

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 10, 2009

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School cafeteria.

Present were: Mr. Katzin, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Mrs. Fabbri; Mrs. Reardon; Messrs. Falcetti, Gorman, Noone, Shuhi, Simone; Dr. Wheeler; Mrs. Longobucco; Ms. Marinelli; Mr. Buccitelli; Mr. Johnson; and members of the public.

Board members presented recognition certificates to the following LHS students with a reception that followed: Aerial Brandt; Natalie Moreau; Nathan Wawer; Katrina Kaharich; Emily Scirica; Hillary Wiles-Lafayette; Jacob Wyse; Brian Sandrib; Kathleen Lavoie; Michael Dichter; Yvette Haas; Greg Marquis; Catherine Mullen; McKenzie McCloud; Maria Magaldi; Rachael Beauregard; Carter Knox Brown; Camille Richards; Julie Bogen; Vito Gallo; Daniel Dichter; Rachael Clarken-Breslin; Sarah Leavitt; and Chloe Calabrese.

Mr. Noone left at 7:30 p.m.

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

- a. Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 26, 2009. Mrs. Fabbri requested under Curriculum, Programs and Personnel Committee, that the minutes reflect that not all board members were comfortable with the proposed changes to the Intermediate School schedule.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices and adjustments to line item expenditures for 2008-09 budget as required.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mr. Waugh reported on the Building Committee status including the following: outstanding roof issues; guarantee and rebate issues; security system update; ventilation stack at the high school; painting; entrance canopy; drainage needed; lobby benches; landscaping; parking; and \$106,000 contingency.

Board members discussed the following: concrete pots with plants; and planning a celebration when everything is complete.

Mrs. Garden thanked Mr. Falcetti for his comments during the policy committee meeting prior to the board of education meeting, and hopes that celebrating holidays in the schools will be back in place next year.

Mrs. Sandrib commented on the following: wonderful changes made in special education over this past year; the fast response of the high school principal and vice principal reaffirming the policy on no substances at school; looking at the policy on holiday celebrations throughout the state and adopt something that will take us for several years.

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Board members received thank you notes from the following retiring staff: Ellen Koser; Betsey Werner; and Maureen Mancini; and a thank you from Joanne McCormick for the flowers from the board celebrating school nurses day.

Mr. Johnson reported on the new AP courses to be scheduled at the high school next year including French; Chemistry; Physics; and U.S. Government and Politics (satisfying the Civics requirement).

Board members discussed the following: losing any AP courses; enrollment issues; expectations; the syllabi; training of staff; courses for students who don't take AP classes; affect of AP enrollment on levels for other students; hands on classes; respond to student enrollment; and the need to discuss this further at a future meeting. Dr. Wheeler suggested this be a topic for a Curriculum/Program and Personnel committee meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Robin Rosenfield, Lori Shuhi, Katie Sullivan-Frome, Mary Lou Hunchak and Seth Newton presented an overview of Scientific Research-Based Interventions including the following: underlying principles; outline of the three tiers; and referral to Special Education Services. "A Family Guide Connecticut's Framework for RTI" was distributed.

Board members discussed the following: implications on the budget; possible use of stimulus funds; shared services with Region 6; involving all educators; IEP process; assistance to students before the IEP process; common assessments and benchmarks needed; intervention when needed; 5 years to get it to a well organized system; and state's framework.

Dr. Wheeler also reported on the following:

- Establishing committee meeting schedules: Facilities and Technology Committee will meet the 2nd Thursday of each month; Policy Committee will meet the 3rd Thursday of each month; and Finance will meet the last Monday of each month. Curriculum/Programs and Personnel Committee meeting date to be determined.
- A gift from a baseball parent group for additional fencing.

Old Business

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mrs. Reardon: to adopt the revisions to the following policies after this second reading: 4118.15, 4218.15, 3280, 3510.2, 3541.4.

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

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New Business

Board members discussed the Healthy Foods Certification 2009-2010 including the following: first year successful; meet nutrition standards; need to recertify on an annual basis; policy for food guidelines; the availability of water for students as a drink alternative; and need to be in compliance.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: 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 2009-2010 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 vending machine or school store.

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

Committee ReportsFacilities and Technology Committee

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will meet on the second Thursday of every month but not tomorrow evening.

Finance Committee

Mr. Noone reported that the committee will meet on the last Monday of each month and at the last meeting the committee discussed the recommended memorandum of understanding developing an offering of 1-year health insurance deferment for new retirees with no financial burden to the system. The LEA has accepted this.

Programs and Personnel Committee

Mrs. Reardon reported that the committee has not yet agreed on a regular meeting date, and at the last meeting, the committee discussed the Superintendent's evaluation process including possible documents to be used.

Policy Committee

Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet on the third Thursday of every month and at the meeting held this evening the holiday policy was discussed with nothing to move to the Board as of yet. Further discussion is needed before the recommended policy from the holiday committee can be forwarded to the Board.

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Dr. Wheeler read the recommended action from May 12, 2009 draft policy #6115 and reviewed the following: receipt of policy recommendations from the Ad Hoc Holiday Committee on May 20th; given to Board members for consideration on May 26th; discussed with the principals; several preliminary decisions have been made; decorations will be aligned in the 3 buildings; holiday celebrations will return as age appropriate; classroom celebrations will be held briefly at the end of the school day; food for the holidays should conform to the list for the healthy foods certification; and include healthy, nutritious and safe snacks.

MOTION made by Mrs. Reardon and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss (a) confidential student records protected by law.

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

Executive Session

Present were: All the above Board members and Dr. Wheeler was invited to attend.

Open session resumed at 8:38 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mrs. Reardon: to expunge the expulsion of Student A from his cumulative educational record as per Sec. 10-233d(f)(2) and his successful completion of the disciplinary measures assigned by the Board of Education on May 15, 2008, effective June 11, 2009.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

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

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