

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2009

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School Art room.

Present were: Ms. Carr; Ms. Rosser; Mrs. Fabbri; Messrs. Falcetti, Gorman, Katzin, Noone, Shuhi, Simone; Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; the public and the press.

Dr. Wheeler welcomed Amy Rosser to the Board.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Simone: to move Item IV to item I(a).

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

Election of Officers

Dr. Wheeler called for nominations for Board Chair.

NOMINATION made by Mr. Noone and seconded by Ms. Carr: to nominate Mr. Katzin for Board Chair.

NOMINATION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to nominate Mr. Simone for Board Chair.

Ms. Carr, Ms. Rosser, Mr. Gorman, Mr. Katzin, Mr. Noone voted for Mr. Katzin.

Mrs. Fabbri, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Shuhi, and Mr. Simone voted for Mr. Simone.

Mr. Katzin asked for nominations for Vice Chair.

NOMINATION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to nominate Mr. Simone as Vice Chair.

NOMINATION made by Mr. Noone and seconded by Ms. Carr: to nominate Mr. Gorman as Vice Chair.

NOMINATIONS closed by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Carr.

Ms. Carr, Ms. Rosser, Mrs. Fabbri, Mr. Katzin, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Shuhi, Mr. Simone voted for Mr. Simone.

Mr. Noone and Mr. Gorman voted for Mr. Gorman.

Mr. Katzin asked for nomination for Board Secretary.

NOMINATION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to nominate Mr. Falcetti for Board secretary.

No other nominations were made.

NOMINATIONS were closed by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Simone.

Voting on the nomination of Mr. Falcetti for Board Secretary – all members voted aye for Mr. Falcetti. No abstentions.

Mr. Katzin thanked the Board for choosing him as Chair and noted that the interest of children in the school is in the forefront in every decision being made. He will be proactive, listen to concerns, and act appropriately, balancing everyone's interest for the next 2 years.

Board consensus was to have Ms. Rosser participate in the Curriculum/Programs and Personnel Committee and the Policy Committee and to have Mr. Falcetti join the Facilities/Technology Committee to replace Mr. Noone. Mrs. Fabbri will chair the Curriculum/Programs and Personnel Committee.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to approve the consent agenda:

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting, November 10, 2009
- b. Approved 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 reported on the student council activities at the high school in the absence of Haley Didomizio due to inclement weather.

Board members received a copy of an email from Ann Egan commenting on the Center school book sale.

Mr. Simone presented an update of the Capital budget committee's on-going work including the following: pick up truck, furniture, floor maintenance equipment have been cut; all vehicles have been cut; kiln and playscape remain in the Capital proposal at this time; further cuts are needed for 2010-11 and 2011-12; next Monday further discussions will be had on this budget.

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Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Dr. Wheeler, Mr. Buccitelli and Mr. Katzin will represent the Board at the December 14th Board of Finance meeting to discuss development of the 2010-2011 budget proposal.
- Continued sharing of Professional Development activities with Region 6. Guidance Counselors from both districts participated together in training in the use of Naviance and implementation of 504 procedures.
- Dr. Wheeler and Carrie Gibbs, LHS Guidance Counselor, attended a recent New England Board of Higher Education seminar regarding Common Core Standards in Literacy and Math and implications for college readiness for High School students. 48 states including CT are to adopt the Standards. CT Education Commissioner McQuillan shared his priorities, including career readiness skills, measuring student achievement K-12 and a focus on more performance based assessment. The higher education institutions presented a common goal of ensuring that every college freshman be prepared to succeed in basic college courses, eliminating need for remediation classes.
- Mr. Petricone is scheduled to meet with the Board on January 11th at 7:00 p.m. to facilitate strategic planning.

Old Business

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2010 as discussed.

Board members reviewed the draft of the Board of Education Meeting schedule for 2010 and agreed to change the February 3rd and 17th meetings to February 10th.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve the 2010-2011 School Calendar as presented.

Board members discussed the following: conflicts with Region 6; February vacation; first day of school; busing issues with Region 6; possible graduation date; input from Berkshire League schools; and use of vans for scheduling conflicts with Region 6.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adopt the following revised policies at the second reading, #3541 Transportation; #3541.1 Transportation-Eligibility; and #3541.2 Transportation Hazardous Conditions.

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

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Board members reviewed Policy #5141.3 Health Assessments & Immunizations for a first reading.

The Strategic Plan Discussion meeting is scheduled for January 11th.

New Business

Board members reviewed policy #5141.25 Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs with accompanying regulations and no changes are recommended by the Policy Committee.

Board members reviewed policy #3524.1, Pest Management/Pesticide Application, for a first reading.

Attorney Rich Mills distributed an outline of the “Legal Rights and Responsibilities of Board Members” and reviewed the following: Responsibilities of the Board of Education, Rights of Board members; Duties of Board Members; Freedom of Information and Meeting procedures.

Board members discussed various questions and concerns regarding rights and responsibilities.

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology Committee

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will be meeting on December 21st.

Finance Committee

Mr. Noone reported that the Committee met November 30th and discussed the rainforest trip; recommendations for future funding of extra-curricular activities; overview of the budget process and 2010-2011 capital budget requests. The next meeting is scheduled for December 28th but the chair cannot make it. The meeting will be re-scheduled after January 1, 2010.

Dr. Wheeler reported that the rain forest issue has been resolved for this year and Ms. Carpenter was informed.

Curriculum/Programs and Personnel Committee

The committee will meet tomorrow evening and will receive an update by the SRBI Committee.

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Policy Committee

Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet next Thursday, December 17th.

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

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

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