

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 16, 2010

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 16, 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, Shuhi and Simone; Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Mr. Zaremski; Ms. Della Volpe; Mrs. Longobucco; Ms. Marinelli; Ms. Kubisek, the public and the press. Mr. Noone was absent.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the consent agenda with the following corrections, on page 2461, Mr. Simone abstained from the consent agenda and on page 2463 Mr. Simone abstained from the motion on bus stops.

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting June 2, 2010.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices for 2009-1010 budget as required.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mrs. Moore reported that the PTO will hold its “back to school” social on September 2nd, at Community Field from 5 – 7 p.m. and all Board members are welcome to attend.

Board members received the following correspondence:

- A letter from Kelly Garden regarding early dismissal at the middle school during the high school exams. Ms. Garden offered two alternative suggestions to early dismissal for consideration
- A card from Joanne Moore thanking the members of the BOE for being named teacher of the year for Center School.

Mrs. Longobucco reported that as a result of receiving grants from the Seherr-Thoss Foundation and Miracle Equipment Company totaling \$76,740, Center school will be getting a new playground and playground area for next year. She thanked Mrs. Moore for proofing the application and Mr. Crowe for being the liaison with the playground equipment company.

Ms. Marinelli reported that 4 Smart Boards will be put in the 4th grades thanks to the Seherr-Thoss Foundation and the tech team who helped in the process. Moving up will be held on Monday at 6:00 p.m. and all are invited.

Ms. Della Volpe reported on the following activities at the high school: public display of student leadership with the revitalized student council; and thanks to Mr. Crowe, Mr. Buccitelli and Mr. Zaremski for helping in the demands of the year.

Mr. Zaremski spoke with the Board regarding responsibilities beyond the three district schools: outside placement; graduating student needs; transition plans; and work with BRS; LARK, Farmington Valley Transition Academy, etc.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Attendance at the Adult Diploma ceremony at Education Connection where 3 former LHS students received their high school diploma.
- Acceptance of a gift as per policy # 3280, from the Sports Booster Club for \$500 to cover the Shepaug pool rental for 2010-2011.
- A letter of resignation from Erin Casey, which will be a loss to the district.
- A reminder of a dinner June 28th with All-Star to talk about school transportation.
- An update from Tony Crowe since the Facilities Committee meeting for June 21 has been cancelled.

Mr. Crowe distributed outlines of the Summer 2010 Projects for Center School, LIS and LHS; electricity usage update outline; and EL&M Project Financial Overview and discussed the following: timing for all the projects; spreadsheet for electricity savings \$26,000; electricity use audit in conjunction with CL&P; retrofitting fixtures cost; estimated payback in 2 years; issues of lights in the gym; Region 6 is doing all 4 buildings some in Region 10 and 12; and need for Board approval.

Board members discussed the following: possible conflict of interest; company could exaggerate savings to get work; calculations and fee based on savings; funding from capital to retrofit lights could be used elsewhere; check with a different contractor; certified by CL&P; 65 other schools; railings for walkway at the Intermediate School; heat under gym; solar panels; and Region 7 solar panels and wind turbines.

Old Business

Dr. Wheeler reported that no other suggestions were received in reference to the agenda items presented for the next steps in the Strategic Plan. We will move ahead and invite others to the process, which will continue at the next committee meetings in July.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to add to the agenda as Vb. a discussion of Erin Casey's resignation letter.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to accept the resignation of Erin Case with regret and best wishes.

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

New Business

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to authorize the Superintendent to accept and act upon all resignations and to recruit and appoint certified and non-certified staff throughout the summer prior to the first Board meeting in September.

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

Board members discussed the reasons for opposition when no discussion was held during the motion including: obligations of the Board should not end in the summer; do not need a vacation from responsibilities; and committee meetings should include participation in the process of hiring even during the summer.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to authorize the Superintendent to submit all state and federal grant applications (Consolidated grant; IDEA; Adult Education; Titles I, II, IV, V; Perkins; Technology, BESB; Special Education Excess Cost; Transportation; E-Rate; Etc.) as necessary to meet the required submission dates.

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

Committee Reports

Curriculum and Personnel - Mrs. Fabbri reported that the committee met last Thursday and discussed the following: LEA negotiations during summer; student feedback to teacher; survey from Veronica Birdsall; guidance survey; world language projections at the IS; high school exam schedule; Capstone project at Shepaug; NWCC college partnership; curriculum steering committee; Superintendent's annual review during executive session; for next committee meeting add discussion and action on extending Superintendent's contract; committee chair and Board chair will meet on the 21st at 6:30 p.m. to come up with a draft to present to the Board; draft will be shared for feedback then meet again on the 23rd for a special meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Facilities and Technology

Cancelled for June 21, 2010.

Policies

Policy Committee is meeting tomorrow night.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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

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