

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2010

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 6, 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, Simone; Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Ms. Della Volpe; Mrs. Longobucco; and members of the public.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Simone: to add to the agenda as VI a. a discussion and possible action on the memorandum of understanding for CT Race To The Top (RTTT) grant application.

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

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

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting, December 9, 2009 with the following corrections, on page 2808 the paragraph explaining committee assignments should have Mr. Falcetti joining the Facilities and Technology Committee and not the Finance Committee and on page 2809 the last bullet under the Superintendent's Report should read "to facilitate" strategic planning and not "to launch."
- 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

Mrs. Moore reported on the following PTO activities: successful book fair fundraiser held in December; apparel fundraiser with fleeces and t-shirts presently taking place; and general meeting scheduled for Mon., January 25 at Center School with Dr. Wheeler outlining the budget process.

Mrs. Fabbri reported on the following STPC activities: fleeces with designs by a former student will be sold at basketball concession stand; January 21st next meeting with Mr. English reporting on student achievement; professional development day on drug and alcohol abuse sponsored in conjunction with PTO on February 16th; followed by a parent program on February 27th funded by a Housatonic grant.

Sandra Quinion reported on the student council activities at the high school.

Mr. Katzin presented thank you notes from the three schools and the central office for the holiday cookies from the Board.

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Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on additional information regarding Race To The Top (RTTT) grant application including the following: internet website with information available; past practices and changes with new federal Department of Education administration; focused on student achievement; application due date; priority school districts; possible money amount; Commissioner meeting scheduled for Friday at 2:30 p.m. with the application due on Monday; and signatures of Board chair and LEA president sought.

Dr. Wheeler read and discussed with Board Members the five page document, "Connecticut's Race to the Top Participating Local Education Agency Memorandum of Understanding" and an added page, "Memorandum" from the Commissioner.

Old Business

Mr. Katzin reviewed a short list of items, including strategies, important to him for the district over the next few years that he would like discussed at the District Strategic Planning meeting to be held on Monday at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Wheeler distributed an outline of talking points that Board members can take and reflect on before the meeting.

New Business

CT Race To The Top (RTTT) grant application: Dr. Wheeler and Board members discussed the Memorandum of Understanding document including the following: ramifications if don't sign up; cost of implementation; Litchfield already doing many initiatives; need for funding stream; input from LEA president; teacher evaluation component; need to wait until clarified; another application process in the spring; timeline for funding; funding for all years of grant; benefits to the district and the students; affects on existing grants; could sign up with time to opt out (90 days); need to attend meeting on Friday to get questions clarified then make a decision; most initiatives will be done anyway; and final signatures needed.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Noone: to empower the Superintendent and the Board Chairperson to attend the meeting and pose questions and participate and if information comes forth that changes our opinion leave it up to them to sign up and exercise the opt out option in a timely manner.

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

Committee ReportsFacilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met on December 21st. The representative from the intrusion alarm system was unable to attend. Information from Attorney Mills regarding email communication was also discussed.

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Curriculum/Programs and Personnel Committee

Mrs. Fabbri reported that the committee met on Thursday, December 10th with a presentation on SRBI information, costs, and allocation of existing staff. Matt Coon and Matt Brennan reviewed the analytic engines that the school is using and the impact in budget. Mr. O'Connell reviewed our involvement in the C-BAS (Connecticut Benchmark Assessment System) pilot regarding feedback on student testing. Future agenda items were also discussed.

Policies

Ms Carr reviewed Policy #9000 Role of the Board and Members (Powers, Purposes, Duties), #9221 Filling Vacancies, and #9271 Code of Ethics and with no changes to any recommended by the Policy committee.

Ms. Carr reviewed the changes to Policy # 9010 Limits of Authority, and #9230 Orientation of Board Members for a first reading.

Ms. Carr presented for a second reading policy #5141.3 and #3524.1.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to approve Policy #5141.3 Health Assessments & Immunizations and #3524.1 Pest Management/Pesticide Application as presented.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

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

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