

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School art room.

Present were: Mr. Katzin, Chairperson; Mrs. Fabbri, Ms. Rosser, Ms. Carr; 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 Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to add to the agenda as III e. Student Council Report.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to approve the consent agenda with the following corrections on page 2490 under Public Comment, b, in the last sentence change “is” to “are,” and under Old Business change “Nurse position is not certified,” To “Nurse position is not a certified teaching position or in a bargaining unit.”

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting September 2, 2010.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices for 2009-2010 budget as required.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mrs. Fabbri reported that the first STPC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the LHS library.

Mrs. Moore reported that the PTO will hold Parents’ Night Out on October 1st; at the Litchfield Community Center from 7 – 11 p.m. This is a fundraising effort with activities available for purchase.

Mr. Simonin commented on the tracking of funds raised through parking fees going to the general fund; school closing at 2:00 p.m. being an issue; after school issues with students staying for athletics; getting help from teachers; class sizes and class scheduling.

Mrs. Garden commented on no agenda for tonight on the website and no minutes available yet. She also commented on her disappointment in not having her letter read at the Board meeting on August 25, 2010.

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Mr. Simone commented on concerns regarding the parking lot during games and handicapped accessibility.

Board members discussed the following: efforts being made to not park around the island; issues for adding handicapped places; need for enforcement; not part of Board policy; and need to add to Facilities agenda along with OCR report and findings.

Board members received the following correspondence:

- A handout from the CT Consortium of Education Foundation outlining a conference to be held on October 5th.
- A letter from the Family Compliance Office announcing the closing of the FERPA complaint against the district.

Mr. Zaremski distributed a copy of the Annual Performance Report on Connecticut's State Performance Plan for the Litchfield School District and reported that Litchfield meets requirements for 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009.

Mrs. Longobucco reported that the recent Meet the Teachers Night had 95% attendance.

Ms. Murphy reported that LIS Open House will be held on September 21st from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Della Volpe reported that the high school is holding its "College Fair" tonight with 75-80 college representatives participating.

Jessica Blasavage reported on the Student Council activities at the high school.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Status of outstanding staff evaluations from 2009-2010 and need to evaluate several non-certified positions and finalize several teaching evaluations.
- New portal for informational flyers that will be on the website. Some will continue to be distributed during school but will also be on our website. The new district website was designed by Mr. Prescott's Advanced Web Design students last year.

Old Business

Dr. Wheeler reported that the Strategic Plan is moving ahead and the October faculty meetings will focus on feedback and vision for the district with the faculty. The curriculum development timeline is done and building use discussion will be held during the September 27th

Facilities Committee meeting. Maintenance will be discussed on October 18th and Technology on November 22nd during Facilities meeting.

New Business

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the 2010-1011 Non-Resident Tuition Rate for Grades K-6, \$8,750 and Grades 7-12, \$10,500 as presented.

Board members discussed the following: # of students; cost for Board; student enrollment; less than calculated per pupil cost; and where tuition goes.

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

Mr. Birdsall reported on the LEF project update on the Solar Panels including the following: grant money for the project; clean energy fund; fully operational since 2008; \$1,000 savings per year in energy costs; data collection issues; limits educational value without the data collection; alternatives researched; need for \$350 for alternative; environmental club working to fund the alternative; offers more potential to Science classes; and promotes good, cooperative, citizenship.

Board members discussed the following: total funding outline; recoup investment in 12 years; CO2 prevented going into the atmosphere; and AP Environment Science Fair.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee

Mrs. Fabbri reported that the committee met and discussed the following: negotiations status of the LEA; leadership advisory committee; Superintendents goals for this year; Curriculum Steering Committee provided an update; and focus groups involved in the Strategic Plan.

Finance Committee

Mr. Noone reported that the committee will meet on Monday at 6:30 in the LIS art room and will discuss insurance. Board of Selectmen rep is needed at the meeting if at all possible, as the First Selectman is unable to attend.

Facilities and Technology Committee

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will meet on September 27th to discuss the following: possible building utilization planning as part of strategic planning; need to have consensus on agreement; no samples from other districts available; and OCR report.

Policy Committee

Ms. Carr presented Policy #9133 Committees and Advisory Committees for a second reading.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to approve Policy #9133 Committees and Advisory Committees as submitted.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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

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