

Litchfield Board of Education**Wednesday, March 31, 2010, Intermediate School Art Room, 6:30 p.m.**

A special meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education Facilities and Technology Committee was held on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Intermediate School Art Room.

Members Present: Mr. Shuhi (chair) and Mr. Falcetti. Mrs. Fabbri was absent.

Also Present: Dr. Wheeler, Mr. Buccitelli, Mr. Crowe, First Selectman Leo Paul, Public Works Director Jack Healy, Ms. Marinelli, Ms. Della Volpe, Mr. Katzin, Mr. Simone and Board of Finance Member Mr. Zullo, public and press

New Business**a. Discussion of Town Maintenance Proposal**

- Level of care to facilities; interested in providing best way to accomplish; would like to see some specifics; would like to see expectations in a document form.; concerns regarding budget items and concerning the State of Connecticut; existing Maintenance Agreement has gray areas; need for a credible answer regarding efficiencies and cost savings (example: custodian could be on lunch duty and then be better used elsewhere).
- Some items may not have to be contracted out; preventative maintenance could be improved; Town and Board of Education each have a management structure causing overlaps; overlaps are being investigated; in past “shop facilities” were within the schools; entire functioning of school staff is not going to change.
- Discussed \$50,000 savings; Leo and Jack indicated that they are not planning to eliminate any positions; this program is to improve and not to reduce staff; questioned why such a drastic change of management needs to take place; Board of Education can focus their budget on education, not maintenance. Cross training concerns; union concerns; legal counsel and unions would have to work out any issues.
- State of Connecticut minimum budget issues; discussed obtaining a legal opinion being accomplished before the Board of Education makes its decision; current agreement is dependent on staffing arrangements; check and balance is in place (schools handle cleaning, Town handles maintenance); present staff cares about the schools; doing this for the 2010-2011 year may be too quick a transition; a plan cannot be designed based on personalities.
- The system designed has to work under any personnel in the future; Board has managerial control of the maintenance of the facilities.
- Discussed use of school facilities currently enforced under Board of Education policies; more of the details need to be discussed before moving ahead.

Public Comment pertaining to Town Maintenance Proposal

- Winnie Harrison – commented regarding school project concerns; definition of “maintenance”, leave the schools in control of their own maintenance.
- Roe Cook – President of AFSCME (contract includes custodial positions) – commented that town maintenance of buildings has improved; concerns regarding present custodial personnel; cross training will raise costs not lower them; not hearing definite savings.

- Joanne Moore – Library Media Specialist at Center School – commented that is a good idea to share Town Garage and shops; concerns regarding Board of Education’s legal responsibilities; Facilities Manager has exceeded everyone’s expectations; sharing of bulk purchasing is desirable.

Board of Education will discuss this matter at its next regular meeting on Wednesday, April 7, 2010.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted
Donald R. Falcetti
Board of Education