

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 10, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Tuesday, November 10, 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, Noone, Shuhi, and Simone; Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Ms. Della Volpe; Mrs. Longobucco; Ms. Marinelli; the public and the press.

Board members gathered to celebrate Mrs. Reardon's contributions as a Board member and wished her well as she retires from the Board. A cake prepared by Mrs. Orefice's culinary arts students was served.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Noone: to approve the consent agenda:

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting, October 14, 2009 with the following corrections: under STPC add Miranda Gosselin after the word "student" and on page 2800, in the first motion add "JV" to "x-country" and add Mr. Katzin's name as voting in the negative.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices for 2009-2010 budget as required.

MOTION carried: all votes were in the affirmative. Mr. Simone abstained.

Public Comment and Correspondence

Dr. Wheeler noted that the School Building Committee will complete their work during upcoming months but no further regular reports are anticipated. This item will be taken off the agenda.

Mrs. Fabbri reported that the STPC will meet next Thursday on the 19<sup>th</sup> and will discuss planning for upcoming parent academies.

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

Mrs. Carpenter commented on the rainforest project. Because of budget cuts, no chaperone from LHS will be attending leaving the two students attending, Sarah Carpenter and Katherine Mullen, without anyone familiar attending with them. This also leaves the Forman staff short on help. She is appealing to the Board to consider funding an adult to accompany the students.

Mr. Murray congratulated the newly elected Board member and thanked Mrs. Reardon for her most detailed responses to emails.

Mrs. Garden commented on an editorial from a standing Board member that appeared in the Waterbury Republican regarding home baked items in school being restricted. She reviewed the policy and cannot find a restriction on this and asked the Board to possibly send a retraction.

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Mrs. Fabbri commented on a letter sent by a Board member that she regarded as disrespectful.

Mr. Falcetti commented on the policy on holiday celebrations. He stated that the system needs to honor American traditions.

Ms Carr commented that she has not waived the right to speak as a community member. Healthy foods and food allergies determine how celebrations will occur in our schools.

Board members received the following correspondence:

- Phone calls from parents regarding coordinating fundraisers so they are not all going on all at once which makes it difficult to participate in all.
- A letter from Lewis Tanner, Chairperson of Regional School District No. 6 Board of Education, thanking Mr. Katzin for inviting his Board members to a meeting with the Litchfield Board of Education members. The Region 6 Board has determined not to engage in a meeting at this time and encourages Dr. Drezek to continue to engage in monthly conversations with Dr. Wheeler to see how their offices can support each other when the need arises.

Board consensus was to have the Superintendent and the administrators continue to meet with Region 6 to discuss how to share resources in the future.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Attending the moving Veterans' Day celebration at Center School this morning where 30 veterans were honored.
- Information on CAFE-CAPSS upcoming conference.
- The receipt of the grant, "Enhancing Education through Technology" from Education Connection, which will provide 4 days of technology-based professional development for Center School.
- Invitation from Education Connection to apply for a grant for math middle school content coordinators to receive extensive training to become peer instructional coaches in the middle school.
- A meeting date needs to be established with Rich Mills to review Board members' roles and responsibilities.

Old Business

Dr. Wheeler reported that a meeting was held with Mr. Petricone to review the process of developing a 3-5 year strategic plan. A meeting between Mr. Petricone and the board is to be scheduled.

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New Business

Dr. Wheeler reviewed the Strategic School Profile 2008-09 and outlined the following items of interest: district enrollment; students who qualify for Free/Reduced-price Meals; dropout rate and dropout prevention; students per computer; class size; hours of instruction; special education expenditures; and revenue sources for district expenditures.

Board members discussed concerns over hours of instruction and professional development that enhances student achievement.

Dr. Wheeler and Mr. O'Connell presented a power point of the 2009 CMT student performance.

Board members reviewed the following Policies for a first reading: #3541 Transportation; #3541.1 Transportation – Eligibility; #3541.2 Transportation Hazardous Conditions; #3541.5 Transportation – Safety Complaints (review only, no change was made to this policy); and #5141.3 Health Assessment & Immunizations.

Policy #5141.3 is taken off of the first reading and will be brought back to committee for further review on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mrs. Reardon: to approve the Out-of-State Field Trip requests as presented to NYC and Boston.

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

Board members discussed the draft of the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2010 as presented. Board consensus was to present a new draft at the next meeting with 2 meetings scheduled in September and October.

Committee ReportsFacilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that the next meeting will be held on Monday, the 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Finance

Mr. Noone reported that the committee met on October 26<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the financial report; met with an insurance consultant; reviewed transportation costs for early dismissals; and discussed lack of funding for the robotics team. The next meeting is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Curriculum/Programs and Personnel

Mrs. Reardon reported that the committee will be meeting Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Policy

Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet on the 19<sup>th</sup> to review #5141.3.

MOTION made by Mrs. Reardon and seconded by Mr. Simone: to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

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

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