

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2010

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Litchfield Intermediate School art room

Board members present were: Mr. Katzin, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Falcetti, Gorman Noone, Shuhi, and Simone.

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

Mr. Katzin submitted a letter of resignation from the position of Board chair citing that his job responsibilities are such that he cannot do both jobs at this time.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to accept Mr. Katzin's resignation from the position as Board chair as submitted.

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

Dr. Wheeler started the process of electing a new Board Chair.

MOTION made by Mr. Katzin and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to nominate Mr. Simone as Board chair.

NOMINATIONS closed by Mr. Katzin and seconded by Mr. Falcetti.

Mr. Katzin stated that Mr. Simone has a clear view of the district and would make a good Chair.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to nominate Ms. Carr as vice-chair of the Board.

NOMINATIONS closed by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Katzin.

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

Board consensus was to move item VII a. next in the agenda.

Billy Bochiccio and his teacher, Mrs. Mongeau, spoke to the Board about the catering business that the class is doing as a fundraiser for this year. He outlined the goals of the course and the requirements he must fulfill including a power-point presentation to the Board that was also filmed. A pamphlet for the catering business was distributed and order forms were made available. Greeting card samples, that were part of the fundraising activity last year, were also shared.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the consent agenda as submitted with the following correction on page 2513 in the last paragraph the word “the” should be eliminated before November.

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting November 10, 2010.
- b. Approve the Minutes of Special Meeting November 10, 2010.
- c. Approve the payment of invoices for 2010-2011 budget as required.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC/PTO – none
- b. LHS Student Council - Jessica Blasavage reported on the student council activities at the high school.
- c. Other public comment - Mr. Sandrib commented on Mr. Katzin leaving as the Chair and Mr. Simone becoming the Chair and wished them well. He also commented on Ms. Longobucco retiring as Principal of Center School and asked the Board to make an effort to search carefully for her replacement.
- d. Correspondence - Board members received the following correspondence:
 - A letter of resignation as Board Chair from Mr. Katzin.
 - A report from the Connecticut Commission on Education Achievement outlining a 10-year plan to improve Connecticut education K-12.
- e. Administrators’ Reports - Ms. Della Volpe reported on the following activities at the high school: E-commerce class that is starting new business including sale of premium seats at home basket ball games; basket ball apparel with names of senior boys on it; and Singing Cowboys that can be hired for the cafeteria for student celebrations.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- From the Connecticut Department of Education an Eight-Year Scan of National and State Initiatives for Assessment and Evaluation in Connecticut 2010-2018 including State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) 2009-2013; Education Reform in Connecticut (Public Act 10-111) 2010-2018; Connecticut Common Core Standards (CCCS) 2010=2014; Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) 2010-1015; Board Examination System (BES) Consortium 2011-2018.
- A request from Cynthia Politano to return \$18,000 that was budgeted for media retrieval system at the library. This was an old capital item (2004) and was never needed so it should be returned to the town.
- The post-graduate survey is up on the website and any graduates should be encouraged to complete it.

Old Business

Dr. Wheeler reported that the Strategic Plan has been discussed in the different Committees to develop points for the plan. A meeting is scheduled for December 16th to meet with Mr. Petricone and Board members are encouraged to attend.

New Business

- a. New catering project – discussed earlier
- b. Strategic School Profile for 2009-2010 - The discussion on the Strategic School Profile for 2009-2010 has been tabled since the profile has not yet arrived from the SDE.
- c. 2011-2012 Budget Development Schedule - Mr. Buccitelli reviewed the budget development schedule and asked the Board for their input. Board members discussed the following: possible additional workshops; need to meet with the Board of Finance before the scheduled date for submission.
- d. OPEB Trust Establishment - Mr. Buccitelli distributed two pages with moderate changes in the draft OPEB Trust Establishment document. The Pension Commission adopted it last night and it will go to the Board of Finance, this Board and the Board of Selectmen and the town meeting on January 11th for taxpayer approval.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to approve the OPEB Trust Establishment document as presented.

Board members discussed the following: reason for creating the trust; health claims for retirees; set up fund to save ahead of time; goal is 3 million dollars; \$300,000 already in fund; funding for liability; accounting standards for town; anticipated claims; actuarial figures; if liability decreases then less in fund; need for provision if money is left in the trust when it ends; drafted by Board's lawyer; reviewed by town lawyer; Board of Selectmen approved \$100,000 for special revenue fund; town and Board of Ed are different entities when reimbursement is given; need for more specificity of what happens when Trust ends; termination provision; need to get clarification before next Board meeting.

MOTION withdrawn by Ms. Carr and second withdrawn by Mr. Gorman.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Mr. Noone reported that the committee met on the 29th and Mr. Crowe and Mr. Buccitelli presented the OPEC for review. Also discussed was the following: FiberTech agreement; budget for 2010-2011; food service equipment replacement; declining enrollment; and the next meeting is scheduled for January 27th.

Curriculum/Programs and Personnel - The committee is scheduled to meet December 9th.

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met on the 22nd and discussed the following: Strategic Plan; maintenance planning and the intrusion alarm system.

Policy Committee

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Policy #5118 Non-Resident Attendance as submitted.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Carr: to move to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent's contract.

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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 were invited to attend.

Open session resumed at 8:32 p.m.

MOTION made by G. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to accept the Superintendent's contract with one change: add the phrase "from the Litchfield Public Schools" to section 4.G.

MOTION carried. All voters were in the affirmative. Ms. Fabbri and Mr. Shuhi abstained.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to move to Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. to discuss matters related to collective bargaining.

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

Executive Session

Present were all the above Board members except for Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Noone who recused themselves. Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Buccitelli were invited to attend.

Open session resumed at 8:48 p.m.

No action taken.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Carr: to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

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

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