler and the administrators who encourage a golden standard in education.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- OPED trust document has been updated and revised and reviewed by Ms. Carr and Mr. Buccitelli. It will be forwarded to the full Board for review.
- Mr. Simone, Mr. Buccitelli and Dr. Wheeler recently met with Mr. Paul and Mr. Geiger. A tentative plan for a joint BOF/BOE meeting on January 10th has not yet been confirmed.

Old Business

Dr. Wheeler updated the Board on the draft Strategic Plan document that will be presented at the January 19th meeting. Benchmarks are being finalized and Board members will be asked to review and edit the plan at the next meeting.

New Business

- a. The discussion on the Strategic School Profile was tabled as the report has not arrived from the State Department of Education.
- b. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Buccitelli reported that a balance is available in the health and medical account and these funds could be used to fund an athletic trainer.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve a trainer for the remainder of the year to the extent that we have money to do so.

Board members discussed the following: other needs in school such as instructional supplies, ELL tutor; if put in this year difficult to take out next year; trainer doesn't prevent injuries; may mitigate injuries; regulations for concussions; coaches' accessibility during games; possible future mandate from State to have trainer; coaches are trained in First Aid, CPR, AED use and concussion management; money well spent for prevention; safety issue; hiring per-diem; cost for salary and benefits; need to make fiscally responsible decisions for the whole district; trainer primarily benefits the high school; liability issues; Berkshire League schools with trainer.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative except Ms. Carr, Ms. Rosser and Mr. Katzin who voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

Committee Reports

Curriculum & Personnel - Mrs. Fabbri reported that the committee will meet next week.

Finance - Mr. Noone reported that the next meeting is scheduled for January 24th with a workshop for budget planning on January 18th.

Facilities - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met three weeks ago and discussed the following: 3rd component of the Strategic Plan; use of technology; facilities usage; and a draft to be worked on at the next meeting to be submitted to the Board.

Policies

Ms. Carr presented the following policies:

- a. First Reading – Policy # 4118.51/4218.51 Social Networking Websites – strike (Board) from first sentence and return for second reading at next meeting.
- b. First Reading - Policy # 5114.1 Suspension – In second paragraph, last sentence after exclusion add “as specified in C.G.S. 10-233a-10-233f; on page (c) in bullet 1. change include to “includes” and return for second reading at next meeting.
- c. First Reading – Policy # 5131.2 Bullying Behavior in the Schools – no changes noted, return for second reading at next meeting.
- d. First Reading - Policy # 5131.4 Use of District’s Computer Systems and Internet Safety – no changes noted, return for second reading at next meeting.
- e. First Reading - Policy # 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses – no changes noted, return for second reading at next meeting.

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, January 5, 2011

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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

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