

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2008

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008, at 7:00 in the LIS art room.

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

Also present were: Dr. Papallo; Mr. Buccitelli; Mr. Johnson; Ms. Della Volpe; Mrs. Longobucco; Ms. Marinelli; Mr. Zaremski; and members of the public.

Jim Katzin opened the meeting by welcoming the new interim superintendent, Dr. William Papallo.

Mrs. Longobucco presented a short video, created by Center School staff and students, entitled "It's A Small World." The video was produced in support of a technology grant proposal and highlighted the potential benefits of increased technology for the Center School curriculum.

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

MOTION carried. All votes affirmative except for Mr. Simone, who abstained.

Rachel Clarkin-Breslin presented the Student Council Report and introduced the Vice-President of the student council, Rhiann Peterson. Updates included the student government's recent achievement of raising approximately \$500 towards Breast Cancer research, an upcoming Veteran's Day event at the Brandywine assisted living facility, the annual fall semi-formal dance (which will be held at the Bantam firehouse). The Student Council will also be running the basketball concession stand during the month of December.

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mr. Ben Buck, father of sophomore Caleb Buck, requested that the board look into opening the high school gym and weight room for student athletes during school hours and in the afternoons. He praised the new facilities but suggested it was a shame for these facilities to be unavailable for students and other members of the community. Mr. Buck was informed that the issue would be looked at in greater depth.

Ms. Gayle Carr, speaking as a member of the community, wanted to highlight the fact that the Litchfield schools were ranked 29th in the state, according to a recent piece in *Connecticut Magazine*.

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, November 5, 2008

Administrative Reports

Mrs. Longobucco reported on the upcoming (Nov. 10) Veteran's Day event at Center School.

Ms. Marinelli reported on a "good choices" drug education program and a recent mock election event at Litchfield Intermediate School.

Ms. Della Volpe and social studies teacher Wendy Pataky-Mercurio discussed mock election activities including an extensive program conducted with students in the high school civics classes. Ms. Pataky-Mercurio played a video that recorded some elements of the mock election and walked observers through the curriculum's web site.

Mr. Zaremski reported on increased PPT requirements this year. 64 PPTs have already been conducted and there have been 13 new special education referrals this year.

Mr. Buccitelli reported that the Litchfield Schools are already locked into its fuel contract for 2009-2010 school year and the consortium through which we purchase fuel is in the process of negotiating the best price possible for next year.

Mr. Johnson discussed the use of technology in the classroom and discussed the upcoming CABE presentation.

Mr. Crowe provided the board with a facilities update. He will present a "final" FFE request report to the Building Committee at its meeting on Thursday evening. He reported that many FFE purchases are currently in the pipeline and items are arriving daily. Mr. Crowe and Mr. Buccitelli will be working with the Town to develop the list of capital requests for the schools. Most will likely target Center School.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Papallo reported that he is currently developing a timeline and clarifying procedures for building the budget. It is his goal that the process as well as the budget itself be as understandable as possible to both the town boards and the public.

Old Business

Mr. Katzin provided an update on the Superintendent Search process. Currently three candidates for the position will be interviewed on Thursday, November 13. The times for these interviews has yet to be determined.

New Business

The Board reviewed the most recent Strategic School Profile as well as potential changes to policies recommended by the Policy sub-Committee after its October 16th meeting. Mr. Katzin asked that the board considered striking policy #0521 (a). He believes it is unnecessary as the same information is included in policies that appear elsewhere.

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, November 5, 2008

Policies addressed are as follows:

Policy #0100 – First Reading for revisions
Policy #0200 – First Reading – rescind policy
Policy #0400 – First Reading for revisions
Policy #0521 – First Reading and possibly rescind
Policy #0600 – First Reading for revisions
Policy #1110 – First Reading for revisions
Policy #1110.1 – Policy Reviewed – no changes
Admin. Regulation #1110.1 – Reviewed – no changes proposed
Policy #1112.11 – First Reading – rescind policy
Policy #1112.13 – First Reading for revisions
Policy #1120 – First Reading for revisions
Admin. Regulation #1120/#9325 – Reviewed – no changes
Policy #1130 – Policy Reviewed – no changes
Policy #1210 – First Reading for revisions
Policy #1220 – First Reading for revisions
Policy #1250 – First Reading for revisions
Policy #1251 – First Reading – rescind policy
Policy #1314 – First Reading for revisions
Policy #1330 – First Reading for revisions
Admin. Regulation #1330.1 – Reviewed – no changes
Policy #1331 – Policy Reviewed – no changes
Policy #1340 – Policy Reviewed – no changes
Policy #1350 – Policy Reviewed – no changes
Policy #1411 – First Reading – rescind policy
Admin. Regulation #1411 – Rescinded – incorporate into new regulations under policy #1110

Committee Reports

Mrs. Reardon reported that the Programs and Personnel sub-committee met on October 16th immediately following the Policy sub-committee meeting. Mr. Bill Burgess presented the Litchfield Hills Food Systems proposal to enhance food services personnel in keeping with the healthy foods mission of the group. He explained that the LHFS is in the process of applying for a grant to fund the program and said the group would like a preliminary nod of support from the BOE. Following this presentation there was also a brief discussion concerning possible opportunities for tuition students in the district. Mrs. Reardon will follow up on that issue.

Motion made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Ms. Carr: to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Reardon, Secretary