

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2010

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School library.

Present were: Mr. Katzin, Chairperson; Mrs. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Ms. Carr; 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.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Noone: to approve the consent agenda.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Noone and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to remove prior motion and vote on each item under consent agenda individually.

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

MOTION withdrawn. Second withdrawn.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of the regular Meeting, July 14, 2010 with the following correction to change the date of the administrative retreat from June 13, 2010 to July 13, 2010; under Policy, 2nd paragraph should read “committee meetings to seat a”; and under the Policy Motion it should read that Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Noone will participate in the LAA negotiations but not the LEA negotiations.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Carr abstained.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Rosser: to approve the payment of invoices for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 budget as required.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to approve the out of state field trip Close-up to Washington, D.C. in March-April 2011.

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 admission request of Mr. & Mrs. Yanavich for the three children, grades 7, 3 and K, with a six week tuition waiver per Board policy. To be followed up on in six weeks.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Noone: to approve the admission request of Mr. & Mrs. Goulet for their daughter, grade 2, with a six week tuition waiver per Board policy. Tuition to be charged after 6 weeks if they have not obtained residency in the district.

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 admission request of Ms. Corn for her children, grades 9 and 5 or 6, as private pay for tuition, with any additional expenses including transportation and any special services at the expense of the parents. No waiver of tuition granted per Board policy.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Simone: to accept new hires, resignations and FMLA leave request.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Ms. Moore reported on the following STPC/PTO activities: September 2, LCS & LIS Back-to-School Family Picnic at Litchfield Community Field from 5-7 PM, bring your own dish; October 1 an adult Social & Silent Auction at Litchfield Community Center from 7-11 PM; a fruit fundraiser is planned to replace the wrapping paper fundraiser.

Mr. Wages, Mr. Perusse, Mrs. Shaw and Mr. & Mrs. Murphy of Meadow Street expressed their concern with the discontinuation of the bus on Meadow Street. They were seeking an explanation as to why and they asked that the bus be reconsidered. Mr. Katzin advised them that there will be an informational session regarding the decision making process of the bus transportation system realignment on the September 2 BOE meeting agenda.

There was correspondence to Mr. Katzin from Litchfield County League of Women Voters regarding the Cable Television Advisory Counsel; letters from three families, Ms. Corn, Mr. & Mrs. Yanavich and Mr. & Mrs. Goulet, seeking enrollment in Litchfield Public Schools; and a letter from CABA regarding Board Recognition Awards.

Mrs. Murphy reported on a very successful Scavenger Hunt held today for the incoming 4th graders and is looking forward to opening day.

Mrs. Longobucco reported that the playscape is to be completed tomorrow, kindergarten bus orientation was successful today, classrooms and teachers are ready, and they will hold a “town meeting” of classes for introductions on first day.

Ms. Della Volpe reported that there is a new student orientation taking place tomorrow including a program with the peer educators.

Mr. Zaremski reported that there were 22 students that required extended school year services this summer, and there were four students placed at outside facilities and he thanked Jan Wilson and Janice Crovo for their outstanding assistance that they provided during the process.

Mr. Crowe reported that the buildings are ready, cleaning is completed and performed better for less money; the Center School OT/PT flooring was done last Friday; painting at Center School lower level bathrooms, kitchen and café completed; Intermediate School lights have all been retrofitted and will utilize ¼ less electricity; High School Choral Room has had air conditioning installed; storage units from building project cannot be moved to the town garage, must be emptied and removed completely; some town projects have not been completed.

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:
- OCR report findings. This report has been received and reviewed by the committee. Voluntary Corrective Action plan is due September 10, 2010. There were several accessibility items including cashier and work stations in cafeteria,

wheelchair access into the main entrance to the building, wheelchair access to the athletic fields; several building items including door and hardware in storage and custodial areas and PE office shower areas; and Plumb Hill water fountain in shed. Committee is seeking clarification on several items and will share the draft with the BOE on September 2.

- Federal Jobs Bill Funds – around \$86,000 will be sent directly to the school for use in staffing. This will be a two year funding stream and will permit the district to make informed decisions regarding the use of the funds. This will be on the August 30th BOE Finance Committee agenda.
- Plumb Hill Board and O&G Industries have donated the use of lights for several games in late September. Currently scheduled are a girl's soccer game on 9/23, a boy's soccer game on 9/24 and a girl's field hockey game on 9/25. Gift was accepted on the Board's behalf.
- Professional Development activities for the start of school were discussed. On 8/26 there will be New Teacher Induction, 8/27 will be looking at the CT New Common Core of Teaching, Leadership Advisory Council meeting, and the paraprofessionals will be on their first furlough day, 8/30 will have Convocation at 8:00 AM and then will review work of last year, updates on items from SDE and the changes coming, faculty meetings, and then review and discussion on Bloom's Taxonomy; and 8/31 review curriculum in light of work done with Common Core on Teaching and revised Bloom's Taxonomy.

Old Business

Mr. Katzin has reviewed the Policy # 2110 and has confirmed compliance in acting now on extension of superintendent's contract. Discussion in regards to why the contract would be extended or not, must be done before the end of the second year of the contract.

MOTION by Mr. Gorman and seconded by Mr. Noone: to allow the BOE chairman to negotiate a new contract based on current contract terms with salary to be determined at the end of current three year contract.

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

New Business

- a. First Reading – Policy # 5141.7 Student Sports – Concussion and Head Injuries with accompanying regulations were reviewed. Policy revisions are in the third paragraph,

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, August 25, 2010

first sentence take out the word “Annually” and at the end of the sentence add “per each sport season.” The regulation revisions are in A1 after District’s Medical Advisor and add /or; in section C take out “On a yearly basis” and add “Seasonally.”

- b. Disposal of Old books and Graduation Risers – the books were offered to OWL and they were declined. They will be offered to The Gilbert Library in Northfield, if declined they will be offered to Waterbury and Danbury school districts that have expressed an interest in them.

The graduation risers have been deemed a safety concern. It has been agreed to dispose of the risers and Mr. Paul will be informed.

- c. Gift from Music Parents – there has been a \$2,500 donation made for air conditioning in the LHS Choral Room.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to accept the \$2500 donation for A/C in the LHS Choral Room.

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

- d. Healthy Foods Certification

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve and certify that all food items offered for sale to students under the school district’s jurisdiction, and not exempted from the nutrition standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education on August 1, 2006, will meet said standards for the 2010-2011 school year, and will exclude from certification such food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, such sale is at the location of the event, and such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

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

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met and had a Strategic Plan discussion. In September they will be addressing building use. Mr. Zullo, who serves on both the Board of Finance and School Building Committee, has been invited to attend this meeting.

Policy

The policy committee discussed Online Learning; names of committees and their duties and developing a policy that would permit appointment of an alternate to sit on committee meetings for quorum.

Finance

The 2009/2010 Budget Balance has been discussed. They reviewed all the summer work; there was a MIRMA discussion which resulted in creating a meeting for September 20 with the insurance advisor and the agent.

Curriculum/Programs and Personnel

They have been discussing World Language and looking at “feeder programs” from LIS; LHS exam schedule was reviewed for the possibility of middle school students attending school all day and it was determined to be cost-prohibitive; they have discussed Capstone Projects; the Steering Committee update was an overview of the summer work completed; and there is a meeting with LEA scheduled for September 9 in regard to strategic planning and seeking input on the plan from the faculty.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Falcetti, Secretary
Debbie Hodges, Recording Clerk