

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

Approved 10/18/2017

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the LCS gym.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chairperson; Ms. Stone; Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Falcetti; and Mr. Shuhi.

Absent were: Ms. Carr; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; and Mr. Pavlick.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to add to the agenda as item VII d. a discussion of supplemental appropriations.

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 6, 2017 as submitted.

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Fabbri and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: approve the payment of FY 2017-18 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2018-05 dated 9/21/2017 in the amount of \$191,209.47.

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 – Halena Weymuth reported on the student council activities at the high school.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – Ms. Garden reported: meeting with Greenwoods, Superintendent and others; move forward; alliance; yoga; scheduled at LHS; family game

night last Friday at Community Center; speaker next Monday, Mark Moore; present to students and community; and radio station input.

- d. Litchfield Education Foundation – none.
- e. Other public comment – none.
- f. Correspondence-
 - Letter from Senator Craig Miner re: Education Cost Sharing funding proposal.
- g. Administrators' Report
 - Mr. Ammary reported: handout, "Litchfield Public Schools Administrator Report for BOE;" Board goal; student achievement, professional learning communities; Teachers College; Columbia University input; culture; keys to good character; second steps; guidance input; communication; newsletter; websites; and curriculum night held.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: handout, "Litchfield Public Schools Administrator Report for BOE;" student achievement; ACT results; school to career coordinator, Lynn Rice Scozzafava presentation; LHS college fair; culture; Mr. Valerio input; safety drill schedule; advisory lessons; gay-straight alliance club; Ms. Heuschkel input; Safe School Climate; Acts of Kindness club; Make a Wish Foundation; communication; STPC; Friday night jailbreak; Student Council activities; school counselling office posts; financial aid night; LEED parent feedback; open house held.
 - Ms. Kubisek reported: handout, "Litchfield Public Schools Administrator Report for BOE;" student achievement; goal setting training; TEAM meetings; academic labs for English and Math; SRBI process; culture; Mr. Valerio input safety team meetings; advisory lessons; mindset and goals delivered; 7th and 8th grade push-in lessons from guidance; communication; Booster Club meetings; Friday Fun Nights; jailbreak tournament; math brochure; open house; Dr. Pascento presentation on math program; parent feedback goal in smart goals; resources; new furniture assembled; flexible seating in 8th grade English; workshop model supported; and thanks to custodial staff.
 - Dr. Pascento reported: handout, "Litchfield Public Schools Administrator Report for BOE;" student achievement; end of year assessment; SBA results; cardboard challenge for grades 4-6; SRBI Team input; committees formed for scheduling and standard based report cards; culture; fire drill held; secure the building implemented; second steps program formed; CSCI building level committees being formed; student council input for school climate; communications; virtual backpack used; open house; teachers initiating contact with parents; communication between math teachers from LIS and LMS; and placements made.

Superintendent's Report – handout.

Old Business – none.

New Businessa. Comprehensive School Climate Inventory presentation.

Superintendent Turner introduced Amanda Weitzel from National School Climate Center; who presented CSCI; overview; background on school climate inventory; benefits of CSCI assessment and report; assessment and improvement process; 5 stage model; dimensions; teaching and learning; interpersonal relations; school safety; instructional environment; major indicators within dimensions; district response rates; students, staff, parents; cross share and cross learning; understanding the factor median; 5 point scale; district results by population; faculty, parent, students; student climate scores by school, faculty and parent; student climate score by grade; relative ranking by population group; Litchfield School Districts strengths; areas of potential improvements; what is next for Litchfield; continue meetings in October; common themes; use strengths; prioritize; determine when to conduct future surveys; and contact information.

Public comment included: questions regarding the number who completed survey; will it be on website; just this for now or the complete 150 pages of survey; need to be seen by parents; honing in on action plan; types of social media; types of questions used; knowledge of social media; have summaries in document; sense of social-emotional security; bullying categories; feeling safe in my school; how feel outside building; some disconnect; examples of social emotional security; how go about advising district; go to action plan; training in October; take deep dive into data; use data and other districts data; compared to Hartford; compared Litchfield to surrounding towns; schools who take CSCI; common trends; nothing stuck out; a survey is mandated by state but does not have to be CSCI; all voluntary; State Department of Education numbers; awareness of state surveys; input from students, staff and guardians; next step is to drill down; parents involved in taking survey; look at timing for next survey; how parents get involved; reach out to building principals; building sustainability; organization focus; system changes; how parents get involved and Board questions.

b. Tenure Listing as of September 2017.

Board members reviewed the handout, "Litchfield Public Schools Tenure List as of September, 2017"

c. Non-Tenured Working List.

Board members reviewed the handout, "Working List 2017-2018 Non-Tenured List."

Mr. Fiorillo reported: handout, letter from Board of Finance regarding "Board of Education year-end balance," and handout, "State Budget Information," goals; quotas; school safety; lanyards used; possible electronic sign in; food service update; no losses so far; custodial maintenance transfer; work order tracking number; 363 technology devices; all but 40 are processed; facility manager operation update; positive feedback from custodians with transfer;

contract for boiler repair completed; unexpected roof leaks and expenses; insurance forms completed; information and technology; all devices employed; grades 3-6 have chrome books; power surges issues; suited contract for network researched; finance update; capital requests; audit in October; Marianne Sabia new Accounts Payable clerk, Special Ed costs, down; special Ed transportation costs; Vo Ag students up to 14; exterior maintenance projections \$208,800; green team focusing on energy use; report of energy use; what solar means to Litchfield; and energy savings contract with the DEP.

d. Supplemental appropriations.

Mr. Fiorillo distributed a handout regarding a letter from the Board of Finance regarding the year-end balance.”

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to go back to the Board of Finance to request supplemental appropriations in the amount of \$6,851.

Board members discussed: transportation for Special Ed; placement of Special Ed students; paid invoice for custodial services; and need supplemental appropriations from Board of Finance.

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

Mr. Fiorillo asked the Board to read the handout regarding State Budget Update.

Committee Reports

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met and discussed the following: status of world language program; Spanish and Latin included; Spanish in grades 4-6; status of 1st year credit; in grades 7 and 8; 9th grade credit possible; LIS program more enrichment; some changes needed; curriculum 4-6; updating Spanish curriculum; other world language is Latin; 14 grade 9 Latin students; Superintendent goals, new format; and better framework.

Finance - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met and discussed the following: tracking expenses of internal vs. external maintenance; budget considerations; need to go back to Board of Finance; roof leaks, significantly in the red; and need to come up with budget shortage.

Facilities and Technology – No Report.

Policy – No Report.

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Executive Session - Board consensus was to table the Executive Session item until more Board members are present.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Donald Falcetti, Secretary

Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary