

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2009

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School Art room.

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

Also present were: Dr. Papallo; Ms. Della Volpe; Mr. Johnson; Mr. Buccitelli; and members of the community.

MOTION made by Mrs. Reardon and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the consent agenda:

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 10, 2008.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices and adjustments to line item expenditures for 2008-09 budget as required.
- c. Approval of out-of-state field trip (Close-up program, LHS, March 29-April 3, 2009, Washington D.C.)

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Board members discussed the status of the building committee including the following: contract dispute lawsuit underway; 45-50 items left on list; like a merry-go-round; need for 3rd party to intervene; and report forthcoming at the next meeting.

Mrs. Fabbri reported on the STPC activities including their largest fundraising effort taking place right now with the concession stand at the home basketball games.

Administrative Reports

Ms. DellaVolpe reported on high school activities including midterm exam schedule and the freshmen exam review brochure that families found very helpful.

Mr. Johnson reported that the office is in the process of applying for 7 inter-district coop grants and 2 state competition grants to be submitted within the next 2 weeks.

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Mr. Buccitelli reported that the office is working on the 2009-2010 budget and will present another outline to the Board of Finance in February.

Dr. Papallo reviewed the following about the budget process including the following: March 2nd to present the budget to the public at the Board of Finance meeting; February 4th meeting with the BOE Finance Sub-Committee for an executive summary; status of the budget after meeting with the different schools; possible reduction in FTE's; need for a zero increase; \$90,000 item in the town pension is a concern; need for input from First Selectman; \$50,000 benefit for retirees; issue of possible \$170,000-\$500,000 CCM formula money; need to look at other options; concerns with tuition, health care, furniture and maintenance; structure of budget in different format; and both formats will be presented.

Mrs. Fabbri commented on setting a date for the STPC parent academy to present the budget at an upcoming meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Papallo updated the Board on the fuel oil purchase for 2009-2010 including the following: \$2.05/gallon; consume expended oil for this year; need to keep items frozen until the budget status is clear; and topping the tanks will help for next year.

Old Business

Mr. Katzin reported on the status of the superintendent search process and noted that a site visit was made today for the candidate being considered. Those Board members who attended will bring those members who did not attend up to date on information. If all Board members are favorable, a special meeting will be held to vote on the candidate.

New Business

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to vote to adopt the following policies, after the second reading: Series 2000 (Note: policies #2131, 2132, 2134, #2135 and #2138 regarding job descriptions were rescinded.), Bullying Policy #5131.2, Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policies #4111.1/#4211.1, and Equal Education Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Statement (Students) #5000 with the following corrections. Under #4111.1/4211.1 the last sentence should have a period and under 5131.2(a) in number section 6 the phrasing should read, "provide for the inclusion of language concerning bullying in student codes of conduct."

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

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology Committee

Mr. Shuhi reported the committee has not met but noted that Board members might want to consider attending the next Building Committee meeting to listen to the presentation to be made by the 3rd party retained to evaluate the project.

Finance Committee

The meeting scheduled for January 21 was cancelled.

Programs and Personnel Committee

Mrs. Reardon reported that the committee will continue with the search committee.

Policy Committee

Ms. Carr reported that the committee met last week to discuss the 3000 series and needs to schedule follow up work for another meeting.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Carr: to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Reardon, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary