A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the LCS gym.

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

Absent was: Ms. Stone.

Also present were: Superintendent Turner; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Haggard; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Kubisek; Mr. Ammary; Dr. Pascento; and members of the public.

**Approval of Minutes**

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 6, 2018 with the following correction, on page 3677 in the middle of the page remove the word “at” after Mr. Morosani’s name.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Shuhi; to approve the minutes of the special meeting of December 20, 2017 with the following corrections: on page 3680 add periods after Ms. Stone’s name twice, period after the word “vendor.”

**Payment of Invoices**

MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Morosani: approve the payment of FY 2017-18 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2018-11 dated 12/21/2017 in the amount of $164,369.51; warrant 2018-12 dated 1/4/2018 in the amount of $80,251.37 and on Food Service warrant dated 12/15/2017 in the amount of $5,672.12.

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- none.
Correspondence:
- Thank you note from Mr. Bongiorno for the gift he received from the Board.
- A letter from the staff and student body at LIS giving a shout out to Mr. Landy for tech support and Dr. Pascento for positive leadership tone.

Administrators’ Report –
- Mr. Ammary reported: thank you to the preschool team; scheduled Way to Grow Program on December 4th and 11th; 9 – 14 families participated; thank you to the parent volunteers; Dec. 19th held after school programs, cooking, baking, yoga, knitting, and thank you to Dan Porri and Pete Perkins for successful concerts held at LCS for students and faculty.
- Ms. Haggard reported: medical reimbursement issues; 2 days of training; many pieces included; and student needs.
- Mr. Fiorillo reported: handouts, “LPS 2017-18 Budget Development Schedule,” “BOE 31-Dec-17 spending list;” meeting with Board of Finance; share schedule with BOF; year to date budget; budget meetings scheduled after break; LIS gym lights; LHS band room ceiling repaired; pipe freezing issues; update on water heater; under capital budget; not eliminated but wasn’t funded; insurance claim issues; 3rd party issues; Hartford steam boiler; manufacturing guarantees issues; possible reimbursements; patched and still holding
- Ms. Della Volpe distributed a handout reviewing the following: newspaper “The Torch;” 1st edition; gift donations for 37 families; under Kathy Johnson’s leadership; staff effort overwhelming; put on budget for next year; 3 published this year; handout, “School Counseling Newsletter, LHS winter 2018; individual scheduling for students; extensive networking; and exam days scheduled for January.
- Ms. Kubisek reported: great concerts held; kudos to music teachers; student led conferences; schedule online; activities in April; students participate in conference; simple machines topic; colonial models and video projects.
- Dr. Pascento reported: two successful concerts held; update on spelling bee; LEF sponsored; collaboration with LCS; transition to standards based report cards; Columbia staff development and upcoming schedule changes.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Turner reported: thanks to parents for successful Superintendents’ Forum held earlier; PowerSchool use in grade 6; 7th grade math questions; CSCI action plan; update parents; building committee action plan; MAP testing; parents received student reports; questions about tests; clarifying questions; and February Superintendent’s Forum will have Mr. Fiorillo participate to talk about the budget.

Old Business – none.
New Business

a. High School Art Program Proposal

Ms. Clementson, Art Coordinator, distributed the following, “Evidence in Support of an Additional .5 FTE and Higher Level Art Classes for the Art Department of LHS in 2018-2019,” and “LHS Art Department Proposal for 2018-2019,” and presented the following: list of reasons to add courses; CPP Committee impressed; graphic art program; proposal; enrollment up 121%; visual gaming; the graphic novel; have computer skills; 8th grade add art so K-12 has art program; .5 position added to LHS; and 3 new courses.

Mr. Bucci, MFA in Illustration; presented the following: current career offerings; got rid of low enrollment classes; high interest in graphic novels; chart tracking enrollment; 79 in 2015-16, 171 in 2016-17 and 181 in 2017-18; need for .5 FTE; list of course enrollment numbers; graphic design; ceramics; and drawing; Illustration 2, the graphic novel; original characters; adapt work to curriculum; literacy in visual arts; sequential works; life skills credit; market ideas; send to publisher.

Ms. Melaragno, BFA in graphic design; presented the following: graphic design course outline; digital literacy for 21st century; presentations; posters; computer work; digital art work; industry standards; interdisciplinary courses with business and technology; have videos; digital art; graphic drawings; work with digital medians; predictable; video games; prerequisites good in HS; Ipad helpful; need to offer or will set students up for failure when graduate; samples distributed to Board members; advanced ceramics; high enrollment; second tier after sculpture and ceramics; high interest.

Board members discussed: possibly share art classes with Wamogo; budget issues; possible offer in staggered years; teacher can teach every other semester; possible scheduling issue for staff; possibly accommodate with new schedule; increase in art enrollment; decrease somewhere else; sharing teachers in LIS and LMS; possible retirements will cover costs of .5; part time teacher difficult to find; .5 justification, student interests; industry standard’s needs; more expertise; student need to be prepared for industry standards; what is good for students; possible find funding in other parts of budget; programs kids deserve; need to consider tax payers; only 1 AP art student in 2011; 5 or 6 now.

b. Unpaid Leave of Absence Request.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the unpaid leave of absence request form Lianne Ambruso as presented.

Board members discussed: need to support the teachers; good will for teachers; issues with setting precedent; what if 5 more teachers request the same thing; how effect kids; liability issues;
outreach for teachers; not same cost for permanent sub; not same quality of teacher; difficult to find replacement; FMLA coverage; create environment for teachers to be comfortable; does it benefit the district; issues with holding the position; leave up to principal whether hire back; don’t guarantee return; never done before; not FMLA; could reapply next year; feedback from principals; long term subs difficult to find; delivery of instruction not the same; and like to support good teachers.

**MOTION failed.** Mr. Clock voted in the affirmative. Mr. Terzian; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Simone; Mr. Pavlick and Mr. Morosani voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

**Committee Reports**

- **Facilities and Technology** - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will meet in two weeks.

- **Curriculum, Program and Personnel** – no report.

- **Finance** - Mr. Simone reported that the committee met and discussed the following: the budget process; need for all Board members to attend; and expectations with Board of Finance.

- **Policy** – no report.

**Policies**

a. **Second Readings:**

i. **Policy # 1210 Community Organizations.**

   **MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti:** to approve Policy # 1210 as submitted.

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

ii. **Policy # 1220 Citizen Advisory Committees.**

   **MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Falcetti:** to approve Policy # 1220 Citizen Advisory Committees as amended.

   **MOTION carried.** All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.
iii. Policy # 3230.1 Federal Grants and Awards Administration (Federal Fiscal Compliance).

   MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve Policy # 3230.1 Federal Grants and Awards Administration (Federal Fiscal Compliance) as submitted.

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

iv. Policy #6115 Ceremonies and Observation.

   MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve Policy # 6115 Ceremonies and Observation as amended.

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

   MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary