A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Center School 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; Ms. Della Volpe; the press and members of the public.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to add to the agenda as VI e. a discussion about a retirement.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Clock: to add to the agenda as VII c. a discussion on insurance.

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

**China Visit**

Three seniors, Chris Coolbeth, Elizabeth Elmendorf and Riley Majeske, who visited China in the spring presented an overview of their visit including: visiting Beijing; historical cities; natural surroundings; Shanghai visit; 2-3 day excursions; visit to Great Wall; guides used; shopping done; unusual food eaten; couldn’t stay with families because had exams; visited schools; types of classes viewed; formal high school visited; tasting black fungus; very different diet; sharing spoken language; very enriching trip and would do it again.

**Approval of Minutes**

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 25, 2019; regular meeting of May 1, 2019 with the following correction on page 3841 last word in Ms. Della Volpe’s report capitalize “memorial.”

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Stone abstained.
Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Clock: approve the payment of FY 2018-19 invoice on Accounts Payable warrant # 2019-25 dated 5/16/2019 in the amount of $101,248.37; food service warrant dated 5/15/2019 in the amount of $13,225.22.

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.
f. Correspondence-
   ➢ An email from Julie Rooney re: Response to LEA President public comment.
   ➢ An email from Lynn Rice Scozzafava re: LEA member concerns.
   ➢ A letter of retirement from Barbara S. Crusius, Crossing Guard.
   ➢ Thank you note from Joanne Murphy and Jan Warner for flowers for Secretaries’ Day.
   ➢ Thank you note from Beth DeFiore for flowers for Nurse’s Day.
g. Administrators’ Report – none.

New Business


Mr. Fiorillo introduced Trish Molloy who introduced the program as presented from the guidelines which have to be updated yearly including the motions needed to proceed.

Healthy food option:

MOTION made by Ms. Stone and seconded by Mr. Clock: Healthy Food option: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the school under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.
MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Food exemptions:

MOTION made by Ms. Stone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: Food exemption: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

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

Exemptions for beverages:

MOTION made by Ms. Stone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: Exemptions for beverages: The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

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

Board members acknowledged Trish for all her hard work in getting this done.

b. PDEC Update.

Superintendent Turner updated the Board on the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee including: certification for teachers and administrators; responsible for developing learning plans; meet 3 times a year; collaborate; PD focus areas; mindset included; instructional plans; get feedback; PD plans for several years; Pre K – 12; teacher feedback appreciated; Instructional Rounds done; facilitate work; grade level teams;
develop and design professional development plans; done as district; teams visit other buildings; implement at building level; PD conversations; next step forward; very valuable work; coaching done; need to review LEED document; make necessary changes; regulations considered; TEAM mentors; need for certification for teachers involved; input from Mr. O’Connell; important for TEAM mentors; training needed; not free anymore; 19-20 teachers have certifications but will expire soon; need to update; edTPA for new teachers; planning modules; other PD opportunities; mindfulness; health PD; curriculum writing; L.C.S. reading focus; teacher evaluation document finalized; and thankful for all that has been accomplished.

Board members discussed: staff need to be certified as mentors; need to ensure proper training for new teachers; need TEAM mentors; timing for updating mentors; 3-5 years; teachers vetted through training; PD on math at L.C.S.

c. Resignation.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Stone: to accept the resignation of Katie Gallucci as special education teacher grades 4-6 as of June 17, 2019.

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

Board members discussed the exit interview process, the policies and who participates.

d. Superintendent New Hire.

MOTION made by Ms. Stone and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve the Litchfield Public School to negotiate with Region 6 for shared Superintendent services.

Board members discussed: members involved in the process; timing done by end of month; need a process similar in the two districts; and scheduling meetings needed.

e. Retirement.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Clock: to accept the retirement of Judith I. Albert as presented with thanks for dedication for years of service.

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


Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Fiorillo reported that the Facilities and Technology Committee met last Friday and discussed: coordinating transportation with Region 6 next year; June 30th of next year Region 6 will own their busses; committee approves assignment of contract as presented by Mr. DuFour; and need for flexibility.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Stone: to approve the sale of All Star Transportation to STA.

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

b. FERPA update.

Ms. Carr reported with an update on the alleged FERPA violation. After a thorough investigation it has been determined that there was no breech in confidentiality by any staff member, including the Superintendent, nor by any independent contractor. Therefore, the FERPA complaint has been closed.

c. Insurance.

Mr. Morosani distributed a handout, “Comparison of Self-Insured Pool vs. ConnectiCare Quote # 2” and “Evolution of BOE Budget” and discussed: options offered; meeting of Finance Committee; need to look closely; issues with ConnectiCare; implications for us and town; offset cost to town; possibly combine the two; more reasonable decision; issues with disadvantaging our employees; concerns with costs for them; take appropriate action for employees; possible $50,000 put aside from pool for self-insured; keep costs down; match same amount of money; contribution could be the same for employees; now include 2.5% increase approved by BOF; self vs pool; employee contribution comes out; what is left; timing for May 1st; lower employee contribution; little left over; BOF added to change bid; look at possibility to have BOE stay with town; combined for 29 years; what will be left over; issues with lower numbers; contributions to self-insurance pool; risk in alienating BOS; issues with increase for the town; get what you pay for; and need our cooperation with the rest of the town.

Board members discussed: get what approved; still comes out of BOE budget; saved $68,000 out of our budget; issues with what town pays for insurance; asked for 3.87% increase but got 2.5% increase; issues with losing programs and personnel; not our money but the towns; BOE pays 1/3 of money for health insurance; reduces funding for educational programs; issues with what town pays; funds needed to subsidize town insurance; money in pool put there by taxpayers; Selectmen stated that have contract so are limited; BOE has contracts also; AFSCME employees
cannot afford increases; does BOS have authority to pull money out of pool; issues with legality of it; our job to bring in good pricing; at meeting BOF and BOS in agreement to go for appropriations; regardless of what insurance companies cost will be the same; BOF first zero percent increase; now 2.5%; don’t want to disadvantage employees; numbers have changes to help employees; $1,363 difference between the two; percentage of difference will be negotiated by town; Option A to self-insure; net cost to town; if we go down they go up; $140,000 different cost to us; 2 different plans; 10.7% or 13.9%; hope to stay at lower cost; give reduction; make equal; small difference for BOE; do what we can with self-insurance pool so not an advantage; $140,000 now $68,000; input from Fred Dorsey; need to reduct all previous motions and start all over; only those who voted for the insurance could reverse the motions; all who voted for the insurance have to agree to change votes; need to consider all options; new Superintendent input; input from BOF; can go back to zero percent; net cost to employees; need to negotiate; move forward in a positive way; need to negotiate next year; 147 employees in contract; Region 6 input; 137 employees in Litchfield; concerns about whether deal with Region 6; liability issues with insurance broker; signed contract already; issues with changing contracts; broker issues; issues with negotiating next year; saving funds for educational programs; insurance costs over last 5 years; our costs 5 – 7%; possibly BOS give their employees funding from $50,000 to cover their increase; BOE can keep the policies already signed for; town and BOE can join Region 6 next year; less confusion; BOS fund their employees for year in question; BOS budget for insurance limited and stays the same; BOE increase 2-3% each year; rescinding the motions won’t work; getting to memoranda; attorney very clear; BOS should cover this year and join BOE next year; good faith for next year; other options are there for us; input from other districts like Region 7 joining a co-op; Selectmen blindsided by us; 29 year relationship; BOE saved $68,000 and possibly return to town July 1st.

MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Morosani: to return $68,000 to the town.

Board members discussed: issues if return to town; if funding needed can go to BOF to cover funds for Special Ed; behave in good faith; difference between BOS and BOE budget; BOF in charge; have revenue; BOS has reserve account; BOE does not have a reserve account, less flexibility; have to go to BOF to get funding; have returned money to town over many years; possibly negotiate with vendors; started contract already; expended benefits; saved $68,000; money could be used for kids; 2.5% increase for programs and kids and sports; not getting free money; expenses for tuition students; money is for the district; falls directly under insurance and issues with not on the agenda.

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

Superintendent’s Report - none.
Committee Reports

Finance - None.

Curriculum, Program and Personnel - Mr. Clock reported that the committee met and discussed: L.H.S. course enrollment; numbers in each class; issues with low enrollment; L.H.S. programs; graduation requirements; Public Act for education; began 2018; part of SS curriculum; Holocaust education and genocide education; must be addressed; grade 8 SS and ELA; Global Studies; Western Humanities; and US History.

Board discussed: 42 courses; issues with numbers; budget with Board; plan B possible; high quality education; declining population; declining enrollment; issues with class numbers; need to come back with numbers; will see better at end of year; schedule already done; input from new Superintendent; continue collaboration; driven by needs of kids; issues with singleton classes; and AP classes scheduled.

Facilities and Technology – Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met and discussed: bus contract; list of summer projects, and input from Mr. Fasano.

EdAdvance – Ms. Stone reported that the committee met and discussed: budget concerns; lower enrollment; end in red; Torrington site addressed; kids outplaced; more tactical; transportation for Special Ed; Education Services; grants received and proposed; challenges and dedicated to excellence.

Policy - none.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss:


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. Falcetti; Mr. Shuhi; Ms. Stone; Mr. Morosani; and Mr. Pavlick.

Ms. Turner was invited to attend.

Returned to public session at 8:52 p.m.
MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Simone: to support the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the renewal of the non-tenured teachers for 2019-2020.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Stone: to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew B. Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary