

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 in the Litchfield Intermediate School art room.

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

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2008 meeting as submitted.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Board members presented certificates of recognition to the following LHS students for outstanding performance on Connecticut Academic Achievement test (CAPT): Rachel Beauregard, Carter Brown, Lydia Brown, Daniel Dichter, Marcus Doyle, Charlotte Gavell, Casie Guerrero, Emma Haberern, Andrew Luzzi, Abigail Martin, Victoria Nihan, Brigid Reardon, Michael Ringquist, Bridget Smith, Jacob Wyse.

Mrs. Fabbri reported that the STPC had assistance from Mr. Prescott's class to complete the yearbook ad and thanked all those who helped.

Mrs. Eisenhower reported that the PTO has kicked off their year this week and outlined the upcoming fundraisers.

Mr. Burgess distributed a copy of an article, "Superintendent is looking for a few good SMILES," regarding seniors willing to trade tax burdens for helping out in the school system. He suggested that LPS could engage seniors in places like the cafeteria and help defray the costs to the school while saving on their tax expenses.

Board consensus was to have a proposal made to present to the Personnel Committee.

Administrative Reports

Mrs. Longobucco reported on the following Center School activities: meet the teachers' night held on September 11th; response to NEASC recommendation to expose students to more cultural diversity, which will be done through a humanities theme throughout the year.

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Ms. Marinelli reported on the activities at the Intermediate School including the following: open house held last night; common planning time; CMT data; student leadership council to begin; and character development information.

Ms. DelleVolpe reported on the activities at the High School including the following: building goals; open house tomorrow evening; positive feedback on the block schedule; students participating in the WOW series at the Warner Theater; and 14 students participating in the Berkshire League Leadership Conference on October 3rd.

Mr. Zaremski reported on the CAPT and CMT for next year which will include a modified assessment in reading and math for a small number of students.

Mr. Buccitelli reported that the building security audit took place, which was necessary to decide on the needs of the system. A meeting was held with Leo Paul to discuss the grant requirements and the town's responsibility for homeland security beyond the grant money.

Mr. Crowe reported on the following building issues: roofing corrections; FF&E status; parking lot issues; contract ending November 30th; input needed from the Facilities Committee and need for a walkthrough.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Vita reported on the following:

- Administrators Professional Development opportunity on October 30th with Region 6.
- Meeting tomorrow to review inclement weather procedures.
- Updating policies.
- Input from the Board regarding direction on how to proceed with the town agreement on facilities issues.
- Status of Assistant Principal search.

Mrs. Reardon returned at 7:50 p.m.

Old Business

Mr. Shuhi reported on the floor maintenance contract service that was discussed at the last Facilities Committee meeting. The committee recommended not entering a contract with the service at this time.

Board members discussed the following: possible to have 30 day exit clause; reduction in personnel; no equipment rental if have a contract; currently rent for \$9,000/yr.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Noone: to accept the modified contract providing for a contract that has a 30-day escape clause, no rental fee and for the price previously negotiated.

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Board members noted that this contract is modified from the one discussed in the Facilities and Technology Committee.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative except Mr. Shuhi, Mr. Simone and Mr. Falcetti who voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

Mr. Shuhi reported that the Facilities and Technology Committee looked through all the suggestions and comments in the POCAD that referenced the schools including the following: parking needs; community use of facilities; and budgetary issues. Three areas were targeted including adult education offerings; emergency generators and broadcasting meetings and programming games.

Mrs. Putnam commented on reducing the demand for parking by possibly having a late bus to take students home when after school activities are over. Also, the more people are involved in the schools the more they feel a partnership with them.

New Business

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the payment of invoices and adjustment to line item expenditures for 2008-09 budget as required.

MOTION carried. All votes are in the affirmative except for Ms. Carr and Mr. Gorman who voted in the negative. Mr. Simone abstained.

Mr. Johnson presented student achievement for 2008 including AP, CAPT and CMT results. A PowerPoint covered the following: Data – Driven Decision making process; CMT law; legitimacy; CMT test administration; test sessions; levels; mathematics; science; reading; writing; format; conclusions; CAPT 07-08; sub-tests; CAPT and your child; overview; results; mathematics; science; reading; writing; conclusions; advanced placement results; research; commonly asked questions; summary; results by course; and targets. After the data is examined, plans will be formulated for instruction and long term programming that is aligned and seamless.

Board members discussed the following: small district with limited resources; AP student issues; scheduling issues; differentiated instruction; every other year concept; and making courses accessible for kids.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve out-of-state field trips request for first half of the year to Clark Museum in MA and Concord & Salem in MA as presented (both are LHS trips)/

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

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MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Noone: to approve the request for extended unpaid leave (child rearing) 2008-09 for Jennifer Johnson and Sarah Urso as requested. (Both leaves will follow maternity leaves, and will continue to the end of the 2008-09 school year.)

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

Committee Reports
Finance Committee

Mr. Noone reported that the Finance Committee met on September 22nd to discuss the budget shortfalls. Mr. Buccitelli outlined some ideas to go forward with and noted it is a working document. Copies will be sent to all Board members who were not present at the Finance Committee meeting.

Policy Committee

Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet on October 16th to go over 2 sections of the policy handbook.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Ms. Carr: to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

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

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