

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 5, 2010

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 5, 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; the public and the press.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to approve the consent agenda with the following correction on page 2450 under Facilities and Technology, “gain efficiencies without change” should be changed to “gain efficiencies through improvements.”

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting April 21, 2010.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices for 2009-2010 budget as required.
- c. Request for extended childrearing leave. (Marsha Berkun, LHS Art teacher, extended child rearing leave (12 weeks) August 27, 2010 through November 10, 2010.)

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mrs. Fabbri reported on the following STPC activities: last day to accept applications for 4 scholarships awarded by STPC is Friday, May 7th; and teacher appreciation luncheon for LHS on Friday.

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

Mr. Sandrib commented on the new state statute that has been passed regarding concussion management and asked that the Board consider creating a policy to support this statute.

Ms. Carr congratulated the Mock Trial team on how well they did in the recent competition; complimented the band and chorus on their concert last evening; distributed copies of a handout, “Music for Everyone,” where musical instruments are collected by her daughter to distribute to students who need them in Hartford.

Dr. Wheeler distributed a copy of a letter from Litchfield Education Foundation thanking students and staff members for participating in a very successful LEF Palozza fundraiser.

Mrs. Longobucco reported on the activities at Center School including the following: everyone participating in ACES today for 15 minutes; a book fair and ice cream social now taking place at the school; Junior Achievement training on May 18th; PTO breakfast yesterday

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and luncheon tomorrow for teacher appreciation; Kindergarten orientation to be held on the 13th and 14th; numerous upcoming field trips; school plays scheduled in each grade; third grade moving up on June 21st; new orientation to be held for incoming parents of Kindergarteners; Special Olympics torch on June 10th; field day on June 18th and an art show at Oliver Wolcott Library taking place now.

Ms. Marinelli reported on the activities at the Intermediate School including the following: teacher appreciation breakfast; May 20th transitioning to the middle school for sixth grade; students shadowing 7th graders; May 27th summer reading book fair; June 21st sixth grade moving up at 6:00 p.m.; upcoming 4th grade incoming transition and parent orientation; and a McCormick mile to be held next week to honor JoAnne McCormick.

Ms. Della Volpe reported on the activities at the high school including the following: 3 rounds of course requests to build a schedule for next year; special concert moved to June 8th; June 14th Mabry celebration and a thank you to all of the administrators of the district.

Special Presentation – LHS Robotics Team – The Litchbots

Mr. Dake introduced several robotics team participants and thanked Laurie Piwonski for all she has done and Terry O'Brien for being a mentor.

Students discussed the following: fundraising efforts all year; Lego feeder program; learning experience; only sport where you use what you learn; skills learned; 30 members, 20 very active; shipping the robot and enthusiasm of participants. Board members moved to the gym to see a demonstration of the 2010 robot. Many of the student participants do go on to study engineering.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Need for the Board to authorize an administrator to participate in a hearing at Wamogo VoAg program regarding one of our students who is failing 4 out of 5 courses.
- School nurse day will be celebrated on May 12th as noted in an official statement from the Governor.
- Board of Finance agreed to participate in a non-meeting scheduled on May 20th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss strategies concerning collective bargaining with the LEA and LAA. Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Noone recued themselves from attending. Mr. Falcetti will not attend.
- Arrangements for Friday to release staff to attend Mrs. McCormick's services.

Old Business

Mr. Katzin reported on the Strategic Plan update including the following: last meeting held decided it was decided to get staff involved; Monday met with administrators, teacher representatives; and Mrs. Mongeau, LEA president and LEA executive board; overview of Strategic Plan; need to set meeting schedule with staff and LEA executive board.

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Old Business – con't

Board members discussed the following: need to use available teachers we have to deliver the educational program; possibly combine some AP classes with honors; use of independent study; more efficient ways of using staff; virtual schools; blend plans; cross curricular teaching; contractual issues connected; some flexibility will be required in the next budget; number of traditional classes.

New Business

Dr. Wheeler reported on the Board of Finance meeting which followed the Public Hearing, where a reduction request of \$17,000 was made. After review with Mr. Buccitelli the sole item recommended for reduction is the athletic trainer position.

MOTION made by Mr. Noone and seconded by Ms. Carr; to approve the recommendation from the Board of Finance and use the athletic trainer position as the \$17,000 reduction.

Board members discussed the following: recommendations by the Board of Finance; possible training of nurses; coaches training; student safety issue; PD for coaches and nurses; need for policy to be set; State and CIAC statutes; had trainer for a long time; rather not pay for pool and keep trainer; need for parents to think out of the box; parents need to step up and volunteer and/or donate; look into fundraising; pool affects a huge number of students and has been in existence for over 40 years; and option to not identify the cut and bring just the amount to the town meeting.

Mr. Simone called the question and Mr. Shuhi seconded.

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

Committee ReportsFacilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will meet next Monday, May 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room to discuss transportation, maintenance agreement revisions, town maintenance proposal; and feedback from the staff to be shared at the meeting. Mr. Shuhi reminded the Board that a public participation section will be held at the committee meeting.

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Policies

Ms. Carr reported that the next policy meeting will be in June.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Bylaw #9133 Organization-Temporary Committees.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Ms. Carr: to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

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

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