

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

Approved 9/21/2011

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 7, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Library/Media Center.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Falcetti, Gorman, Katzin, and Shuhi. Mr. Noone was absent.

Also present were: Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Mr. Zaremski; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Longobucco; Ms. Kubisek; the public and the press.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Carr: to add to the agenda as item II f. approve the resignation of Allison Hennessey, H.S. foreign language teacher.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the consent agenda with the following corrections to the minutes: on page 2590 in the first motion change “make” to “rule on”, change “arises” to “arise”, correct the spelling of the 4th “MOTION” and on page 2591 in the first motion change “arbitrary or” to “arbitrary nor”, “and the appeal” to “and that the appeal”, and change “denied and further” to “denied. Further”.

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting August 10, 2011.
- b. Approve the Minutes of Special Meeting #1 August 17, 2011.
- c. Approve the Minutes of Special Meeting #2 August 17, 2011.
- d. Approve the payment of invoices for 2010-2011 budget as required.
- e. Approve the payment of invoices for 2011-2012 budget as required.
- f. Accept the resignation of Alison Hennessey as HS foreign language teacher.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

Mr. Simone thanked the Superintendent, Principals, administrators and maintenance under Tony Crowe for the very successful opening day.

Mr. Simone thanked Barbara Crowe with a gift certificate for her volunteer work in maintaining and watering the flowers and gardens at each of the schools during the summer.

- a. STPC / PTO - Ms. Fabbri reported on the following STPC activities: Yankee Candle as the 1st fundraiser through September 16th; and the first meeting is scheduled for September 26th at 7:30 in the High School Library.

Ms. Moore reported on the following PTO activities: Welcome Back to School picnic Friday, September 9th; fall fundraiser of fruits and foods available for Thanksgiving; and Parents' Night Out scheduled for November 4th.

- b. LHS Student Council - Joe Wihbey reported on the student council activities at the high school.

- c. Other Public Comment –

- Mr. Sandrib commented on the Board's decision regarding Mr. Dranginis' contract.

- d. Correspondence -

- A thank you note from Mary Pereira.
- A letter from Bernard Ash regarding Mr. Dranginis.
- A letter from Laura Hogan Trani regarding Mr. Dranginis.

- e. Correspondence -

Ms. Longobucco reported on the following activities at Center School: delightful beginning; children are playing on the new yard; thanks to The Seherr-Thoss Foundation for the Kindergarten play-ground equipment; George Deacon did a great job on the grass; thank you to Tony Crowe for maintenance done over the summer.

Ms. Longobucco reported for Ms. Murphy on the following activities at the Intermediate School: successful opening; letter sent home notifying parents of maternity leave; and open house scheduled for Wednesday, 14th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Ms. Della Volpe reported on the following activities at the High School: great opening; buses big part of successful opening; Open House scheduled for September 20th and thanks to Joe Wihbey for starting the day with announcements at the high school.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Computer lease with the town must be listed in the annual budget documents as a four year commitment.

Superintendent's Report – (continued)

- Van purchase must go through Capital; Board of Selectmen; Board of Finance; and a town meeting on September 27 for adoption.
- Staff update: have a long term Spanish sub until a teacher can be hired; Athletic Trainer will be retained through an agency again this year.
- Enrollment: 1112 students (K-12). Full report will be presented after October 1.
- Professional Development activities: activities cancelled on Monday were held on Tuesday on instructional practice.
- Meeting on September 27th to debrief facilitators and plan Professional Development for the year.
- Recommendation to make up the August 29th Professional Development day on February 21st.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to make up the August 29th Professional Development day on February 21st.

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

- Leo Paul signed off on a grant for Solar panels for the schools. Panels will be installed in 6-10 weeks.

Board members asked several questions regarding this project: will the installation void any warranties on the roofs; who will benefit from the energy credits; were there discussions with the borough regarding the installation at Center School; what will happen with the panels at the end of four years. The Board requested a copy of the agreement for their review in the Facilities committee.

- Dr. Wheeler shared remarks made to the faculty during Convocation. We must consider how to transform the learning environment to accommodate our declining enrollment and fiscal restraints on the town. Ideas for study include developing a blended learning environment, using both classroom and virtual instruction; rethinking the concept of “seat time” in favor of student mastery of content and skills; enabling students and teachers to work from remote settings. This year a small cadre of teachers and students have been identified to pilot a Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) instructional program. This plan will be shared in more detail at the Curriculum committee meeting on September 8.

New Business

Mr. Simone and Ms. Carr discussed the possible action regarding the Board's legal representation. Board consensus was to have Dr. Wheeler, Ms. Carr and Mr. Simone investigate legal firms and return with recommendations for the Board.

Committee Reports

Curriculum and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met on August 11th and discussed curriculum updates and AP test results. The next meeting is Thursday, September 8th.

Facilities Committee - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee last met and discussed computer and bus leases. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 19th where the wireless plan and filtering plan will be on the agenda.

Finance Committee - Dr. Wheeler reported that the next meeting is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21st before the Board meeting.

Policy Committee - Ms. Carr reported that the committee is scheduled to meet on September 15th.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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

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