

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MAY 26, 2009**

A special meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 7:08 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School Art room.

Present were: Mr. Katzin, Chairperson; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Simone; Mr. Noone; Mrs. Reardon; Ms. Carr; and Mrs. Fabbri. Mr. Gorman was absent. Also present, Dr. Wheeler; Mrs. Longobucco; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Marinelli; Mr. Johnson; Mr. Buccitelli; 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 the Regular Meeting of May, 6, 2009 and Special Meeting of May 7, 2009.
- b. Approve the payment of invoices and adjustments to line item expenditures for 2008-09 budget as required.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Tony Crowe reported on the release of additional Building Committee funds for FFE, funding decisions regarding external surveillance and painting. Don Falcetti identified a grounds/landscaping issue.

Mrs. Fabbri discussed the upcoming pre-prom program and scholarship presentations (June 3, 2009).

Student Representatives Chloe Calabrese and Sara Leavitt updated the board on the recent voter registration program at LHS which received coverage on WZBG, the senior prom held at Rose Haven, and upcoming Student Council elections. Hayley DiDomizio was introduced to the board as the newly elected student council President.

Diane Laurentano shared news of the award recently presented to the Litchfield Schools for its successful 2008 Summer Reading Challenge. She and Dr. Wheeler traveled to Hartford to receive the award from Governor Rell and Commissioner McQuillan.

On behalf of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Holiday Traditions and Cultural Education, Dr. Wheeler reported that she had received materials submitted by the committee which will now go to the BOE Policy Committee for review.

The BOE received correspondence from Kathy Lavoie inviting members to attend the National Honor Society induction ceremony on Thursday May 28 at 7:00 p.m.

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Ms. Carr commended the student work currently showing at the Oliver Wolcott Library and urged BOE members and the public to visit the exhibit.

Mrs. Reardon praised the work of LHS student Greg Marquis and LIS Music Teacher Dan Porri for their work in the recent production of *The Fantasticks* at the Goshen Playhouse.

Mr. Katzin reported that over \$100,000 in grants have been given to Litchfield schools and the Oliver Wolcott Library by the Litchfield Education Foundation.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Michelle Mongeau is the new President of the LEA.
- As requested by the BOE, Dr. Wheeler has invited retirees for exit interviews. To date six retirees have made appointments to speak with her.
- Requests for stimulus funds proposals were recently posted on the state website. Requirements for how funds may be used are very stringent.
- Regarding the security system, Dr. Wheeler reported that the intrusion alarm will be funded through capital funds and the surveillance system from a Homeland Security grant awarded last fall.

Old Business

None.

New Business

a) The 2009/2010 budget passed at the annual Town Meeting with little comment.

b) MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mrs. Fabbri: to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the renewal of the following Non-tenured teachers for 2009-2010:

Elizabeth Landon	Andrew Parker	Edward Lok
Matthew McDevitt	Mary Lou Hunchak	Emily McAdam
Amy Killiany	Jessica DeLucia	Julie Tracy
Erin Casey	Daniel Porri	Leah Schultz
Randi Donahue	Seth Newton	Jamie Sidella
Rachel Caporuscio	Geoffrey Brookes	Benjamin Storrs
Lisa Nobes	Diana Melendez	Lindsay White
Melanie O'Leary	Kathryn Oparowski	

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A short discussion followed during which Wayne Shuhi asked which of the teachers receiving renewal would receive tenure as a result. Dr. Wheeler will forward the information to the Board.

MOTION carried. All votes were affirmative. Mr. Shuhi abstained.

c) Educational Technology Plan: Dr. Wheeler reported there were no significant changes to the document from its draft version. Mrs. Longobucco reported that Dr. Vita had asked for the plan to assist the district in applying for technology grants. The draft report went to the Facilities and Technology Committee of the board and was discussed by a group that included parents, teachers, Mr. Shuhi, Mrs. Longobucco and Dr. Wheeler. It was subsequently submitted to Jonathan Costa of Education Connection, who on May 21, 2009 supplied the approval letter required to establish the district plan as compliant. The plan will now be sent to the State Department of Education to meet the June 15 submission deadline.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti to approve the existing Technology Plan as the final document.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative.

d) Long Term Planning Committee: There was discussion of establishing a Long Term Planning Committee. Mr. Katzin expressed his desire to revisit the Strategic Plan. Dr. Wheeler raised the possibility of using a facilitator or consultant to help the BOE tackle such an important job and recommended conducting a Needs Analysis. Areas suggested as deserving attention were identified and given to existing committees for further consideration. They are as follows: Communication (Policy Committee), Facilities and Technology (Facilities and Technology), Budget (Finance), and Curriculum and Personnel (Curriculum, Personnel, Programs). There was discussion about the potential cost of a facilitator or the possibility of seeking a community member to assist free of charge. Mr. Katzin commented that it was important to “get it done” and a facilitator might be the task master necessary to keep the process on track and on time. Dr. Wheeler asked each committee to begin the process of scheduling and holding meetings to begin the process.

e) A First Reading was held on the following policy revisions:

#4118.15/4218.15 Family and Medical Leave

#3110 Budget (suggestion that it return to committee for language clarification)

#3280 Income/Gifts

#3510.2 Energy Conservation

#3541.4 School Closings

f) Review and Possible Action - #1314 Fund Raising: Policy had already been revised last fall (November 19, 2008). It was decided to refer back to the committee for adjustments prior to the start of the next academic year.

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Committee Reports

Dr. Wheeler requested that regular dates be set for committee meetings.

Facilities and Technology

Mr. Shuhi reported that a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the Strategic Plan.

Finance

Mr. Noone reported that the committee met earlier this evening to discuss a retirement option raised by the LEA. The topic will be on the next (6/8/09) committee meeting agenda.

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel

Mrs. Reardon reported that the committee met last Wednesday to discuss the procedures and instrument for the Superintendent Evaluation process. A draft of the suggested materials will be sent to all BOE members. Following up on other discussions at the last committee meeting, Don Johnson provided an update/presentation on the Middle School Math program and Jennifer Marinelli further discussed the proposed changes to the LIS schedule.

Policy Committee

Ms. Carr reported that the committee met last Wednesday and will be continuing its systematic review of all board policies. The next meeting is set for June 10 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Holiday Traditions and Cultural Education.

MOTION by Mr. Simone and seconded by Betsy Fabbri to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted  
Tina Reardon, Secretary  
Litchfield Board of Education