

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2010

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School art room.

Present were: Mr. Katzin, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Falcetti, Gorman, Noone, Shuhi, Simone; Dr. Wheeler; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Longobucco; Ms. Murphy; Mr. Buccitelli; Mr. Zaremski; the public and the press.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the consent agenda with the following corrections; on page 2492 under Public Comment for Mr. Simone, change “fund” to “funds,” on page 2493 under Ms. Longobucco change “rent” to “recent,” and on page 2494 under Facilities and Technology Committee, strike “possible building maintenance agreement as discussed at the last Board of Finance meeting,” and add “possible building utilization planning as part of strategic planning.”

MOTION removed by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the consent agenda a - d with the following corrections; on page 2492 under Public Comment for Mr. Simone, change “fund” to “funds,” on page 2493 under Ms. Longobucco change “rent” to “recent,” and on page 2494 under Facilities and Technology Committee, strike “possible building maintenance agreement as discussed at the last Board of Finance meeting,” and add “possible building utilization planning as part of strategic planning.”

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting September 15, 2010.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices for 2010-2011 budget as required.
- c. Approve overnight field trip – NASC/NHS Conference in Stamford, CT.
- d. Approve out of state field trip - Clark Museum, Williamstown, MA.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to approve the request for admission by Thomas Ryan for his son as a tuition based student as per Board policy.

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

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MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to approve the request of Mr. Saltourides to extend the existing six week tuition waiver to 12 weeks.

Mr. Saltourides presented the status of his house being built and was hoping to extend the tuition waiver for another 12 weeks. He noted that he does pay taxes on the property.

Board members discussed the following: need to adhere to the policy for every case; can't set a precedent; need to pay tuition for 12 weeks; possible review of policy for the future; and residency requirement needed.

MOTION failed: All votes were in the negative. There were no abstentions.

Public Comment and Correspondence

Ms. Fabbri reported on the following STPC activities: Jacob Dichter designed the ad for the yearbook that will be out in May; Oswald Hall-Wiggins sold \$2,000 worth of fundraising merchandise.

Ms. Moore reported on the following PTO activities: thanks to Dr. Wheeler, Ms. Murphy and Ms. Longobucco for participating in the parents' night out event; substantial funds were raised; lovely ambience; special event; successful community involvement; and beginning the fall citrus fruit fundraiser.

Mr. Noone commented on the great success of the parents' night out event and especially thanked all the teachers who made it such a success.

Matt Markelon reported on the student council activities at the high school.

Board members received a communication from Education Connection.

Ms. Della Volpe reported on the following activities at the high school: successful welcome back dance; student DJ; autumn fest coming up soon; and possible blood drive to be organized by TSA in the spring.

Ms. Murphy reported on the following activities at the Intermediate School: fire prevention day tomorrow; fire safety demonstrations; and parent teacher conference to be held next week.

Ms. Longobucco reported on the following activities at Center School: distributed 5 year NEASC report update; status report reviewed; Steering Committee and staff input; and next visit 2015.

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:
- The out of country field trip to Quebec City scheduled for April 20th has been cancelled due to lack of interest.
 - Litchfield Education Foundation will be meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the month and the next meeting is October 19th at the Community Center at 7:00 p.m. They requested a fundraising event to be held in the school and since they are a school related organization it was approved.
 - Replacing window caulking at LIS due to storm activity and some leakage. Company coming in to re-caulk. Roofing company coming in to inspect the roofs at LIS and LHS.
 - Fire Marshall, Tom O'Hare, met with Administrative Council to review the schools' emergency plans and evacuation procedures.

Ms. Carr commented on the Quebec trip noting that middle school parents were told that a parent had to accompany a middle school student as per Board policy. There is no Board policy that makes that statement.

Old Business

Dr. Wheeler reported that the first staff focus group strategic plan meeting was held at Center School. Ms. Longobucco and Ms. Fabbri attended. Information will be collated with the results from the next meetings at LIS and LHS and brought back to the committee.

New Business

Dr. Wheeler presented her Goals for 2010-2011 including: Budget/Finances; Communication; Curriculum & Educational Program Development; Instruction; Professional Leadership; Inter-District Collaboration; Policy and Strategic Plan.

Board members discussed the following: targeted groups for remediation in Math and Language Arts; look at student achievement growth K-12; look at formative assessment; possible CMT results from the SDE sooner than in the past; review of identification benchmarks and exiting strategies for supplemental skills programs; grade

level teacher conversations; CMT strand analysis; data from content coordinators; SRBI; 3 tier intervention; need for PD; the superintendent set high standards for goals; Board input into goals; Mr. Katzin recognized Ms. Fabbri's work in organizing Board members' suggestions for goals and collaborating with Dr. Wheeler to finalize the goals.

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met September 27th, Jeff Zullo attended. The committee discussed the following: building utilization; planning for future building use; October agenda including discussion of capital projects; and continue building utilization discussions; working relationship between town and school; OCR report reviewed, findings and action plan, list of items that need to be completed; difficulty in parking during student activities and difficulty in changing the parking plan as it has been approved by the town and state traffic commission.

Board members discussed the following elements of the OCR report findings: high school entrance ramp required, put in capital budget; public works will cover it; and input from Jack Healy and Brian McCormick, of Plumb Hill Playing Fields, Inc. was part of developing the voluntary corrective action plan.

Personnel

Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee will meet next week.

Policy

Ms. Carr reported that the committee meeting was cancelled.

Finance

Mr. Noone reported that the committee met September 20th with insurance advisors in attendance and discussed the following: change from MIRMA to CIRMA, plan to handle assessment invoice; need for Board and central office involvement with insurance providers; towns pooling together to provide insurance; CIRMA not covered by CT Guaranteed Fund; and insurance goes out to bid again in 2011.

Board members discussed the following: towns make decisions to go into assessable pool; two different products; need to have a seat at the table with insurance discussion; Board must be proactive.

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MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Ms. Carr: to move to Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss possible action regarding tentative agreement with LAA. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Buccitelli were invited to attend.

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

Executive Session

Present were all the above Board members, Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Buccitelli.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Simone: to return to public session at 9:47 p.m...

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Noone: to accept contract with LAA as recommended by Negotiating Committee.

MOTION carried. Mr. Katzin, Ms. Carr, Ms. Rosser, Mr. Noone and Mr. Simone all voted in the affirmative. Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Gorman, Ms. Fabbri and Mr. Shuhi voted in the negative.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 p.m.

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

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