

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 24, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 24, 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; Mrs. Kubisek; Mr. Zaremski; the public and the press.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to approve the consent agenda:

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 28, 2010 and Special Meeting February 4, 2010.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices for 2009-2010 budget as required.
- c. Out-of-State Field Trips (Norman Rockwell Museum, MA (3<sup>rd</sup> grade, May 19 & May 20 and NYC Metropolitan Museum of Art and Gallery Walk, LHS, April 27, 2010).
- d. Letters of resignation from Lindsey White (LHS Guidance Counselor, who will not be returning from her child rearing leave which was approved until the end of the 2009-2010 school year) for personal reasons and from Geoffrey Brookes (LHS Music/Band) at the completion of the 2009-2010 school year for personal reasons.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Mr. Shuhi and Mr.

Simone abstained.

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mrs. Fabbri reported that STPC will be holding its Parent Academy on substance abuse on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The professional development day on Wednesday was cancelled and is rescheduled for May 12.

Mrs. Moore reported that the STPC Parent Academy is a joint venture with the PTO and all are delighted to do that.

Mr. Dranginis commented on the girls' swim team competition scheduled for this weekend. An activity form was filed two weeks ago and the Board needs to approve this activity before they can participate.

Ms. Lagattuta commented that two of her daughters are scheduled to participate in the swim meet this weekend and asked the Board to consider approving the girls going to the meet the night before the competition.

Ms. McKenna commented that the swim team sleep over activity has been a tradition for over 14 years and is important because it is the only time the girls participate in a girls only meet. It is the highlight of the season for them and she asked the Board to support this.

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Ms. Lewis commented she hopes the Board will allow the tradition to continue to help build self esteem and team building.

Ms. Garden commented on the budget proposal that she read in the paper and asked that the Board consider not eliminating MS sports and instituting Pay for Play. She asks that the Board take a closer look at special education money and concessions from teachers.

Mr. Sandrib commented on the swim team request for the girls' team to be granted along with the continuation of a swim team program in next year's budget since almost 100 students participate.

Mr. Hula commented that pay for play is double dipping for some taxpayers.

Mrs. Longobucco commented that she will be joining Mr. Burgess and Mr. Hawkins at a CAS press conference tomorrow to discuss the Kids' Marathon.

Dr. Wheeler commented that the budget will be presented later in the agenda but wanted to clarify for the audience that M.S. sports will not be eliminated but competitions will be cut back to save money on transportation and officials, and Pay for Play has been eliminated.

Board members received a letter from Mrs. Perusse requesting a representative from the Board to volunteer to sit on a panel to help review their pension commission procedures and an email from Mrs. Shakely regarding Pay for Play.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Noone: to add to the agenda as V.5 a discussion on a field trip activity request.

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

### Committee Reports

#### Facilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that the meeting was cancelled due to weather.

#### Policy

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to add to the agenda for a first reading the follow policies #9321, 9322, 9323, 9325, 9325.4, 9326, 9327, and 9330.

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

Board members reviewed for a first reading and adoption regarding revisions: Bylaw #9270 Conflict of Interest, #9310 Periodic Review of Policies and Bylaws; #9311 Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Policies and Bylaws, and rescinding of Policy #4112.8 Employment of Relatives. Bylaw #9313 – was a review only – no changes.

All other policies added to agenda were tabled until March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

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MOTION made by Mr. Gorman and seconded by Mr. Noone: to approve an out of town activity swim championship meet for the girls as an overnight activity.

Board members reviewed the activity request submitted by Mr. Dranginis for the girls' swim team to participate in an overnight stay at a hotel with competition in a swim meet the next day and to use the school van for transportation. Board members discussed the following: reference to policy #3541.3; no cost to school; tradition; possible liability for Board; not CIAC approved; taking school vehicle is a concern; what other schools do; bus could leave in the morning; weather issues; issue of 22 students going using a 15 passenger van; if school provides transportation, parents are not allowed to take students in another vehicle; never approved by Board in the past; liability should not start overnight but could start the day of the meet; and new policy procedures for such trips.

MOTION AMENDMENT made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Carr: to provide transportation to the event on Saturday and from the event in accordance with Board policy.

Board members discussed the following: # of students in the van; transportation from school to event and back to school; and the issue of other students having permission slips for other parents to transport them.

AMENDMENT carried. All votes were in the affirmative except Mr. Noone who voted in the negative.

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

Dr. Wheeler apologized to the Board, Principal Della Volpe and the coach for lack of provision of this activity request form prior to the meeting.

Old Business

Dr. Wheeler updated the Board on the Strategic Plan discussion to take place at the next session on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. A draft from the last meeting will be sent to Board members prior to this.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Noon reported that the Finance Committee meeting was held Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> with extended discussion with Dr. Wheeler and with a good foundation for the joint meeting on Monday with the Board of Finance. There are concerns with what is included and not included in the superintendent's budget proposal and further discussion is needed on items such as a pool rental fee being in the budget.

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Dr. Wheeler presented a power point of the Superintendent's proposal: 2010-2011 operating budget including the following: list of assumptions; revenues; history over three year; graphic picture of 2010-2011 budget; executive summary chart; graphic picture of constraints; graphic picture of budget reductions; list of full time equivalent personnel to students; list of projected enrollments; efficiencies; pressures; and selected student performance data from 2009.

Board members discussed the following: need for Board to adopt as own; need to review each section of the budget; outstanding issues are foreign languages and pool; language reduction in French or Latin; leave Spanish at Intermediate School; need to keep world languages at the high school; furlough days issue; need to meet with LEA and AFSCME representatives; questions about music coverage; focus on what administration has recommended; budget item for pool venue never in the budget before; possible increase of Superintendent's budget to include swim program, French and music; items Board does not want to fund listed; need for some kind of foreign language in the Intermediate School; replacement of Athena with new card catalogue compatible with SASI; curtailing library book purchases for one year to do this; reconfiguring Spanish at the Intermediate School; concern with fewer electives at the high school; ELL tutor should be priority; things that can be shared with other programs with the town or Wamogo; list of possible savings even in small amounts such as advisors, staffing, jazz band, clubs, activities, see if less important than teacher; town concerns for pool; need to further investigate pool issues; some people want other programs funded rather than pool; stipend list; coaches list; extra duty list; criteria needed; need to fund what district has facilities to provide; inequities; need for administrators to look at inequalities; things left out may cause budget to not pass; need for input from community; and need to meet with LEA and AFSCME to discuss FTE positions affected.

The Executive Session was not needed at this time.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

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

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