

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 6, 2011

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 6, 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, Gorman, Katzin and Shuhi.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to add to the agenda as II d, a letter of resignation from Christopher Stupak.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the consent agenda with the following corrections: on page 2554 under Committee Reports, change “Business” to “Facilities” and state that Mr. Healy and Mr. Paul attended the Facilities Committee meeting and that Mr. Paul; Mr. Geiger; Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; and Mr. Healy attended the town hall meeting.

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting March 16, 2011.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices for 2010-2011 budget as required.
- c. Out of State Field Trip – New York City, NY.
- d. Approve the resignation of Christopher Stupak at the end of this school year with regret.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mrs. Moore reported that the PTO will be hosting the first annual Joanne McCormick race/walk on April 9, 2011, and book fairs to be held at Center School and the Intermediate School next week during parent teacher conferences.

Mrs. Moore commented on the LEF Palooza held at the Intermediate School, it was well attended and was a great community resources day. Also, on the same day in the auditorium Doug Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware spoke on native plants which added to the community resource day.

Jessica Blasavage and Madeline Bové reported on the student council activities at the high school.

Mr. Sandrib commented on the budget process with the Board of Finance and advised that improved communication is needed between the Boards.

The Board received an invitation to the Center School art show that begins April 11, 2011. Intermediate School art students have their art work on display at Oliver Wolcott Library.

Ms. Della Volpe commented on the student council raising \$5,000 on their own for all members to attend conferences that addressed major issues students are trying to influence such as reducing incidents of bullying in our schools. Also, she complimented the two advisors, Theresa Ream and Kathy Johnson, for their guidance in cultivating the student council and making a positive change in the culture of the school.

Superintendent's Repots

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Appreciation of all staff members that participated in the LEF Palooza.
- Adjusting Board meeting schedule during the spring recess. (April 21 Policy meeting cancelled, April 20 BOE meeting remains in the scheduled).
- Meeting of the Leadership Advisory Council on April 4. Plans for our district professional development for the 2011-2012 school year were established.

Old Business

Mr. Buccitelli presented information that was requested on maintenance: minimum budget requirements would be met; if funds were transferred to the town. The list of open projects and list of items cited by the principals remain the same. A review of the maintenance expenditures for last three fiscal years shows that all funds budgeted for maintenance were spent on maintenance.

Board members discussed the following: documentation showing funds spent on maintenance and not transferred from other accounts; legal issues if town takes over the school's maintenance; contract issues; OCR requirements; Board of Education statutorily responsible for maintenance of schools; need for input from bargaining unit; need to develop a plan to exit the program if not acceptable to the Board.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: The BOE will continue to retain control of maintenance and custodial work inside of the schools per existing agreement with the town.

Board members discussed the following: could reconsider in the future; re-evaluate yearly; and need to fully develop the details of revised agreement with the town before moving ahead.

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

New Business

Dr. Wheeler outlined the process for the Board to establish a graduation date after April 1st.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve graduation date at the Warner on June 21, 2011.

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

Dr. Wheeler distributed and reviewed a possible retirement incentive for Paraprofessionals.

Board members discussed the following: cost of \$3,387 over 4 years; contractual “last in, first out” reduction in force language.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Noone: to authorize the Superintendent to enter in a memorandum of agreement with AFSME as presented.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative except Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Falcetti and Mr. Shuhi who voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

Committee Reports

Finance - Mr. Noone reported that the Board of Finance meeting on the 11th will allow public comment and possible action on the Board of Education budget.

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Shuhi reported that the next meeting is scheduled the same night as the Board of Finance and will discuss town emergency grant, LHS hot water project; intrusion alarm; and fixed asset inventory.

Policies

- a. First Reading – Policy # 1212 School Volunteers – this is a new policy, regulation and form. No changes noted, return for second reading at next meeting.

- b. First Reading – Policy # 3323 Bid Requirements – no changes noted, return for second reading at next meeting.
- c. First Reading – Policy # 3524.2 Green Cleaning Program – this is a new policy and regulation. No changes noted, return for second reading at next meeting.
- d. First Reading – Policy # 4111/4211 Recruitment and Selection – policy and regulation; no changes noted, return for second reading at next meeting.
- e. First Reading - Policy #4111.4 Administrative Vacancies – policy and new regulation; no changes noted, return for second reading at next meeting.
- f. First Reading - Policy # 5127.1 Graduation Requirements – return to Policy Committee with a possible joint meeting with Curriculum, Programs and Personnel.
- g. First Reading - Policy #9500 Philosophy and Bylaws of the Board of Education – no changes noted, return for second reading at next meeting.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti; to approve policy #2110 Superintendent of Schools as presented.

Board members discussed having flexibility to extend the Superintendent’s contract written in the policy.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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

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