

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 25, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School art room.

Present were: Mr. Katzin, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Mrs. Fabbri; Messrs. Falcetti, Noone, Shuhi, Simone; Dr. Papallo; Mr. Buccitelli; Mr. Johnson; and members of the public. Mrs. Reardon arrived at 7:15 p.m.

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

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 11, 2009
- b. Approve the payment of invoices and adjustments to line item expenditures for 2008-09 budget as required
- c. Acceptance of Resignations(s) effective end of 2008-09 school year

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mr. Shuhi reported on the School Building Committee meeting including the following: remaining funding; concrete and topsoil issues; gym roof; issues unresolved; and a special meeting a week from Thursday to discuss final decisions on target items.

Mrs. Garden commented on the holiday celebrations issue and the exchange of emails from people involved.

Mrs. McKenna commented on the holiday celebrations issue and quoted Board policy, CAFE guidelines and communications sent from Center School.

Mrs. Tarrant-Fischer commented on the holiday celebrations issue noting that it is a culture issue and not religious.

Mr. Gorman commented on freedom of speech as it pertains to a public comment.

Mrs. Deering questioned how the formation of the committee took place.

Litchfield Public Schools Regular Meeting, March 25, 2009

---

Mrs. Tarrant-Fischer volunteered to take the place of a member of the committee who recently stepped down.

Mrs. Garden questioned the need for a committee when CAFE guidelines permit similar celebrations that were done in the past in our system.

Mr. Shuhi noted that the committee is a good idea to have conversations on this topic.

Ms. Carr noted that no major holidays occur between now and the end of the year and the recommendations will come before the whole Board.

Board members discussed information from a phone conversation from Mr. Petricone regarding the use of the CJR pool for the Litchfield swim team now that the school has closed its residential facility including: budget issues; upkeep and maintenance; sharing with Torrington, Region 6 and possibly Forman. Our athletic director has already started communications with the athletic director there.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Papallo noted that this is his last meeting and he thanked the Board for allowing him to serve the community. He noted the following: setting school policy; need to work together; importance of community; need for committees; clarifying misinformation; budget issues; the absolute need for curriculum position; and priority is student education.

Board members thanked him for all of his support and effort over the past several months.

New Business

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve establishing the high school graduation date for Saturday, June 20, 2009.

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

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, March 25, 2009

---

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that the draft of the technology plan is done and a meeting date will be established with Mrs. Longobucco soon.

Finance

Mr. Noone presented a spread sheet completed by Mr. Shuhi that the committee will utilize as a monitoring tool for the future.

Board members noted that an NEASC report is needed.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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

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