

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 9, 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. Falchetti, Gorman, Noone, Shuhi and Simone; Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Ms. DellaVolpe; Mrs. Longobucco; Ms. Marinelli; and members of the public.

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

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting, August 26, 2009
- b. Approve the payment of invoices and adjustments to line item expenditures for 2008-09 budget as required.

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

Mr. Peter Perkins was introduced to members of the Board.

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mrs. Fabbri reported on the STPC update including the following: Yankee Candle fundraiser ending on Sept. 16th; first meeting Thursday, the 17th at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments provided by the food service class at the high school; and the goal this year is to highlight student achievement.

Haley Didominzio introduced the all school student council members (Audra Maher, VP; Jessica Blasavage, Secretary; Sandra Quinion, Treasurer; and reported on the activities taking place at the high school.

Mr. Hula commented on the need for an athletic trainer and requested that the Board try and find the funding for the position.

Mr. Murray commented on the following: public participation at curriculum meetings; money spent on curriculum development; money spent on curriculum coordinator; and getting the most for the money in curriculum development.

Mr. Samolin commented on support for the athletic trainer and a request he made in the past but has had no response yet regarding a late bus available to students who participate in after school activities. Also, he wondered if the schools could have a program where community members speak about different professions and careers.

A letter from Jim and Cynthia Tompkins requested that the Board employ the athletic trainer and if possible find the funds to do so.

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A letter from Sandra Newbury invited Board members to support Boy Scout Troop #29 by attending a celebration on September 12, 2009 at Bantam Community Field.

A letter from Mr. Katzin was read and he commented on the letter from the Superintendent to parents regarding the president's speech to students and how it will not be viewed at the time of the speech. The speech was recorded but before the teachers can use it in the curriculum, parents need to be notified. He urged the Superintendent to rescind this directive and treat the speech as any other commercially used films that never needed notification to parents before using them in classes.

Mrs. Longobucco reported on the smooth opening at Center School with meet the teachers taking place tomorrow evening.

Ms. Marinelli reported on the smooth opening at the Intermediate School with good feedback regarding the new schedule. Open House will be held next Thursday the 17th at 6:00 p.m. and first PTO meeting to be held at Center School on Monday, Sept. 21st.

Ms. DellaVolpe reported on the smooth opening at the High School with 14 new student enrollments and Open House on Thursday, the 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- A handout updating the enrollment numbers for opening day which are 6 more than last year.
- A handout of the tenure list.
- H1N1 update, school nurses will compose a letter and will work with parents, community and staff notifying them of what protocol will be used. Dr. McKay has been informed of the steps we will be taking.
- The building committee planning a ceremony on October 22 in the evening.
- Mr. Buccitelli is investigating other funding for the athletic trainer and a concussion management system is also being looked into similar to the one used in Region 10.

Board members discussed the possibility of hiring an interim athletic trainer as soon as possible.

Old Business

Board members discussed the Strategic Plan including the following: reviewing other districts' plans; declining enrollment; involving professionals in the community; concepts are universal; need for specific input from the administrators; timeline; district improvement plans; need to get off the ground; need to address achievement differential between male and female students; mission statements; possible names to approach as facilitator; action plan is needed; how to deliver education; possible Board retreat; working session; possible use of stimulus money; document will guide district for the next 5 years; community input; and need to read as many samples to get the feel of what is good and what want to use.

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New Business

Board members discussed the 3000 policies and policies #6115, #6115.1 for a second reading and adoption.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to adopt the 3000 policies (those sections currently reviewed), and policies #6115, #6115.1.

AMENDMENT made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to accept all changes in 3000 series with the exception to changes in #3323 – Bid Requirements (this will be sent back to Policy Committee for further review).

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

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

Policies revised:

#3000 Business

#3250 Income – Materials and Fees

#3260 Income – Sale and disposal of Books, Equipment and Materials

#3313.1 Relations With Vendors – This Policy was rescinded.

#3434 Periodic Audit

#3440 Inventories

#3510 Operation and Maintenance of Plant

#3532 Insurance

#3541.3 School Approved Trips

#6115 School Ceremonies and Observations – Pledge of Allegiance and U.S. Flag

#6115.1 Religious Observances and Displays

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to approve the request from Allison Hennessey for extended child-rearing leave (upon conclusion of her maternity leave) to the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

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

Committee Reports

Board consensus was to hold committee meetings at 6:30 p.m.

A meeting with the Finance Committee will be held on the 17th instead of the 29th at 6:00 p.m. to review the need for the athletic trainer.

Mr. Gorman left at 8:45 p.m.

The Facilities and Technology committee will meet on September 21st.

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

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

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