

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 14, 2010

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School library.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Gorman and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the minutes of Special Meeting, Jun 10, 2010 with the following correction to add the month “June” to the date; approve the minutes of Regular Meeting, June 16, 2010 with the following corrections on page 2468, after the bullets change “Sherr” to “Seherr”, on page 2469 under Old Business, change “meeting” to “meetings,” to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting, June 23, 2010 with the following correction on page 2472 in the first motion change “to do” to “to go,” to approve the payment of invoices for 2009-2010 budget as required, to approve the payment of invoices for 2010-1011 budget as required, to approve an out-of-state field trip (LHS Envirothon Team – Fresno State University, CA) and to approve personnel update.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Board members received a thank you note from Deb Hodges for the plant that was sent to her for the loss of her mother, and a request from Peg Perusse for Board of Ed representation to serve on the Pension Commission.

Ms. Della Volpe reported on the following activities at the high school: an update on “In-school Suspension Program” from the state went into effect July 1, 2010 which the school has implemented very successfully with counseling, reflection, meetings and coverage; AP results in independent study, US History, Psych, Spanish, Gov. and Politics were very impressive which is a testament to the quality of the programs we have here; and an overview of the summer mailings packet that will go out next week.

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:
- An update on hiring for positions including elementary, world language, 2 long-term subs, maternity replacements and a nurse position.
 - An update on binding arbitration including the following: Teacher Negotiation Act adopted 1979, bringing finality to the process, concerns to towns, challenging the results, negotiation, mediation, arbitration, representatives chosen, cost involved, no changes to final decision, "last best offer" issue by issue, the appeal process, and distribution of "Shipman & Goodwin, Overview of Teacher Negotiations Act (10-153a).
 - An administrative retreat took place July 13, 2010 with discussion of the reconstitution of the Leadership Advisory Council, former Leadership Council, to address what is needed to improve standards based instruction.
 - CMT scores have been released a review of the vertical scale results is underway.
 - CAPT scores will be released tomorrow. An update will be sent to the Board.
 - Consultation between the district and All-Star covering student transportation efficiencies, established routes, and consolidation of stops, is nearly complete.

Board members discussed the following: the last best offer benefits, and trends of binding arbitration.

Old Business

Dr. Wheeler reported that the Strategic Plan action plan items have been put on the sub committees' agendas, Facility next week, Finance the week after, Policies meeting for this month was cancelled, and Curriculum cancelled last week. Mrs. Mongeau asked how active the LEA would be. The LEA has assigned three members to work with the Board. Dr. Wheeler will request additional participation from the LEA.

New Business

Mr. Katzin reported that the Superintendent's annual evaluation is complete, is favorable and recommends extending her contract for another year with the same terms as current but with the compensation rate subject to change at the end of the 3rd year. Dr. Wheeler's salary is at a low level with 3 years of salary set. A draft extension of the contract would be effective from July 1st of this year to June 30, 2013. The current salary structure is in place and the 3rd year would be subject to performance.

Board members discussed the following: recommend review and negotiations each year; started with 3 year contract; policy input; could wait toward end of second year for extension; precedent set; possible wait until March; practices in many districts; timing limitations; protection of Superintendent and district; commitment to district;

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, July 14, 2010

commitment to Superintendent; maintain 3 years out; vote of confidence; no salary attached to the extension; if don't extend is possibly a vote of no confidence; need to review policy #2110 for compliance; and put on Policy Committee agenda first for review.

Committee ReportsFacilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will meet on Monday July 19, 2010 and the next meeting will include the following agenda items: maintenance, summer projects, strategic planning, gifts, policy # 9500, mail sorting, graduation risers, etc.

Policy

The policy committee will discuss at their next meeting the graduation policy and on line distance learning.

Board members discussed developing a policy that would permit appointment of an alternate to sit on committee meetings seat a quorum when committee members are absent.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss strategies pertaining to Collective Bargaining with LAA and LEA. Dr. Wheeler, Mr. Buccitelli, and Ms. Garden were asked to join the meeting.

Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Noone will participate in the LAA negotiations but not the LEA negotiations.

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

Executive Session

Present were: All the above Board members, Dr. Wheeler, Mr. Buccitelli, and Ms. Garden.

J. Noone, F. Gorman and W. Shuhi left the meeting early.

2476

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, July 14, 2010

Open session resumed at 9:40 p.m.

No action was taken.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

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

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