A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the L.C.S. gym.

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

Absent was: Ms. Carr, Chair.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to add to the agenda as VI. d a discuss of tuition request.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to add to the agenda as VI e a discussion of CREC presentation.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to add to the agenda as VI f a discussion of the Rubicon program.

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Ms. Stone: to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2018 meeting with the following correction on page 3772 change “AMENDMENT failed” to “AMENDED motion failed” and add “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. “

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Mr. Pavlick abstained.
Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Mr. Morosani and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: approve the payment of FY 2018-19 invoice on Accounts Payable warrant # 2019-08 dated 10/31/2018 in the amount of $73,027.51; warrant #2019-9 dated 11/7/2018 in the amount of $150,193.01 and on Food Service warrant dated 11/7/2018 in the amount of $10,173.01.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications

a. STPC –none.
   PTO – Ms. Saunders reported for Ms. Wilcox: 700 people attended the Family Costume Dinner; 80 volunteers; students and parents and teachers; CS book fair details; next Tuesday to Friday; family event; Nov. 15th shopping day; coordinated with teacher conferences.

b. LHS Student Council – none.


d. Litchfield Education Foundation – Ms. Saunders reported: new Board; Ms. Hawley, President; Ms. Foss, Vice President; Ms. Saunders, Secretary; Mr. Anderson, Treasurer; new format this year; send applications out to community; emphasize STEM; multi-cultural; save dates; Minds in Motion in April; at L.H.S.; collaboration with CT Association for the Gifted programs; Retro Dodgeball Tournament in March at L.H.S.; and great success in past years.

e. Other public comment.
   ➢ Ms. Hodges, Administrative Assistant: thanked the Board and Superintendent for their supportive actions in dealing with a difficult situation.
   ➢ Mr. Stone commented: read a letter to Board; deeply regret having Ms. Stone, a dedicated person who gives a lot of time to district, taken from her duties as CPP chair; address accusations made by Vice-Chair; issues with son involvement; violations of privacy concerns and need to spend more time on developing curriculum.
   ➢ Ms. Wilson commented: support of Lynn Stone on CPP Committee and need to have Curriculum data posted for community to see and use.
   ➢ Francesca Kracht commented: need for curriculum action plan with transparency to show progress and support for Lynn Stone to remain on CPP; also commented: concerns regarding reading program issues.
   ➢ Ms. Barnes commented: no longer have curriculum coordinators; support Ms. Stone to remain on CPP committee; researches well; best interest of kids; and CAPSTONE program needs to be started earlier than just in senior year.

f. Correspondence-
   ➢ Email from Stacy Carosella Morgan re: FOI published decision.
   ➢ Email from Caroline Wilcox re: Reading Program at Center school.
Email from Annamari Curtiss re: Reading intervention and curriculum.
Email from Sara Schuch re: Importance of proper reading instruction.
Letter from LEA re: Rubicon Atlas breach.
Letter from administrative team re: Communication from Litchfield Administrators Association.

g. Administrators’ Report –

- Ms. Haggard reported: she will be reporting at the next CPP meeting.
- Ms. Deltano reported: conferences next week; Veteran’s Celebration on Friday; 30 will attend; PD on school and community; social emotional and health development.
- Dr. Pascento reported: parent conferences upcoming; 6th grade conferences; Friday Veterans’ Day assembly; 11 vets attending; 2nd workshop held with Columbia input; PD yesterday on Instructional Rounds; Student Council collected 2,000 cans of food to give to community members in need; 17 students involved.
- Ms. Della Volpe reported: end of a successful fall sports season and congratulations to all athletes involved.
- Mr. Fiorillo reported: distributed “YTD Budget to Actual Report” and discussed the new budget report; budget process started; facilities manager involved; school safety meetings held; district wide plan.

Old Business - none.

New Business

a. “One Book, One Litchfield”
Ms. Scozzafava distributed the LHS Newspaper, The Torch and introduced Patricia Moore from Oliver Wolcott Library and reviewed the following: had idea for years; grant proposal; all read same book, Uncle Tom’s Cabin; an alternate for younger grades; speaker from Canada participated; in evening; May 9 at 3:00 p.m. for event; lecturers will attend; develop program at library; wonderful grant; everyone will read book; comparable piece to read at L.C.S.; work with students; plan on the 9th; have workshops by grades; insight to action grades 4-6; be united; words change the world grades 7 and 8, including letter writing; 21st century parlor event grades 9-12, social activism; library will have raffle; free membership to Harriet Beecher Stowe House; for students and parents; thank Board for support and start reading.

b. 2019-2020 School Calendar
Superintendent Turner distributed Option 1 and Option 2 for board consideration. The difference is that Option 1 has an early dismissal on the first day of school and no school on December 23rd and Option 2 has a full day the first day of school and half-day on December 23rd.
Board members reviewed the calendars and discussed: need to align with Region 6; 181 days total; need to keep total days to use as an option for end of year scheduling changes; gives flexibility; have options to close on Friday and not go on to Monday; need 23rd of December off; good for families; and possible virtual snow day for students.

**MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Terzian:** to approve Option 1 as the LPS 2019-2020 School Year Calendar.

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

c. **2019 Board of Education and Committee meeting schedules**

Superintendent Turner distributed Option A and B “Litchfield Board of Education Meetings-2019 and noted the difference in timing for F&T meeting.

Board members discussed: trying F&T at 9:30 a.m.; all other subcommittee meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m.; Board meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m.; can be flexible to meet later if requested.

**MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Morosani:** to approve 2019 Board of Education and Committee meeting schedule option B.

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

d. **Tuition Request**

Superintendent Turner distributed a tuition request from Ian and Kristine Newell to enroll their child at L.C.S.

**MOTION made by Mr. Morosani and seconded by Mr. Terzian:** to approve the tuition request from Mr. and Mrs. Ian Newell to enroll their child in L.C.S. as presented.

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

e. **CREC discussion**

**MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Pavlick:** to have CREC present to Board as requested.

Board members discussed: concerns with CREC presenters being different from the ones who presented earlier; budget implications; observe L.C.S. reading recommendations in action; presentation Dec. 5th; why meeting needed; teachers involved to be included; curriculum issues; literacy issues; possible loss of business for CREC; and findings to be presented.
MOTION carried. Ms. Stone; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Morosani; Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Terzian voted in the affirmative. Mr. Simone voted in the negative.

f. Rubicon discussion
Superintendent Turner reviewed the letter from the LEA about Lynn Stone being given access to Rubicon Atlas where curriculum and assessments are created and maintained; access is only supposed to be granted through the district or with written consent from the Superintendent; Rubicon has apologized for their discrepancy; district can see who accesses the program; this is supposed to be private for teachers and administrators; question if assessments were made public; surprised when Board member was on program; got name of contact person who allowed this; Ms. Stone misrepresented herself; called to gain access; he apologized for misstating.

Ms. Stone read letter to Board: stating that she never called to misrepresent self; have access to LPS curriculum; in public domain; need to do some research as have done before; privacy area to see curriculum; state standards shall establish a school curriculum access; need to develop; data to follow state standards; State BOE input; insist that all schools have curriculum for State standards; need to have integrated curriculum; our duty as Board member; also have input as a parent of 7th grade student; required for son to be protected; may request info as a parent; other districts provide curriculum for public; units of study; common core; due diligence; need to compile curriculum units for all students in public schools; taxpayers pay for this; state statute; compare curriculum; enrollment down; issues with bullet points in letter from LEA; fraud issues; support school district for all kids; at sacrifice for my son; called Rubicon; in boundary of research; called rep; used to have curriculum in binders; open to Board; need to investigate what curriculum looks like; thought only had view access; shown how to use; and going to units of study for reading and math.

Board members discussed: harsh accusations made by LEA; portions read from Code of Ethics; issues with assessments made public; contacted as a parent or Board member; Board members should not call vendors; no parent can get curriculum on Rubicon; need to go through Board Chair or Superintendent; issues with transparency; issues with seeing assessments; how access assessments; has to be sequestered; exposed to assessments; issues if share with any students; misguided research; possible agenda; unusual that vendor could bring someone into the program who should not have access; perception given; look through curriculum; leave yourself open to opportunity; wanted to bypass system; Rubicon Atlas system issues; share curriculum; assessments can’t be in it; administrators involved; Board have time to self-evaluate; Board has to do business; unit of authority as a Board not as a Board member; need to get together; need to function effectively; need steps to have curriculum available; Ms. Stone wanted to be educated; need to raise bar in community; need to support each other; good teachers, good curriculum; is perception to community; have to protect reputation; Board as parents make a difference; need to go through Board Chair or Superintendent not on own; input from teachers when breached; entered into private domain; issues with tone of LEA letter; Code of Ethics issues; Board members ethics for entering Rubicon; input from CPP meeting; setting private or not; $7,000 for 2 years; need to have vertical integrated curriculum; get on website; is demo available; standard viewing; can call
vendor; 4 violations are extreme; policies involved; have spent over $10,000 and still little improvement; where got info for letter; need to follow protocol and go through Superintendent or Chair; what try to accomplish with this program; curriculum not complete yet; anticipation when will be completed; accusations involved; have jobs to do; need to prioritize getting curriculum available to community; can see some curriculum now; and timing for when community can view curriculum; this probe did not go right; restrictions should be in place; how security came into play; curriculum foundation K-12; access should be secure; what will public get to access; can be secured but timing is the issue; program explained by rep; vertical alignment of each subject area; integrated with state and local statutes; is quick way of doing this; need to work better with BOE and teaching staff; major issues need to be solved; students will suffer; need to bring Rubicon to CPP to begin curriculum programming made available to community; need to make strides; timing sooner rather later; need to align; need to train teachers; possible PD; don’t have curriculum coordinator anymore; need for Board self-evaluation meeting; need to take actions; possible involvement of attorney; Code of Ethics violation issues; issues with bringing to Board of Ethics; need to redo assessments; creates conflict of interest; cost to redo assessments, $3,000; bigger picture is curriculum; reprimanding Board members; request from LEA to reply with letter by Friday; next steps to be taken; discuss at CPP; need to communicate back; and could reply decision has been delayed.

Committee Reports

Finance - Mr. Simone reported that the committee met and discussed: need for extra help and Special Ed funding.

Curriculum, Program and Personnel - None.

Facilities and Technology - None.

Ed Advance - Ms. Stone reported that the committee met last Thursday; discussed - budget status; update on transportation; input from Winchester Public Schools; under standards; have new Superintendent; hired EdAdvance to do curriculum; LA and Math; # 1 in state for growth; scores highest in math in state; LA also good; willing to share with other districts; collaborative effort; offer to other districts at a third of the cost; transportation collaboration starting; EdAdvance community support; transportation started; per student fee and enrollment numbers.

Ad Hoc Collaboration - None.

Ad Hoc Technology - None.

Policy – Committee met and the policies follow for review.
Policy Review

- First Reading
  1. Policy # 1314 Fund Raising – policy was reviewed. Return to BOE at next regular meeting for second reading.
  2. Policy # 9230 Orientation of Board Members – policy was reviewed. Return to BOE at next regular meeting for second reading.
  3. Bylaw #9321 Time, Place, Notification of Meetings – policy was reviewed. Return to BOE at next regular meeting for second reading.

- Second Reading
  1. Policy # 4111.3 Hiring

     MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Morosani: to approve Policy # 4111.3 Hiring as amended.

     MOTION withdrawn by Mr. Terzian and withdrawn by Mr. Morosani.

     MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Morosani: to move to Executive Session at 9:02p.m. to discuss:

     a. Other Negotiations.

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

Executive Session

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

Superintendent Turner and Mr. Fiorillo were invited to attend.

Returned to public session at 9:16p.m.

     MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to share with Region 6 the opinion generated by Litchfield BOE attorney that deals with shared classes.

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

     MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to accept the amended MOA with Region 6.
MOTION carried. Motion carried with all in favor. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Ms. Stone and seconded by Mr. Morosani: to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew B. Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary