

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2013

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013, at the Litchfield High School Library/Media Center.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Bongiorno, Falcetti, Katzin, Shuhi and Waugh.

Also present were: Mr. Lathrop; Mr. Zaremski; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Turner; Ms. Kubisek; and members of the public.

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 2, 2013 with the following corrections: on page 3180 under h. add "MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions."

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

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the payment of invoices for 2013-2014 as required.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the payment of Food Services invoices for 2013-2014 as required.

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

Over Night Field Trip

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve over-night field trip for CASC Student Leadership State Conference in Southbury, CT.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC-Ms. Fabbri reported: next meeting on Monday, Oct. 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the H.S. library.
PTO-Ms. Stone reported: 1st parent academy held on October 3rd with 50 attending; next academy in January; LIS book fair-\$4,000 in sales-300% increase; Oct. 25th fall festival at LIS-come in costume; 300 RSVPs so far; calendar for reading program at C.S.
- b. LHS Student Council - Matt McCarthy reported on the Student Council activities at LHS.
- c. Public Comment
 - Mr. Sobek commented on successful technology filtering, thanks to tech team.
 - Mr. Glander commented – thanks to Board for the good job that they do; expulsion policy.
 - Ms. Stone commented on expulsion policy.
 - Dr. Wheeler commented: staying in school is not a punishment and the expulsion policy aligns with state statutes.
 - Mr. Shuhi commented: Policy is available online.
- d. Correspondence – none.
- e. Administrators' Reports
 - Mr. Zaremski reported: SEDAC collection on Oct. 1st; 115 students, down from last year; 100 in district, 15 out of district; 2006 had 166 students; as population decreases so does special education population.

Superintendent's Report

- a. Student Assessment, Accountability and Education Evaluation Flexibilities – select Smarter Balance for testing in the spring; will have Gr. 5 & 8 CMT in science and Gr. 10 CAPT in science; curriculum aligned with common core; opportunity to gain baseline a year before switch in 2015; computerized testing requirements are met; Special Ed needs will be met; MAS testing available; testing window – Feb. – June; district will be assigned testing window by SDE.
- b. SPI and DPI data – 2012-2013; feedback from State Department; and rankings later this year for all CT schools (Excellence, Progressing, Transitional, Review, and Turnaround).

Board members discussed: testing affecting graduation requirements; input from Policy Committee; and Smarter Balance for 11th grade.

New Business

- a. Common Core State Standards Aligned Practice Assessment results document: Mr. O'Connell and Dr. Wheeler presented: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC); Our Purpose; How to access the Practice Tests; variety of writing to be

tested; items posted on school website; need for Google Chrome for testing; multiple day testing; performance tasks; need to be connected on line; degree of difficulty anticipated lower scores; more sophisticated testing; and rigor is there; focus on critical thinking; practice with technology every day; student engagement; active learning; encourage parents to visit sample testing site.

Board members discussed: reliability issues; pilot testing done; CMT writing; field testing; long enough testing window to solve computer problems; issues with classroom time for instruction; timing for testing; nature of testing requiring skills that are needed; conceptual understanding needed; don't rely on meaning alone; validate sources – teaching to mastery; PD needed; testing made for 10 in. screen; remediation needs; and instructional shifts.

Committee Reports

Finance, Facilities and Technology - Mr. Shuhi reported that the Committee will meet on Monday, in the Central Office Conference Room at 6:30 p.m.

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the Committee met last Thursday and discussed the following: Mr. Zaremski reported on IEP Direct; how Special Ed handled in district; discipline data; more boys disciplined than girls; continue discussion; update ELL with 1 student being serviced. Mr. Katzin added that money cut in budget affects money spent on children in district.

Policy Committee – Ms. Carr reported that the Committee will meet tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m.

Policies

- a. Second Reading- Policy # 5134 Married Student/Pregnant Students

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve Policy # 5134 Married Student/Pregnant Students.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

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

Respectively submitted,
Donald Falcetti, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary