A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 5, 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. Pavlick; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Simone; and Mr. Terzian.

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

**Approval of Minutes**

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Terzian: to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2018 meeting with the following correction on page 3777 change “Becher” to “Beecher,” on page 3781 under motion withdrawn change “seconded” to “withdrawn.”

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Carr 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 # 2019-10 dated 11/13/2018 in the amount of $228,998.89; warrant #2019-11 dated 12/5/2018 in the amount of $100,726.56 and on Food Service warrant dated 11/28/2018 in the amount of $10,556.75.

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

**Public Comment and Correspondence Communications**

i. STPC –none.

PTO – Ms. Wilcox including the following: events on Dec. 3rd at LIS and Dec. 4th at L.C.S.; successful yo-yo sales fundraiser; move forward on 503c status; retail day with stores participating to give 5% to schools; this week; first day time meeting held on the 19th; newer faces new ideas; some current, some new; Feb. 2nd event; corsage fundraiser; March 16 or 17; successful fall photos; planning for teacher appreciation and bus driver appreciation; upcoming anti bullying program; spring photos event; and google chrome updates.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to move agenda item VI. a. to now.
MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

New Business

a. Juvenile Review Board

Tfc. James Holm, Litchfield Resident Trooper; Sgt. Joseph Roden, Woodbury Resident Trooper; and Ms. Joy Geraci, Woodbury JRB Intake Coordinator, distributed a pamphlet entitled “Juvenile Review Board Court Diversion Program” and a packet from State of Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice, entitled, “Establishing a Juvenile Review Board,” and discussed: safety officers input; softens affairs; Region 6 input; possibly introduce in Litchfield schools; input from Prevention Council; spearheaded program at Region 6; diversion program; keep juveniles out of criminal justice system; need for youth services; review board third option; keep local; face disciplinary action; partner with Prevention Council; input from Region 14; administration input; possible criminal case; possible community service; tailored to individual student.

Board members discussed: where cut off with felons; possible break-ins; can’t take felons; Superintendent can make some exceptions; case dependent; incidents based on age; how to proceed to set up program; begin with State’s Attorney speaking; input from community volunteers; input from Board; 4 towns involved; input from Prevention Council; community based effort; law enforcement involved; community program; need to find intake coordinator; include families if possible; need for parent involvement in decision process; juvenile referral; student must be involved and willing; appear before Board; options can be different; example of sexting issues; age issues; possible misdemeanor; can go to juvenile review board; issues if student doesn’t want to complete diversion requirements; could refer back to juvenile court; start process with intake person; made up of whole community; and infraction happens effects whole community.

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications - continuation

ii. LHS Student Council – none.
iv. Other public comment.

- Mr. Shannon commented: possible violation in Superintendent’s office; expense to taxpayers; accusations to parent made; need for evidence; possible video from security camera; request from FOI; result in hearing and results; taxpayer expense of $5,700.
- Ms. Wilson commented: reading concerns; CREC results status on L.C.S. reading program; issues with phonics instruction; and concerns about students with dyslexia.
- Mr. Stedronsky commented: input from Board of Finance; collect data from cooperative program with Region 6 to show savings; and include in present budget.
Ms. Morgan commented: issues with FOI status; need to defend myself against bullying behavior; want name redacted from public comment; issues with defending FOIA at $5,700; want Board apology and make a motion to remove name.

Mr. Wilson commented: school bullying on the part of the Board to silence a parent; closed and toxic environment; and open ears and start listening.

v. Correspondence-
- Thank you note from Ms. Kubisek.
- Email from Sara Schuch re: Importance of proper reading instruction.
- Email from Sara Reynolds re: Checking in.
- Email from Lynn Rice Scozzafava re: BOE decision.
- Email from Debra Cahill re: transparency.
- Email from Sarah Worden re: Reading at Center School.
- Email from Julie Foss re: Strategic Planning Committee.
- Email from Gayle Carr re: Correspondence
- Letter from Harvey Hubbell V re: documentary filmmaker “Dislecksia: The Movie”.

vi. Administrators’ Report –
- Ms. Haggard reported via handout: student achievement; SRBI updates; reading PD; provided by CREC; culture; continuation of Care Teams; communication; Greenwoods Parent Workshops; update on follow-up providers; resources; FY 19-20 budget planning.
- Ms. Deltano reported via handout: student achievement; administration of NWEA; SRBI process; grade 3 readers workshops; annual Colonial Day Activity; Ms. Clementson, Ms. Moore, Mr. Parker, and Ms. Marshall coordinated; culture; warm and fuzzy jars; grade 1 completed 26 days of kindness; 4th fire drill; communication; teachers continue updates; parent teacher conferences held; Literacy Volunteers started; Rigby the therapy dog introduced.
- Dr. Pascento reported via handout: student achievement; third Teachers College PD; Hour of Code on Wednesday; grade 6 field trip to Children’s Science Museum; 6 students to attend robotics competition; Ms. Tesch counseling lessons continue; culture; Pillars of Good Character celebration; PTO sponsored NED show on mindset; school wide safety plan updated; parent conferences scheduled; winter band and chorus concerts upcoming Dec, 13th; communication; Friday communication blasts; MAP results; report cards sent home Dec. 7th.
- Ms. Kubisek reported via handout: student achievement; global read aloud; fall MAP scores analyzed; observations for non-tenured staff; culture; Ultimate Advisory team in progress; third annual Fun Night on Dec. 7th; communication; new 7th grade Special Education teacher, Mr. Kokinchak building relationships with parents; teachers submitting news-letters; resources; budget requests for next year.
- Ms. Della Volpe reported via handout: student achievement; school to career coordinator, Lynn Rice Scozzafava, organizing field trips; Game Day with Mr. Lok and Ms. Young; Kathrine Kuegler qualified for 2018 All-National Honor
Ensembles Festival at Disney World; partnership courses chosen with principal, Sabin Loveland; culture; acts of kindness update; semi-formal held with 150 attending; proceeds donated to local families in need; NHS accepting donations for Relay for Life; communication; letter sent to parents regarding course selection process; resources; submit budget requests.

Mr. Fiorillo - none.

Old Business - none.

New Business


Three CREC educational specialists, including Mary Jo Terranova and Jessica Kazigian, reported: visited L.C.S. on Nov. 29, 2018; reviewed recommendations made in June 2018; classroom observations done in each grade level; seven focused interviews done with teachers, interventionists and special education teachers; took recommendations and evidence; direct instruction; reading skills done; blending; phonics intervention and instruction; scope and sequence; continuance of literary skills; teachers explicit instruction; record based process; feedback process; indicators used; descriptive words; diagnosis site; most types of phonetic instruction is needed; teacher receives technical assistance; literacy instructor; Smart goals; school based data; are making progress; target smart goals; timely and specific; start to take look at data; goal lines; trend level of achievement; could end intervention; could change intervention; could keep longer if needed; assessments in spring; reading recovery as intervention; not always the best; conflicting research; adoption of hybrid approach; DIBELS used; reading fluency; 85% significantly higher than national data; 85% in tier I success; student research needs.

Board members discussed: student data; BAS benchmark; just based on teachers’ skills; state achievement at 80%; all skills involved; fluency needs; 85% with DIBELS; need for excellent teachers to achieve progress; specific needs for the 15% who haven’t achieved success; are learning or not; observations needed; recommendations made; have those corrections been made; recommendations have been implemented with fidelity from earlier study; teachers of phonics and tier I intervention; not new issues; have beefed it up; why those who reported on the June 2018 observation are not returning now; one is on maternity leave; need different perspective; different set of eyes; call made by CREC official; different recommendations; difference of professional opinions; explicit to phonics; send different professionals to get different perspective; were recommendations met from the June 2018 review; structured literacy moved to; 2 days for PD; possible need for more PD; PD is always needed; programs that don’t work; research based intervention; tier II used; teacher instruction with individual students; concerns about assessments; need to assess for dyslexia; need to get to students on time; screening needed; make sure intervention is proper; DIBELS use; letter recognition; fluency issues; page 3 in document; oral word fluency; reading word fluency; additional screening needed; have significant issues in all 3
areas; what observe as a teacher; need for all to be involved in screening; how student motivated; teacher recognizing tools; recognize tools and have resources; teacher better screener than anything else; need to share with original presenters from June; very different from August report; whole language to structured literacy; Tier I, II and III; what happens if do poorly; what really changed; not doing well in screening; need to set goal line; select data; look at tier II; do more screening; data team approach; more targeted instruction; not just meeting in tiers; targeted goals; get student in correct tier; tool box of tricks; differentiated goals were improvised; rephrasing questions; instruction in regular ed programs; meeting needs of students; not all of them; first group came in; to meet need of everyone; instruction has changed; SRBI has changed; refined; target way to get students help that they need; structured literacy evidence based program; learning disability issues; beneficial for all students; need to do better; look at data and possibly explore other districts; State Department of Education recommendations; training needed; always need more; writers workshops needed; transfer of skills; compensation being made; process to get to all intervention; committing to 100% success; teacher misunderstanding possible; see others from August again; check data and what look at; any form of student assessment data used; testing used; and use MAP testing.

MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to add to the agenda as VI g. a discussion of removal of Stacy Morgan’s name from last set of minutes.

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

c. Regional School District # 6 Memorandum of Agreement.

MOTION made by Mr. Morosani and seconded by Mr. Terzian: to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with a change made by Region 6 on page 1 footnote 1.

Board members discussed: already approved but Region 6 made a slight change; types of classes shared; issues with numbers; possibly eliminate classes; extend to June 2020; clarity made; and give some type of out if needed.

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

d. Child Nutrition Program.

Mr. Fiorillo presented an update on Child Nutrition Program with updates from the USDA food nutrition program last updated in 1998.

MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Simone: to authorize the Superintendent of Schools, Sherri Turner and the Director of Business Operations, David Fiorillo to sign the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.
MOTION carried. All votes were in affirmative. There were no abstentions.

e. Letter of Apology to Litchfield Education Association.

Ms. Carr requested that the Board approve a letter of apology composed by her to the LEA for policy violation and discussed the following: negative impact in district; support the hard work that they do.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to have Chairperson Carr construct a letter of apology as discussed.

Board members discussed: possibly hold off until after Board retreat where a discussion can be had about what went down; discuss how to put it forth; then decide if letter of apology is needed; Board philosophies are different; need to sit down and discuss; issues to review; Board difficult with administrators; don’t value their work; created additional work for them that could have been avoided; budget expenses; Rubicon incident; frustrated for a long time; haven’t functioned well; sick of it; why Board is here; need to apologize; everyone wants an apology; have criteria for letter; do in civil manner; give their best for the kids; all sides need to be heard before send an apology; if don’t send now, then empty apology; feel not understood and unwanted; perception big part of this; feelings are hurt; perception of apology needs to be genuine; issues with actions of the Board; work not valued; do not have support; doing best they can; need to applaud their professional capacity; need to get more info; not our business to question LEA; need to reprimand the Board; need to know what apology is for; get input from Board members and draft letter and bring to next meeting; what we’ve all done; should be able to see what is in letter if sent from all Board members on our behalf or an apology just from Chairperson.

MOTION carried. Ms. Carr; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick and Mr. Simone voted in the affirmative. Ms. Stone; Mr. Morosani; Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Terzian voted in the negative.

f. Board Retreat.

Board members discussed: need for a retreat and discussed the following: have to go back and try again; third retreat; do better job; need moderator; if use legal counsel will cost $1,000 an hour; other professional mediators; less expensive; need one with knowledge of situation; if use Fred, can use legal budget; if use someone else, not sure where get money; 2 sides defined; very dangerous; input from CABE; need for neutral party; knowledgeable; Fred, safe bet; possible use of past Superintendents; meaningful investment; possible Mr. McCormick; or Mr. Petricone; and Board consensus was to use Fred.

g. Updating minutes from November 7th.
MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the minutes of the November 7th again with the follow correction on page 3776 remove Ms. Morgan’s name and end with difficult situation.

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

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Turner distributed a handout that reviewed the following: student achievement; curriculum facilitators assisting teachers with Rubicon Atlas; reported to CPP teachers engage in work for 2 hours each Wednesday Pre K-12; MAP testing K-9 completed; reports sent to parents; use data to inform instruction and develop intervention plans; culture; updated safety plans done by School Safety Committees and the District Safety Committee; communication; first District Newsletter sent before Thanksgiving; monthly parent workshops continue in collaboration with Greenwoods and LPC; workshop on “Who’s in charge here?” resources; David presented development of Capital Plan; discussed plan and priorities; administrators budgets due to Central Office before the holiday break.

Committee Reports

Finance - Mr. Simone reported that the committee did not meet.

Curriculum, Program and Personnel - Mr. Clock reported that the committee met and discussed: Special Education update from Julie; cost of programs; data trends; allocation of revenue; curriculum review; referral process; curriculum plan; assist teachers with Rubicon; 2 hour PD during early dismissal work days; guidance required; meeting budget performance; 1.6 FTE if 25 credits required; issues with Legacy Program; student creating goals; input from Torrington; 2 students in Legacy Program now; did have 4; could participate in Torrington’s; possible .5 FTE; drop out issues; graduation issues; did fund program; students move out of program; not a big program like Torrington’s; high risk student needs; rather than outplacing; concerns for 1.6 FTE for Capstone; updating policy for graduation; State suspended Capstone; 0 students doing it now; not a lot of interest doing Capstone; mostly requirement for graduation; very structured class; not exciting for students; need student feedback; not need 1.6 FTE for structured class; other schools do other things more exciting for students; independent study possible; if leave mandate, not the best thing; still need teacher; have to have staff to meet program needs; independent study needs staff; and need to discuss in Policy Committee.

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met on the 19th and discussed: construction and air quality; rain and leaking; outer blocks at L.I.S.; L.H.S. okay; software access control; how and why occurs; system documentation; set up with Jamie; inventory process; building blocks over the years; educational needs; weeping from
walls; moisture on walls; ceiling issues; Capital funding for needs; water intrusion issues; solar panels updated; put back on agenda; possible large panels needed; solar field possible; explore more; need to rethink it now; likely go away next year; more innovative projects this year.

Ed Advance - None.

Ad Hoc Region 6 - Mr. Morosani reported that the committee met and discussed the following: Wamogo and Litchfield possible classes shared; AP classes; US History, Latin; student sign up; MOA discussed; pay day for upcoming year; possibly finish up soon; meet on the 20th again; and how to go forward.

Ad Hoc Technology - none.

Policy Review

a. Second Reading

i. Policy # 1314 Fund Raising

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Policy # 1314 Fund Raising as submitted.

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

ii. Policy # 4111.3 Hiring – tabled.

iii. Bylaw # 9230 Orientation of Board Members.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Bylaw # 9230 Orientation of Board Members as submitted.

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

iv. Bylaw #9321 Time, Place, Notifications of Meeting.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Bylaw # 9321 Time, Place, Notification of Meetings.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.
MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Morosani: to move to Executive Session at 9:22 p.m. to discuss: a. Pending Litigation – ME – 33443 - Update

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

Executive Session

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

Superintendent Turner and Mr. Fiorillo were invited to attend.

Returned to public session at 9:41 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Morosani: to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew B. Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary