

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 4, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Center School gym.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Stone; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Pavlick.

Absent were: Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Falcetti and Mr. Shuhi.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to add to the agenda as item VIII b. a discussion of Seherr-Thoss Foundation application and VIII c. a discussion of unpaid leave request.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to add to the agenda as XI b. a discussion of pending legal litigation.

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

**Community Conversation**

Ms. Worden commented: way to go forward with steps to consolidate districts; steps taken in past; and possible steps to go forward now.

Board members discussed: steps already taken; reaching out to other districts; surveys done; shared resources; cost reduction; persistent with moving forward; Region 6 had major concerns; size of Litchfield compared to Morris or Warren; voting not equal; Litchfield Board voted unanimously in favor of moving forward; Region 6 voted against going forward; shared other things like AP classes; issues with scheduling coordination; regionalization would result in more things for students; and wider range of courses.

Ms. Hunt commented: past steps taken since 1995; AP classes worked; had similar schedules; easier to share.

Board members discussed: scheduling issues now; conflicts; need to reach all schools involved; possible funding from state; shrinking enrollment; kids already know each other; meet at

Community Center; possible meeting with Region 6; need to start up process again; Region 6 concerns in past; looked in to working with Thomaston, Winsted, Shepaug; block schedule is difficult to coordinate; needed for AP Science; had referendum; involvement of PTO; get community involvement; need to take steps; parents think it is the Board that is against merging, but it is the other systems that are not interested; sports are shared now; over 30 years an ongoing issue; kids need all opportunities they can get; wrestling shared now; Berkshire League not cooperative with combining districts; issues with rowing team with merging; new director at Berkshire League; different prep time at Region 6; need to have entire Board present when meeting with other districts; community surveys; student surveys; transportation issues; and possible steps to move forward and try again.

Ms. Kracht commented: concerns about sending out emails to parents.

Mr. Stedronsky commented: running for Board of Finance; possible misperception; need various stakeholders involved in regionalization; PTO, businesses, administrations; scheduling issues; schools not for it; possible start with PTO; have standing committee formed; involve Director of Athletics; lose money if don't combine districts; need to formalize process; and great to have conversations.

Ms. Tenney commented: concerns over shrinking enrollment; possible survey to put together a committee; need to be educated; fears of regionalization; need to understand process before vote on it; input from Jon Costa; on website.

Mr. Stedronsky commented: way too early to start; take in formalized steps; must consider what grade levels to be included; lots of ways to do it and must keep in mind the needs for elementary grades.

Mr. Morosani commented: regionalization process; 2015 study done with Jonathan Costa; recommended they don't have to merge; not all or nothing; merging is forever; strong views against merging; info from website; survey has been done; did not include most of stakeholders; people without students not considered; have new Superintendent now and new Board members.

Mr. Terzian commented: need follow up on students choosing to leave Litchfield schools and choose to go to prep schools; what are we doing to retain our students?

Board members discussed: meeting to be held in a few weeks; options for student like Wamogo, Wolcott Tech or LHS; have 8<sup>th</sup> grade exit survey; only have 2 years; questions like "what like about Litchfield"; "what will you miss"; have steps to reach out to 8<sup>th</sup> graders; need to do more to keep 8<sup>th</sup> graders; sports issues like football; need a sense of community; fundraisers needed; need to feel part of community; participating in student government; need more depth in classes in Science and Math; need to increase student enrollment; if consolidation occurs would be beneficial to attracting tuition students.

Ms. Morgan commented: tuition costs for Wamogo and Oliver Wolcott.

3655

Litchfield Board of Education Meeting, October 4, 2017

---

Board members discussed: cost of \$6,823 for 14 students; grades 9 – 12; students go to private schools; some are homeschooled; nationally ranked; how much of budget goes to Wamogo.

Ms. Tenney commented: concerns with fund balance; and what other districts are doing.

Board members discussed: how to survive; need to share with Board; lots of options; in budget process; hope to adopt budget; need to have public discussion; on next year's budget process already; current budget is adopted; Educational Cost Sharing - town receives it; need to be transparent; reductions through attrition; need to begin preliminary discussions; need to work together to make cuts; need to absorb cuts and work together; tuition income; \$80,000; lose revenues to town.

Ms. Andrulis commented: issues with track being coordinated with Wamogo; MS girls' soccer team issues; practice starts at 4 but girls have nowhere to go to wait; difficult to go home and come back; parents work; bussing limits to go to a friends to wait; not allowed to leave campus; issues with kids that have no transportation; possibly pay someone to cover 2 hours; possible parent volunteer; need to have safe place for athletes to wait.

Board members discussed: need to solve the issue for after school activities.

Ms. Spelman commented: issues with level III French class; 10<sup>th</sup> grade daughter included in French III class; 5 students total; has no help; poor background in French I and II; know very little in French; difficulty in class; input from Ms. Della Volpe; sort of a luxury for the students; is responsible to fulfill college requirements; best we could do; what if students fail; need to ask for outside help; scheduling issues; can't speak the language; need to make changes now, 5 students need help.

Mr. Fiorillo left copies of State budget plan for distribution.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Tabled until next meeting.

### **Payment of Invoices**

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: approve the payment of FY 2017-18 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2018-06 dated 10/5/2017 in the amount of \$220,251.83 and on Food Service warrant dated 10/4/2017 in the amount of \$16,664.09.

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

**Public Comment and Correspondence Communications**

- a. STPC –Ms. Morgan reported: met last week; event Oct 27<sup>th</sup> “Fright Night Jail Break;” 9-12 teams from 6-8 p.m.; getting students more excited; costumes optional; pre-prom activities starting; and having Facebook page.  
PTO – none.
- b. LHS Student Council – none.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – none.
- d. Litchfield Education Foundation – Ms. Reidy reported: \$10,000 grants funded; \$5,000 from last year; input from Dan Porri and band students; jazz musicians included; creating original pieces; Paul Winters program; and video department involved. Ms. Tenney reported: band equipment purchased; upcoming events; chorus and band included.
- e. Other public comment – none.
- f. Correspondence-
  - CAFE / CAPS convention handout.
- g. Administrators’ Report
  - Mr. Fiorillo reported: LHS roof leaks; insurance coverage; leave elementary in place; payments from LEF; solar panels issues; on Town Farm Rd.; gather data from Science program; issues when leaks under solar panel; possible solar farm; programs to help with solar panels; options for covering; cover costs then rate of pay to pay back; and need for agreement over time.

**Superintendent’s Report** – none.

**Old Business** – none.

**New Business**

- a. District Annual Report.

Superintendent Turner reported: purpose of continuing improvement plan; district mission; theory of action; 1<sup>st</sup> indicator, student achievement Grade 3; results were good; K,1,2,3; teachers college involved; how to bring 3<sup>rd</sup> graders up; literacy skills; build an alignment; essential literary skills; done analysis; philosophy of teachers model; delivery of mini lessons; pull small groups; constant skills; next steps; whole school; indicator 2 student achievement, grade 6 EnVisions; focus area 2 mathematics; strategy/what must occur to accomplish goal; SMART goals; results 4,5,6; next steps; move bar; interventions needed; workshops scheduled; core foundation in 3 grade levels; challenges; look at benchmarks; how show progress; keys to track data; how assess for Board reporting; go back every year with data; want every student to achieve; PD needed; interventions needed; integrated physics; math

and science demands; cardboard challenge; critical thinking; building structures; hands on; thought process challenged; specifics to standards; track students over time; instructional practices and strategies; writing with teachers college; how to know when it fails; parents input; bench mark assessments; writers workshop; rubrics and benchmarks; implement writers workshop; develop consistency throughout school; how students improve; push them forward; apples to apples assessments; indicator 3 student achievement Grade 8; focus area 3, strategy; smart goals; results; need data; next steps; grade 8 benchmarks; next steps; indicator 4 high school; algebra I and II; graduation rate; indicator 5; diffuse issues; group of indicators; how react; peer mediators; NWEA; problems being solved by students; learning how to behave on bus; indicator 6 proficiency; highly effective teaching and learning; strategies; SMART goals; calibration walk through; next steps; PreK-12 collaboration; next steps; indicator 7 student survey; school climate inventory; CSCI results; some alignment; from 2015 to 2017; meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>; other data not included; indicators we want to improve; LHS negative environment; from last year; issues in 1<sup>st</sup> school driven survey; 2015; data used for focus area; next steps; indicator 8 communication to all school stakeholders; SMART goals; results; and district wide.

b. Seherr-Thoss Foundation application.

MOTION made by Ms. Stone and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve LPS apply for grant from Seherr-Thoss in the amount of \$15,000 to study the options of sharing of resources with surrounding communities.

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

c. Unpaid Leave Request.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Stone: to approve the unpaid leave request from Erin Bates through the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Stone: to move to Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. to discuss personal matter and pending legal litigation.

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

**Executive Session**

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Stone; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Pavlick.

3658

Litchfield Board of Education Meeting, October 4, 2017

---

Superintendent Turner and David Fiorillo were invited to attend.

Returned to public session at 9:31 p.m.

- a. Personnel Matter – Superintendent’s Goals – tabled until next meeting.

MOTION made by Dan Clock and seconded by John Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Donald Falcetti, Secretary

Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary