

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**APRIL 21, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School art room.

Present were: Mr. Falcetti, Secretary; Ms. Carr; Mrs. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Gorman, Noone, Shuhi; Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Ms. Della Volpe; Mrs. Longobucco; Ms. Marinelli; Ms. Kubisek; the public and the press.

Mr. Simone arrived at 7:05 p.m.; Mr. Katzin arrived at 7:10 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the consent agenda with the following corrections on page 2443 change “Mr.” to “Mrs.” Longobucco and remove a semi colon after “Fair.”

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting April 7, 2010 and Special Meeting April 8, 2010.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices for 2009-2010 budget as required.
- c. Out-of-State field trip request (Liberty Science Center, NJ, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, June 9<sup>th</sup>).
- d. Out-of-State field trip request (Spain 4/14/2011 – 4/22/2011).
- e. Request for extended child rearing leave.

Board members discussed the objectives and choices for the field trips.

MOTION DENIED. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Carr, Mr. Gorman, Mr. Shuhi, and Mr. Simone abstained. (Mr. Katzin was not yet in attendance.)

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mrs. Fabbri reported on the next meeting of STPC to be held tomorrow evening where Dr. Wheeler will review the budget for those attending.

Mrs. Moore reported on the following PTO activities: successful family game night held on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>; and upcoming “Son” event to be scheduled at a future date; Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> Evening Book Fair from 6 – 7:30 p.m. in conjunction with signing up for summer activities from White Memorial, Park and Rec; and Historical Society; and Jackie Decker featured book published in the Smithsonian; and LIS book fair to be held later in May.

Mr. Katzin arrived at 7:10 p.m.

MOTION rescinded by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Noone: to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting April 7, 2010 and Special Meeting April 8, 2010 with the corrections as stated above.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Carr, Mr. Gorman and Mr. Shuhi abstained.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Noone: to approve the payment of invoices for 2009-2010 as required.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to approve the Out-of-State field trip request to Liberty Science Center, NJ, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to approve the Out-of-Country field trip request to Spain 4/14/2011 – 4/22/2011.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Noone: to approve the request for extended child rearing leave.

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

Sandra Quinion reported on the student council activities at the high school.

Mrs. Morgan commented on keeping the Science teacher at Center School and eliminating the athletic trainer position.

Mr. Sandrib commented on keeping the academics and sports in the budget.

Mr. Cooper commented on finding the money to maintain the programs and not to backslide.

Mr. Shuhi commented on the April 12, 2010 meeting of the Board of Finance, as well as the comment regarding the Science teacher at Center School and the possibility of teaching Science by the classroom teacher as it has been done for many years. He noted that, the Intermediate School does not have a special Science teacher and that is where Science is tested by the State.

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Mr. Murphy commented on costs associated with using outside consultants and out of district conferences.

Mrs. Longobucco commented about an article that Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Shaia had published in the journal, "Library Sparks."

Mrs. Morgan commented on students achieving more with having specially trained Science teachers rather than Science being taught by the classroom teacher.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Condition of the tennis courts. Dr. Wheeler has restricted use until a repair is completed. There is money in capital to fully repair the tennis courts this summer.
- Meeting held with All Star Transportation in an effort to identify efficiencies. All Star advises that we cannot reduce the number of busses at this time. Dr. Wheeler requested that there be a discussion at the next facilities meeting to address several issues including routes, stops, and accommodating parental requests.
- Dr. Wheeler reported that negotiations with LEA and LAA must begin by October 3. If needed, mediation must start by November 22, and, if needed, arbitration must begin by December 17. A letter was sent to the Board of Finance requesting a non meeting to discuss negotiations and Kelly Garden has been named by BOF as their representative.

Old Business

The LEA will be meeting with Board members and administrators to discuss strategic planning.

New Business

Dr. Wheeler distributed a copy of 2 budget reduction options. Board of Finance suggested that the Board reduce the budget by \$60,000. Option I included excess cost reimbursement rate \$33,000; eliminate 7 cell phones, \$2,180; athletic trainer, \$17,000; district wide copy paper and ink cartridge reduction \$7,820 for a total of 60,000. Option II included excess cost reimbursement rate \$33,000; eliminate 7 cell phones, \$2,180; Music-reorganization .5 FTE, \$25,000 for a total of \$60,180.

Board members discussed the following: how to monitor ink and copy paper; carry over copy paper reduction to option II, also; music teacher reaches more students than athletic trainer; trainer need for safety of students; training coaches is not as good as having a trainer; perhaps give nurse stipend to cover the need; trainer over pool; .5 music position can be reorganized easily; all cuts are reasonable; possible plan III to include the reimbursement, cell phones; and ink and paper reduction for a total of \$43,000; keep athletic trainer and music position; possibly

keep everything and bring it to the community for a vote; \$60,000 reduction was a recommendation; and option III would be a 3.06% increase.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Simone: to adjust and adopt the Board's budget with a \$33,000 reimbursement reduction; \$2,180 cell phone reduction; \$7,820 ink and paper reduction for a total of \$43,000 in reductions.

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

### Committee Reports

#### Facilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met Monday evening and discussed the maintenance proposal including the following: list needed for items to be understood before writing a proposal; gather samples from other towns; input from Mr. Crowe; possible trial period with escape clause; need to understand minimum budget requirement; liability issues; review current agreement; need for specific examples of savings; integrating staff; evaluation process; and 3 possible options (entire maintenance to town; sub-contract to town; take current maintenance agreement and improve it, gain efficiencies through improvements); and more information will be gathered and discussed at the next meeting.

#### Finance Committee

Mr. Noone noted that there are no agenda items for the next scheduled meeting on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. so the meeting will be cancelled.

### Policies

Board members reviewed the Bylaws #9133 Organization – Committees for a first reading.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to approve the following Policy #5131.4/#6177 Use of District's Computer Systems and Internet Services; #5131.81 Use of Beepers – Paging Devices/Cellular Telephones; #5131.82 Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material; Bylaw #9312 Board Responsibilities; Bylaw #9500-Philosophy and Bylaws of the Board of Education.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald Falcetti, Secretary  
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary