

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 23, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School art room.

Present were: Mr. Katzin, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Mrs. Fabbri; Mrs. Reardon; Messrs. Falcetti, Gorman, Shuhi, and Simone; Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Ms. DellaVolpe; Ms. Marinelli; and members of the press and community. Mr. Noone was absent.

Dr. Wheeler introduced and recognized Dan Porri (Music LIS) for his successful portfolio submission to the State Department of Education.

Mr. Porri gave an overview of his successful experience and thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to teach in Litchfield.

Board members thanked Mr. Porri for his classroom efforts and his portfolio success.

MOTION made by Mrs. Reardon and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the consent agenda:

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting, September 9, 2009 with the following corrections page 2791 – Mr. Simone abstained from voting on consent agenda item; change “Didominzio” to Didomizio; “Samolin” to Simonin; change “food service class” to Culinary Arts class; student council “members” to student council officers; and on page 2793 in the Amendment motion, remove “with the exception to changes in #3323 – Bid Requirements (this will be sent back to Policy Committee for further review)”.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices to line item expenditures for 2009-2010 budget as required.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mr. Waugh updated the Board on the building committee including the following: funding for the parking lot; rebate considerations; air conditioning issues; exhausts for kilns in the I.S. and H.S.; benches in the high school lobby; ramp needs for dumpster; open house plans, Oct. 20, 7:00 p.m.; dedication of plaque in memory of Kent Gillyard; contingency remaining; and plaques that will be presented at the open house ceremony.

Board members discussed the following: lighting for parking lot; need for sensitive lighting; lighting for safety not intensity; spending the remaining funds; Board of Finance input in spending; OCR evaluation needs; and thanks to Mr. Waugh for working so closely with the Board during this building process.

Mrs. Fabbri reported that the STPC held its first meeting and had a great presentation from the Culinary Arts students.

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Mrs. Joanne Moore reported on the PTO including the following: held its first meeting on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>; need to reschedule the family social; PTO has a tab under the schools website that will including the new date for the social; t-shirt and fleece fundraiser; wrapping paper fundraiser; school photos scheduled; book fair; and working with STPC to offer joint parent academies.

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

Mr. Murray commented on a tribute to teachers for the students who speak so well; hopefully progress in the curriculum for next meeting and thanks to Mr. Waugh for covering the building committee information so well.

Mr. Katzin reported several phone correspondences were received expressing disappointment that the President's speech was not shown to students. He also wanted to know the progress in rescinding the requirement that parent be notified before showing the speech.

Board members discussed the following: rationale for that directive; parents phone calls requesting opting out; need to notify and not seek permission; policy # 6144 on controversial issues, administrative regulations state that parents could opt out; how teachers can use the material if they choose; how do parents opt in; have live link on the district website; disagreeing with the decision; nothing controversial in a speech from the President of the U.S.; wrong to single out this piece of information for censure; operational decision that had to be made; notification of the speech came late to Litchfield; and permanence of directive is the problem.

Ms. Carr commented on the Middle School girls' soccer that begins at 4:00 p.m. and the need for some students to wait on campus until then due to lack of a ride back to school; supervision is an issue.

Board members reviewed an updated 2010-2011 Budget Schedule and added 2 meetings with the Board of Finance to the schedule.

Dr. Wheeler reported that meetings will be scheduled with STPC, PTO and any other community groups Board members can attend to talk about the budget process and answer any questions about the budget proposal.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- P.D. update from Sept. 16 by Ms. Marinelli regarding teacher goal setting, teacher evaluation process, student performance data, new areas of learning, aligning rubric development; and fit into SRBI.
- Report on CAPT data on October agenda and CMT data report on November agenda.
- Plan for SRBI and management of student performance data for program monitoring.
- Successful robotics presentation to the NW Chamber of Commerce with possible funding resulting.
- Meeting scheduled on October 21<sup>st</sup>, including T.A.H.D., administration, school nurses and Mr. Crowe, regarding update on H1N1 with a report to follow.

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- Joint meeting with Region 6 and Litchfield Administrative Council October 7<sup>th</sup> with Tom O'Hare regarding crisis planning review.
- Update on possible late bus, need would be 2 buses daily at cost of \$90 per bus, so it is not feasible at this time.

Old Business

Board discussed the Strategic Plan including the following: need for committees to develop broad ideas and share input; long term with intermediate goals; community member input; names to consider for facilitator; people who know the community; need to judge their interest; and possible funding available.

New Business

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to add to the agenda a discussion of policy #3542 Food Service and #3542.31 Food Sales By Students/Others for a first reading. #3542.31AR - Administrative Regulations Food Sales By Students/Others were reviewed.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to take policy #5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations off of the agenda at this time.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mrs. Reardon: to approve the Out-of-State Field Trip Requests as presented for the first half of the year. (Old Sturbridge Village, MA – 4<sup>th</sup> grade class October 29, 2009 and LHS Close-Up Program trip to Washington D.C. March 28 – April 2, 2010).

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

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mrs. Reardon: to establish the tuition rate for 2009-2010 – nonresident students as presented (K-6 \$8,500; 7-12 \$10,200 no change from 2008-2009 rates).

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

MOTION made by Mrs. Reardon and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve hiring an athletic trainer.

Board members discussed the athletic trainer issues including the following: funds are available from the copier contract savings; interview to be held tomorrow; possible temporary

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position to be used; deployment of trainer; hours per week; weight room use; CIAC recommendations; concerns about funding next year; need to visit area of sports and activities; and grant involvement for last year.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve policy # 3532 Insurance for final review and adoption.

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

Board members discussed policy #5113 Attendance and Excuses and #5113.2 Truancy for a first reading.

Board members discussed policy #3542 Food Service and #3542.31 Food Sales By Students/Others for a first reading.

Committee ReportsFacilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met and covered many items including: parking lot update; dedication ceremony; old cable fee no longer used; Center School office furniture; going green; lighting strike to the heating units; OCR site visit; possible financial liability; advertisements; signage for campus; and Center School playground expansion. Next meeting is scheduled for October 19.

Finance

Mr. Simone reported that the committee discussed the athletic trainer position. The next meeting is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Curriculum/Programs and Personnel

Mrs. Reardon reported that the next meeting is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>. A request by the public is to have the curriculum consultant present at the next meeting.

Policy

Ms. Carr reported that the next meeting is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Reardon, Secretary  
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary