A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 20, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the L.C.S. gym.

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

Absent was: Mr. Morosani

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

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to add to the agenda under Executive Session as X d. FOI Hearing, e. Recommendation for Hire, f. Superintendent’s Contract.

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 6, 2018 as submitted.

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: approve the payment of FY 2017-18 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2018-23 dated 6/21/2018 in the amount of $171,234.07.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications

a. STPC – Jackie Tiul reported: high school students involved; reach all students; snacks offered; interacting with students; pre prom activities; lunch for teachers and secretaries; and 2 scholarships awarded.
PTO – none.
b. LHS Student Council – none.

d. Litchfield Education Foundation – Michelle Anderson reported: handed out “Year End Summary 2017-2018” raised a lot of funds; grants awarded; something at all schools; spelling bee; spelling bee club; creative writing club; mobile maker; school wide book club; funding “Torch” newspaper at L.H.S.; changing Board; four new members; thanks to teachers participating; stretching what do in day; thanks to Board and administrators for participating; and new fundraisers in the fall.

e. Other public comment.
   - Ms. Tiul commented: request Board to revisit cutting the 4th grade teacher and look at class size again.
   - Mr. Stedronsky commented: continuing of ASVAB course at Region 6 even after the tragic loss that they experienced either as a credited course or enrichment after school.

f. Correspondence-
   - Letter from Diane and Jon Wilson re: CREC Program Review, and handout from The International Dyslexia Association.
   - An Email from Stacy Morgan regarding Update: Docket #FIC 2018-0174.
   - Thank you note from the Turner family for flowers of condolences.

g. Administrators’ Report –
   - Mr. Ammary reported: end of year activities; field trips completed; 3rd grade Moving Up activities; teacher meetings scheduled; vertical grade level discussion and thanks to the Board, parents and staff for the past 2 years. The Board thanked Mr. Ammary for all his work over the past 2 years and wished him well in his future endeavors.
   - Ms. Haggard reported: handout including “2018-19 Year End BOE Recap,” community involvement; Best Practice; SRBI/Special Education Referral; Special Education Programming; “Update on Mindfulness Initiative School Year 18-19,” survey results; plan for next year; and thanks to Board, staff, parents and school community for productive year and have a great summer.
   - Dr. Pascento reported: Moving Up last night; field day success; 6th grade social last Friday and thanks to the Board for a successful first year.
   - Ms. Kubisek reported: 8th grade Moving Up tomorrow night and thanks to the Board for their support throughout the year.
   - Ms. Della Volpe reported: Graduation on Monday night at the Warner.
   - Mr. Fiorillo reported: year-end wrap up; summer projects; projections were off; self-insurance pool; was low; not in our favor; issues with numbers in 4th grade; could adjust budget if needed; benefits got more expensive; work off estimate; adjusting year end numbers to work with adjusting staff; meeting on the 2nd; year-end numbers not done to end of July; and small surplus right now.

Old Business – none.
New Business
a. 2017-2018 Gifts, Grants and Bequests - Board members reviewed the list and thanked everyone for their generous donations.
b. Litchfield High School Game Club Proposal - Board members received a request on behalf of Ashley Sullivan for a LHS Game Club.
c. Litchfield High School Book Club - Board members received a request on behalf of Patricia Alber for a LHS Book Club.

Board members discussed: input from Ms. Scozzafava; cost from stipend used; category F for clubs; $2,000 proposed; could be funded by redirecting something else; 5-20 possible students; not numbers so much but the students who will be engaged; students who are not necessarily connected in other areas; grades 9-12; broad measure of students; being together socially; kids need it; concerned money for academic coordinators and staff eliminated which impacts students as well; funding in stipend account not always used; need for kids; staff cuts like 4th grade teacher are concern; need to set priorities; Board practice to align priorities within budget; Board sets budget priorities; funding is worth it for student needs.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Terzian: to approve the LHS Game Club and Book Club as presented.

Board members discussed: group of students involved; attraction for type of students involved; last time exhausted this account; need to bring forward zero budget; and Board sets priorities in Budget.

MOTION carried. Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Simone; Mr. Terzian voted in the positive. Mr. Shuhi voted in the negative. Ms. Stone abstained.

d. Litchfield High School Vision

Mr. Della Volpe presented a PowerPoint outlining: mission statement; 2017-18 School of Distinction; Connecticut next generation accountability system in action at LHS; student performance; academic rigor; absenteeism; mitigate risk from chronic absenteeism; preparation for college; career readiness; AP classes and electives; on track to graduate; intervention in 9th grade; post-secondary entrance; Naviance program; military goals; physical fitness; program redesigned for next year with choices; arts access; new programing in band, chorus and art classes; quote for L.H.S.; student and staff input; commitment to outside curriculum offered; trip to Spain; China delegates; Acts of Kindness; Make A Wish; school newspaper; participation in Infinity Hall; food pantry; blood drive; conferences attended; food drive; Project Purple; book club; art club; National Spanish exam; world language poetry contest; Latin exams; Paul Winter concerts; successful production of “Into the Woods,” college alumni talks; chamber chorus; soup kitchen; accepting new clubs; autumn fest; spring fling; sports involvement; girl’s soccer
Sportsmanship Award; girl’s and boy’s tennis teams went undefeated in the Berkshire League and the boy’s tennis were also the Class S State Champions; swimmers 2nd in Berkshire League; and exciting place to be at L.H.S.

e. Authorize Superintendent.

MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Clock: to authorize the Superintendent to accept and act upon all resignations and to recruit and appoint certified and non-certified staff throughout the summer prior to the first Board meeting in September.

Board members discussed: need to have Board oversight; going away from it; last 6 years have had Board oversight; have checks and balances; can look over possible candidates; need to be involved; some cases go great, others do not; statement of policy; need to approve recommendations; certified and classified personnel needs; not include administration; issues with possible loss of best candidate if wait too long to approve; not needing to know candidate; need to know information on candidate; in policy, could delegate to Superintendent; need to move forward quickly or may lose best candidate; need to provide info on candidates; need to trust administration; best for kids; put faith in administration; hire best candidates; if issues then up to administrators to fix; Board needs to be informed; timing of meetings held in summer; could lose candidates; issues with micro managing; provide oversight; issues with need to be involved.

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

f. Authorize Superintendent.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Stone: to authorize the Superintendent to submit all state and federal grant applications as necessary to meet the required submission dates.

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

g. Revised MOU with Region 6.

Board members reviewed the revised MOU with Region 6 and discussed: approved by Region 6 Board; some changes made; changes discussed last meeting were made; still 12-month agreement; and attorney input.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Terzian: to approve the revised MOU with Region 6 as submitted.
MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Turner reported: P.D. on Monday; preK-12; update on CPI; update on Special Ed teachers and administrators; annual report; drafting report now; final newsletter done; feed-back from stakeholders; reading audit will be presented July 17th at the CPP meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology – no report.

Curriculum, Program and Personnel - Ms. Stone reported that the committee met and discussed: SRBI process; transitions; work-loads; L.C.S. and L.I.S.; transitions for SRBI; more info needed; and rescheduled for next meeting agenda.

Finance – no report.

Ed Advance - Ms. Stone reported that the committee met and discussed: meeting in Danbury; very informative; outplacement issues; students expelled from school can attend; update on business report; transition from non-profit to for-profit; transportation issues; work with district; Danbury growth issues; sharing Special Ed transportation; innovated plan; and need to get to zero in budget.

Policy – no report.


MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. to discuss:

a. Pending Claims and Litigation - CHRO No. 1830361 - Alexandre vs. Litchfield Board of Education - review and discussion
b. Personnel Matter - Director of Business Operations Contract
c. Superintendent's Evaluation
d. FOI Update Docket #FIC2018-0174
e. Recommendation to Hire
f. Superintendent’s Contract

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

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

Superintendent Turner, Mr. Fiorillo and Attorney Johanna Zelman were invited to attend.

Ms. Zelman and Mr. Fiorillo left the meeting at 8:47pm.

Superintendent Turner left the meeting at 9:01pm.

Returned to public session at 9:20 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Stone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve: Pending Claims and Litigation - CHRO No. 1830361 - Alexandre vs. Litchfield Board of Education.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Shuhi to approve: Recommendation to hire Nadene McDermott-Stevenson as the 0.6 FTE Preschool Teacher.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew B. Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary