

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**APRIL 7, 2010**

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

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to approve the consent agenda with the following corrections (minutes from March 17, 2010 on page 2438 correct the spelling of “abstained” and on page 2441 change “ESC” to “ECS.”

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting March 17, 2010.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices for 2009-2010 budget as required.
- c. Out-of-State Field Trip (LHS Grade 12 French – Clark Museum of Art, MA, June 3rd)

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

LHS student council officers reported on a recent leadership conference they attended at Wesleyan University.

Mrs. Longobucco reported on the following activities at Center School: conferences in progress this week; art show all week thanks to Ms. Clementson; ACES to be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.; Kindergarten orientation being held on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>; Junior Achievement to be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>; and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade going to Norman Rockwell Museum May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Marinelli reported on the following activities at the Intermediate School: conferences in progress this week; grant from Litchfield Hills Food System for a school garden with produce to be served by the cafeteria; thanks to Litchfield Education Foundation for a grant for 15 tables for use in the Science Fair; Junior Achievement to be held on April 21<sup>st</sup> and thanks to Nick Primo for the art show that is hanging throughout the school.

Ms. Della Volpe reported on the following activities at the high school: need for awareness of appropriate clothing with the hot weather coming; 9 students who participated in the Close-Up trip in Washington DC have returned; Veronica Birdsall elected as Governor Scholar; and a sobering internet safety information presented to middle school students.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Copies of the updated pages for the budget book.

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- Board of Finance meeting to be held on Monday evening, April 12th. Mr. Buccitelli will attend along with Mr. Noone and Mr. Shuhi.
- Update on RTTT including information from the State Department of Education and the Connecticut Board of Education. The State is getting ready for the second round of applications and she recommends that Litchfield since these initiatives will be required of all districts.

Board members discussed the following: teacher regional exchange program; being forced to participate; possible national curriculum; teacher evaluation and principal evaluation; unfunded mandate; possible costs; staffing and programming; accountability component; commissioner promoting regionalism; and need for further discussion.

Student Presentation – Samantha Butwill – New Composting Program for LHS

Samantha Butwill reported on the new composting program approved for LHS including: Greener Impact Club; trial year; composting process; use of compost; approval by land use officer; supplies needed; steps in gathering material for compost; teachers and staff involved; May 2-8 Composting Awareness Week; and location issues.

Old Business

Board members will meet tomorrow evening to continue the Strategic Plan Discussion with new focus questions to be covered.

Board members discussed the Maintenance Proposal including the following: meeting held with Facilities and Technology Committee, Leo Paul and Jack Healy; need for list to be compiled; legal considerations; minimum budget requirement concerns; staffing and union concerns; worth pursuing; legal opinion sought from Board council; repercussions where ECS money could be reduced; need for draft agreement to be reviewed; efficiencies and eliminate redundancies; could share equipment now; need to identify cost savings; take advantage of all efficiencies available now without changing maintenance plan; share town garage; share equipment now; significant savings have not been identified; cutting funding for maintenance every year; attractive because Board can deal with education issues and not maintenance; cross training; union implications; need for union involvement; possible sub-contract to town and won't lose ECS money; bulk purchasing; need to bring to union after agreement met; manpower issues and funding; possibly draft a contract for Board review; need to have Mr. Crowe and Mr. Healy work through Facilities Committee; input from Mr. Crowe; need to monitor buildings and grounds in more cost effective way; Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance are in favor; need to know how it will benefit the town and the schools; high level of cooperation between town and Board now so no need to rush; and need to discuss in committee to bring back to the Board.

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New Business

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Simone: to establish the high school graduation date as Friday, June 25, 2010.

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

Committee Reports  
Finance Committee

Mr. Noone reminded the Board of the Board of Finance meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., where the Board's budget might be approved and the steps that might follow.

Policies

Board members reviewed the following policies for their first reading: #5131.4/#6177 Use of the District's Computer Systems and Internet Services and #5131.4 Admin. Regulation (regulation will be implemented when policy is approved); #5131.81 Use of Beepers- Paging Devices/Cellular Telephones; #5131.82 Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material; #9312 Bylaw – Board Responsibilities; #9330 Bylaw/Board School District Records and Admin. Regulations (regulation will be implemented since policy #9330 is in place); #9500 Bylaw – Philosophy and Bylaws of the Board of Education.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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

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