A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 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. Shuhi; Mr. Simone; and Mr. Terzian.

Absent was: Mr. Pavlick.

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

**MOTION made by Mr. Morosani and seconded by Mr. Terzian:** to add to the agenda as X. b. a discussion on negotiations.

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

**MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Clock:** to add to the agenda as X. c. a discussion of recommendations to hire.

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

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Clock:** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 3, 2018 with the following corrections: on page 3759 change “Hazzard” to Haggard; on page 3760 under Ms. Haggard’s report add “how introduce into the curriculum,” at the end; under Mr. Fiorillo’s report, change “instruction” to “intrusion,” on page 3764 change the last word to “amended,” on page 3766 the motion made by Mr. Morosani and seconded by Mr. Clock change, “ad” to “add.”

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

**Payment of Invoices**

**MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick:** approve the payment of FY 2018-19 invoice on Accounts Payable warrant # 2019-07 dated 10/17/2018 in the amount of $266,297.87; on Food Service warrant dated 10/17/2018 in the amount of $8,402.51.
MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Mr. Simone abstained.

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications

a. STPC – none.
   PTO – Ms. Wilcox reported: Kindness in Motion Club; September 25th big event, 250 signed up; “Litchfield’s Got Talent” event; art show included; new fundraisers; can use credit cards now; Fall Family Costume Dinner with 200 families signed up; 41 teachers to receive $100.00; links to socio-emotional growth; specials will receive enhancement money this year; Litchfield partnership with library; drive for library cards; book club; book fair Nov. 6 to 16; Nov. 19, try meeting at L.C.S. in the morning; Feb. 2nd dance; and Sports Night at Litchfield Inn.

b. LHS Student Council – none.


d. Litchfield Education Foundation – none.

e. Other public comment.
   ➢ Ms. Scozzafava commented on: possible change of start time for L.H.S.; and request to add to the agenda for discussion.

f. Correspondence –
   ➢ Email from Diane Wilson re: still need SBAC scores.
   ➢ Email from Diane Neuland re: test score information FOIA request...2nd attempt.

g. Administrators’ Report –
   ➢ Ms. Deltano reported: student achievement; Fire Safety Day; visit to Historical Society; review of NWEA assessment; culture; School Safety Committee meeting; Mental Health training; parent communication through email, phone calls, Bloomz and School Messenger.
   ➢ Dr. Pascento reported: student achievement; gifted program running; MAP assessments done; CT Cyber Robotics Coding competition; band and chorus numbers up this year; NAEP assessment in March; culture; student council ongoing; 2 fire drills held; Emergency Handbook completed; Picture Day Oct. 11th; Fire Prevention Day held; communication; PTO Welcome Back event; Curriculum Night held; Virtual backpack sent out.
   ➢ Ms. Kubisek reported: student achievement; goal setting process; MAP testing done; English classes participating in Global Read Aloud Project; aligning student achievement and goals; formal observations on going; culture; Red Ribbon Week; Life is your journey, travel drug free; Fun Night; on Friday; school climate goal; communication; grade level calendars; Wamogo and OWTS annual visit done; resources; budget development calendar in progress.
   ➢ Ms. Della Volpe reported: student achievement; career speaker series; administration of PSAT to all sophomores; Wamogo partnership classes in progress; field trip to Walden Pond and Salem Village; LHS players will perform West Side Story; attendance to National Honor Society’s State Leadership Summit;
College Fair held; how to pay for college presentation; culture: Mental Health First Aide course; Acts of Kindness Club; advisor Interact Club; school climate committee on going; communication; STPC and PTO align parent support efforts; resources; budget process beginning.

- Mr. Fiorillo reported: BOF meeting held.
- Dr. Pascento reported in response to question from Lynn Stone regarding the Gifted Program: Gifted program discussed with Ms. Haggard; grades 4-6; scores used; different this year; teachers involved; 10 students; 2 to 3 days a week; possibly extend time period; types of testing used; problem solving; trade off with band and chorus; and trade off with other activities.

Old Business - none.

New Business

a. State Test Results.

Mr. O’Connell distributed a copy of “2018 Mathematics Smarter Balanced Average Vertical Scale Scores” and “2018 English Language Arts/Literacy Smarter Balanced Average Vertical /Scale Scores,” Republican American chart on Student Growth; presented a power point of the State Test Results 2018 and reviewed the following: LPS testing extended into early June; Grades 3-8 Smarter Balance assessment; grade 11 CT School Day SAT, ELA and math; no more CMT or CAPT; 2016 to 2018 ELA; comparison by grade; grade 3-8; comparing apples and oranges; could see how curriculum is working in district; 2016-2018 Math; graphing by grades; 2016-2018 ELA by rough cohort; web site included; 2016-2018 math by rough cohort; data on handouts reviewed; need to include state averages.

Board members discussed: comparisons to state averages; higher or lower; how to calculate averages; range from bottom to top; based on scale scores; trends going downward; what is state trend; grade 11 trends in state; need to compare to DERG group.

Mr. O’Connell reviewed: 3, 4 and 5 ELA; math handout; 3, 4 and 5 ELA; grade 6, 7 and 8 scores; district scores; need to put together data comparisons; look at 3-year district averages.

Board members discussed: downward trend in math; common core language arts; look at districts that are successful to observe; possible visit to schools.

Mr. O’Connell reviewed: school day SAT for grade 11; evidence based learning; state and LHS over 3 years; redesigned for college and career readiness; could take writing supplement test to add to college applications; ELA 3 or above 480; Math 3 or above 530; 75% earn a C in freshman Math or English; required standardized test to graduate L.H.S.; can send test score for free to colleges; different versions available; CT alternative assessment can be taken; alternative
assessments tests have same standard; different way of taking test; math portions; tests that include Science and Social Studies; 2017 65 students; 2018 71 students; different sub categories; narrow trend as much as possible; school have better math scores; need to learn what is different there than here; part of core curriculum; math is about skills assessment; not a formula to solve math problems.

Board members discussed: students have to take; no one can opt out; attempt of state to close achievement gap; 8th grade notes; last testing before 11th grade; what can do to prepare students;

Mr. O’Connell reported: possible Smarter Balance interim assessment testing can be done in grades 9, 10 and 11; PSATs taken in sophomore year; help prepare for SATs; look for trends.

Board members discussed: where is deficit; Algebra II in sophomore year now; could make adjustments; look at smarter balance scores; no predictors; only trends; poor math scores are a concern.

Mr. O’Connell reported: participation rates chart for 2018; smarter balance testing; SAT; presentation on district website.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Turner reported: elimination of coordinators positions last year; student needs emphasized; target statements; education data system; designation skills; impact on grades K-6; job title made different – Content Coach; and what abilities are needed; possibly bring back coordinators position; put into budget process; coaching needed; at direction of building principal; need for transparency; input from LEA president; not question path taken; protocol to follow; need to discuss with CPP committee; then come to Board; job created; splitting up responsibilities; clarified positions; give Board opportunity to ask questions; Board decision; input from the Board; protect teachers jobs; culture; update on CREC two weeks ago; action plan; update progress; input from consultant; SMART goals; PD; action steps; input on phonics; phonics phonemic awareness; part of curriculum; scope and sequence developed; look at districts with literacy success; progress made; shared results from CREC; are following directives.

Board members discussed: every district has a need; input from LEA; coaching position issues; new position this year; has stipend; need for clarifying position; bargaining unit input; system of teachers; possible job description needed; K-3 level; K-6 math all different; should go through Board; put students first; coaches and interventionists; proprietary level; started as coordinator; not working with job description; contractual issues; not Board function; need for Board to be informed; tremendous steps for teachers to follow; coaching with solid lessons; math specialists needed; implement standards; possible conflicts; bring to CPP; form over substance; coordinating student performance; coaching is working; responsibilities of coordinators; present at next meeting; need to include in budget; where we are and how we got here; concerns at meeting;
concerns with L.C.S. reading program; public concern about that; numbers Board looks at; hired auditor for input; advice was given; need to hear from people we hired; to update reading program; CREC concerns; are experts; need to come to Board meeting and share findings; dyslexia findings; explain our direction; expert analysis is needed; have school with expert administrators and teachers; how we implement that; need reading expert; have issues now; hired someone to help; if hired people need to see what they recommend; not doing what they recommend; need to communicate that; all want the same thing; question phonics needs; issues with email concerns from parents.

MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Morosani: to have the CREC people come between now and the November meetings.

Board members discussed: careful what looking at; all feedback given to Board; issue with costs to have CREC attend; we can meet needs with programs we have; not pursuing programs recommended; more systematic approach; not pursuing programs across the grades; more needed in communication; experts input; explicit with phonics for 100% of students; hear what CREC came up with; need to share audit; had feedback from CREC and parents; new forms used; in smart goals; target intervention; don’t want to throw out phonics program; costs involved; CREC specific about our program; like other program; recommendation from administrators; don’t need expensive program; see how kids do with what have; 20 different programs out there; issues with programs we are using; investigate others; not a threat to hear from CREC; is appropriate; already presented; series of hypotheses; need input from CREC; can they return and at what cost; emails were sent with updates.

MOTION amended by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Morosani: to not exceed $2,000 for CREC to present to the Board.

AMENDED motion failed. Ms. Stone, Mr. Morosani, Mr. Terzian, Mr. Shuhi voted in the positive. Ms. Carr, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Simone, and Mr. Clock voted in the negative.

MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Morosani: to ask Superintendent Turner to contact CREC and ascertain the price to have them come back out and present to the BOE.

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

Board consensus was to review all the CREC documents

Committee Reports
Finance - Mr. Simone reported that the committee met and discussed the following: all things covered by Mr. Fiorillo this evening.

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will meet on Friday.

Ed Advance – none

Ad Hoc Collaboration - Mr. Morosani reported that the committee met and discussed: review of long term plan; plan to cover 2019 – 2020; see districts go forward; 2 different systems; difficult to combine; periods included for classes; courses detailed; can up courses; discussed 2020-2021; ag-science building; don’t have transportation to take students; difficult combining business offices; need input from our town; Region 6 own district; don’t need town approval; our schools on town land so need input from Selectmen; discussion with BOF; and next meeting next Monday.

Technology - none.

Policy – meeting October 29th.

Policy Review – none

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Terzian: to move to Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss:

a. Recommendation to Hire
b. Legal advice from our counsel regarding collaboration with Region 6
c. Personnel Matter – Superintendent’s Goals

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

Executive Session

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

Superintendent Turner, Ms. Kubisek, and Mr. Fiorillo were invited to attend.

Ms. Kubisek left at 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Fiorillo left at 9:51 p.m.

Returned to public session at 10:24 p.m.
MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to accept a recommendation to hire of Richard Kokinchak.

MOTION carried. Motion carried with all in favor. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew B. Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary