

SPECIAL MEETING
“HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & CULTURAL DIVERSITY”
Litchfield Board of Education Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 31, 2009, Litchfield Community Center, 3 to 5 PM

Committee Members Present:

Debra Brandt
Bill Burgess
Gayle Carr
Christopher Clark
Beth DeFiore
Kristen Della Volpe
Andeen Fischer
Kay Jones
Andrienne Longobucco
Jennifer Marinelli
Mary McDevitt
Eileen McKenna
Alison O'Leary
Bob Petricone
Jeanne Sandrib
Frank Simone
Sue Smith
Nancy Yurgelun

Also Present: Dr. Deborah Wheeler, Wayne Shuhi, BOE (part time) and Town of Litchfield citizens

Committee Member not attending: Berta Andrulis and Maggie Kresel (excused)

Review and discuss SUPERINTENDENT’S CHARGE to the Committee – Dr. Wheeler gave her full endorsement to the work of the Committee. (Dr. Wheeler left the meeting after approximately 20 minutes.)

Committee Task Statement - Committee members offered input for consideration. A REVISED DRAFT statement will be proposed at the next meeting.

Committee organization – The Superintendent will review proposed policy guidelines, with feedback suggestions offered before recommendations are submitted. The Superintendent will make recommendations to the BOE based on the Committee’s proposal.

Steering Sub-Committee appointments: Bill Burgess (Chair), Jennifer Marinelli, Christopher Clark, Gail Carr, Berta Andrulis and Jeanne Sandrib. The purpose is to assist in keeping the Committee on task and offering a balanced perspective during work-in-process discussions with the Superintendent.

Policy-Guidelines Working Group: Bob Petricone (Chair), Eileen McKenna, Alison O’Leary and Kristen Della Volpe. The purpose is to serve as a working group to draft policy guidelines for review and discussion with the “Committee of the Whole”

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Litchfield Public Schools (LPS) Policy Review – Copies of current LPS policies and suggested “benchmark comparisons” for New Hartford and New Fairfield were distributed for consideration. Additional publications focused on religion in public schools were distributed and offered as contemporary practices for use in drafting practical and realistic policy guidelines. The CT Association of Boards of Education (CABE) was acknowledged as an important guidepost for the work of the Committee.

Future Meeting Dates: The next meeting is Monday, April 6TH at the Litchfield Community Center. A few members suggested alternative meeting times and locations, as well as the challenge of attending all meetings. No changes to the current schedule were made.

Public Comment: Concern was raised about allowing others to offer input and perspective to the Committee. The Chair stated the need for new perspective, not offered by members of the Committee. No decision was reached on allowing public comment at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Bill Burgess – Chair
Advisory Committee

Approved: April 6, 2009