A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 2, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the L.C.S. gym.

Present were: Ms. Carr, Chairperson; Ms. Stone; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Morosani; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Simone; and Mr. Terzian.

Also present were: Superintendent Turner; Mr. Fiorillo; and members of the public.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to add to the agenda as VI c. a discussion of FERPA issue.

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2018 meeting with the following correction on page 3792 at the bottom of the page change CAPSTONE to Capstone.

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: approve the payment of FY 2018-19 invoice on Accounts Payable warrant # 2019-14 dated 1/2/2018 in the amount of $81,677.06.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications

a. STPC –none.
   PTO – none.
b. LHS Student Council – none.
d. Litchfield Education Foundation – none.
e. Other public comment.
   ➢ Mr. Stedronsky commented on keeping the narrative going with Region 6 and budgeting issues with school unification.
f. Correspondence-
   - Thank you note from Middle School Staff for Christmas cookie platter.

g. Administrators’ Report –
   - Ms. Haggard-none.
   - Ms. Deltano-none.
   - Dr. Pascento-none.
   - Ms. Kubisek-none.
   - Ms. Della Volpe-none.
   - Mr. Fiorillo- none.

Old Business - none.

New Business

a. Litchfield Intermediate School Coding.

Ms. Brutting, Science teacher; Ms. McDevitt, Library Media Specialist; and Dr. Pascento, Principal; introduced a number of students from L.I.S. that attended the Connecticut Cyber Robotics competition and reviewed the following: grades 5-6 competed; grade 4 also participates in coding; computer language to develop apps and other software; skills developed; creative and innovative; how to code skills; confidence increased; develop codes during school; finalist in competition; 100 missions done; first place achieved; 21st century needs; integrated into standards; across all disciplines; STEM alignment; teacher input; get grade levels excited; University of Bridgeport competition held; every student gets access to program; and persistence in trying.


Mr. Morosani, Chair, distributed copies to the Board and members of the public, “Final Report of Litchfield BOE Ad Hoc Committee on Collaboration,” and reviewed the following: temporary committee; accomplished initial mission; purpose stated; met 13 times with 4 being joint meetings with counterparts from Region 6; initiation of courses shared; synchronize plays in fall and spring so students can try out; shows were successful; memorandum of agreement renewed and extended for 2 more years; no interest in combining elementary schools, just MS and HS; Ag-Science has to stay at Wamogo; number of issues before go forward; this year going very well so far; if combining districts lots of negotiation will be needed; curriculum and teacher needs; funding issues; Seherr-Thoss funding; conclusion issues; need a committee; members from 2 Boards, administrators, teachers, and community members; uncharted territory; change goals; taxpayers issues; educational issues; possible sharing opportunity; have to go forward; standing committee needed to go forward; on long term basis; possible name, Long Term Planning Committee; quality of educational opportunities needed; at least 3 full Board members and Chair; need Board input for progress to go forth; not comfortable speaking for the whole Board; Region 6 has 4 Board members on their committee; need representatives from other key sub committees; Superintendent involved; Director of Business Operations involved; and number of community members included.
Board members thanked Mr. Morosani for working so well on the committee and discussed the following: Region 6 asked for 2 members of the Board; Mr. Simone and Mr. Pavlick have volunteered; need to create long term standing committee; need charge of committee; dealing with decreasing population issue; should be top priority; 9th grade has 50 students coming up; cost per student expenditure; not able to offer courses for student needs; costs to rise and opportunities to decrease; issues in other towns similar; need to save money; student opportunity needs; long term planning needed; no population growth on the horizon; not sustainable; need to set up committee; possible need for Mr. Morosani to be on the committee because has background already; and consult Fred Dorsey for advice on creating committee.

MOTION made by Ms. Stone and seconded by Mr. Terzian: accept the recommendations of the “Final Report of Litchfield BOE Ad Hoc Committee on Collaboration.”

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

c. FERPA discussion.

Board members discussed the issue of an alleged FERPA violation and an investigation being needed and discussed the following: request from parent; FERPA violation possible; input from Board counsel; need to retain counsel from different group; possible conflict of interest if use Board counsel; Superintendent would need counsel also; hire two lawyers; complaint made; statutes for FERPA violation; format needed; forms needed; need to do investigation; looked into Brookfield firm; hours needed unknown; negotiations issues; parent wants investigation; sent email; and Board consensus is to hire counsel.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Turner distributed her report and discussed the following: student achievement; teachers continue Rubicon Atlas on next early release day; Curriculum Facilitators continue to assist teachers; 2 hours each Wednesday as PK-12 content area groups; culture; wonderful Winter Concerts held; L.I.S. attended concerts AT L.H.S. with L.M.S. students; L.H.S. students performed at CS; communication; monthly parent workshops held; collaboration with Greenwoods and Litchfield Prevention Council; Mindful Parenting workshop next; resources; budget meetings being held with administrators and managers.

Committee Reports

Finance - None.

Curriculum, Program and Personnel - None.

Facilities and Technology – None
Ed Advance - None.

Ad Hoc Collaboration - Report given previously

Ad Hoc Technology - none.

Policy Review

a. Rescind
   i. Policy # 5160 Protective Holding/Physical Intervention - Board members agreed to not rescind at this time and bring it back to the next meeting after its replacement policy is approved.

b. First Reading
   i. NEW: Policy #4212.42 Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers – policy reviewed. Return to BOE for 2nd reading.

c. Second Reading
   i. Policy # 6146 Graduation Requirements.

       MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve Policy # 6146 Graduation Requirements as emended.

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

       MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary