

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MAY 19, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on May 19, 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 and Simone; Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Ms. Della Volpe; Mrs. Longobucco; Ms. Marinelli; Ms. Kubisek, Mr. Zaremski the public and the press.

MOTION made by Mr. Gorman and seconded by Mr. Simone: to add to the agenda in between III and IV a discussion on a request for unpaid leave.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve the consent agenda with the following correction on page 2453 change "Litchots" to "Litchbots."

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting May 5, 2010.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices for 2009-2010 budget as required.
- c. Approve out-of-state field trip (Quebec, Canada, Feb. 18-21, 2011 LHS 7012)
- d. Request for six-week waiver of tuition start of 2010-2011 school year.

Board members reviewed details about the out-of-state field trip request.

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

**Public Comment and Correspondence**

Mrs. Moore reported on the following PTO activities: a successful joint program with STPC providing professional development for district faculty from Caron Institute last week; general membership meeting Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.; Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup>, LIS book fair from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; and plans for a 5K run in honor of JoAnne McCormick to be held next May 2011.

Haley DiDomizio reported on the student council activities at the high school.

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Mr. Sandrib commented on the effect of exercise on the brain and asked the Board to consider taking a look at this affect.

Mrs. Fabbri commented on the captain's training in soccer that students might attend and questioned liability issues that might result from these practices. Dr. Wheeler will review this practice and advise the Board.

Board members received the following correspondence:

- Invitation to LEA and Board of Education recognition of 25 years of service for Mrs. Shuhi to be held on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.
- Letter from CABE encouraging the Board to continue membership with dues remaining frozen.
- An invitation from Allstar to meet to discuss seatbelts in buses.

Ms. DellaVolpe reported on MS leveling in math including the following: State and Federal mandates; middle school structure and programming; research about student achievement; instructional strategies effective in the classroom; difference between middle school and high school curriculum; and opportunities to excel in middle school.

Board members discussed the following: teaching style relative to learning style; didactic education; passive learning; relevance in engaging in math; research findings; inquiry based program; affect on high school classes; honors classes in high school; informing parents; differentiated instruction; need for small student-teacher ratio; scheduling for next year; financial issues with small class sizes; possible virtual learning; and student feedback regarding teachers before the end of the school year.

Board member reviewed a long-term unpaid leave request from Lisa Nobes to further her professional development as a Reading Specialist.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to approve the request for a long term, unpaid leave for the 2010-11 school year for Lisa Nobes.

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

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Non-meeting scheduled with the Board of Finance tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference room to discuss collective bargaining.
- A copy of a list of Gifts/Grants 2009-2010 School Year.
- The Memoranda of Understanding pertaining to 2 furlough days for the 2010-2011 school year between the Board and the LAA, AFSCME, Dr. Wheeler, Mr. Buccitelli and Mr. Crowe were presented for Mr. Katzin's signature.
- A memorandum of understanding regarding State Department of Education RTTT grant Round 2 has been signed by the head of the LEA and the Superintendent.

MOTION made by Mrs. Fabbri and seconded by Mr. Noone: to authorize Mr. Katzin to sign the grant request.

Board members discussed the following: requirements if state doesn't get funding; legislation has been passed for RTTT; relevancies; what happens if the Board does not sign; 90 day opt out option; teacher evaluation system needs to be in place by 2013; benefits to the students; data collecting; state laws are sometimes written without consequences; penalty for failure to comply; entitlement grant vs. competitive grant; high school graduation requirement; credits needed; and student report plans.

MOTION failed. All votes were in the affirmative except Mrs. Fabbri; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Katzin; Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Simone who voted in the negative. Ms. Carr abstained.

- A date needed for Superintendent's evaluation. Board consensus was to schedule an executive session on the agenda for the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Old Business

Board members discussed including the Teacher Education & Mentoring Program (TEAM) in the Strategic Plan and to get representatives from the LEA to start working to craft a plan with the Board. A meeting will be held Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon with the LEA, and the Superintendent and Board Chair have been invited to attend. A timeline is needed and input from the LEA will be considered.

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Old Business

Mr. Shuhi reported on the maintenance plan that was discussed at the committee meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> including the following: feedback from the school staff; feedback from Mr. Crowe; need for a condensed list to be compiled; need for input from other systems with similar plan; info from Mrs. Cook; send list to Mr. Healy; committee does not have strong feelings to turn over the keys to the town; possible take current agreement and improve on it; could sub-contract with the town and have an escape clause; input from the Board of Finance; present questions to the town; and need to get feedback from towns that do this to see how successful it is.

New Business

Mr. O'Connell distributed a TEAM participation timeline and TEAM Program outline and presented the following: positive reflections from those who participated this year; need to submit a draft by June 1<sup>st</sup> for a 3 year plan; committee working on the document; mission of program; criteria and process for committee members, terms, timeline, selecting, training, assigning mentors; review of module reflection papers; dissolving mentor placements and removing mentors; two year support plans, participation; resolutions of disputes, appeals, accommodations; resources and budget; annual activity report; and need to keep Board informed.

Board members discussed the following: different from BEST; not an assessment but a PD.

Committee ReportsCurriculum, Program & Personnel

Mrs. Fabbri reported that the committee met last Thursday and discussed the following: consistency in K-8 curriculum; parent comments; curriculum steering committee report; alignment; report from steering committee to CPP each month; leveling presentation and scheduling for next year. In September Dr. Wheeler will present a timeline for to the Board.

Ms. Della Volpe reported on new scheduling for next year including the following: student dismissal moved 20 minutes earlier for teachers to have common planning time, extra help time for students; grade level meetings; subject meetings; resolve transportation issue; still have extra-curricular activities; and shortened flex time.

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Board members discussed the exam schedule for this year and questioned why an early dismissal is needed. Further discussion will be held on the topic.

Board members discussed the enrollment document and asked if the reasons for students leaving could be shared.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Donald Falcetti, Secretary

Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary