

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2017

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the LCS gym.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Shuhi and Ms. Stone (at 7:25 p.m.)

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 20, 2017 as submitted.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Carr and Mr. Pavlick abstained.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 4, 2017 with the following corrections: on page 3655 in the third paragraph change "loose" to "lose;" on page 3657 in first motion, change "\$5,000" to "\$15,000," and on page 3657 remove the Executive Session label that appears twice.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Falcetti abstained.

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: approve the payment of FY 2017-18 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2018-07 dated 10/19/2017 in the amount of \$172,364.93 and on Food Service warrant dated 10/18/2017 in the amount of \$6,649.28.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Clock: to add to the agenda as old business VI. a. a discussion on school maintenance.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications

- a. STPC –none.
PTO – none.
- b. LHS Student Council – Halena Weymouth reported on the student council activities at the high school.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – none.
- d. Litchfield Education Foundation – none.
- e. Other public comment:
 - Mr. Waugh commented on the following: thanked Ms. Fabbri and Mr. Bongiorno for all their years of service and wished them well in their retirement from the Board.
- f. Correspondence- none.
- g. Administrators’ Report
 - Mr. Ammary reported: professional learning communities; Teachers College; Board goals alignment; keys of good character; second steps; CSCI; communication through newsletter and website; and new app for parents.
 - Dr. Pascento reported: handout distributed including NWEA training; second step lessons; mindset; building level safe school climate; Columbia writing workshop; student council update; PTO update; virtual backpack; fire prevention week; picture day conferences to be scheduled.
 - Ms. Haggard reported: administration of NWEA; next training Nov. 7th; attending literacy training; meetings to align student learning; collaboration with Greenwoods and Prevention Council; mindfulness initiative; and adaptive programming for out of district students.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: future workforce opportunities fair in Hartford; attend with Dean Birdsall; collaboration with LHS musicians and Paul Winter; commissioned by Mr. Porri and Mr. Perkins; on site college visits; school to career update with Ms. Scozzafava; Ryan Litwin, firefighter, speaking at LHS; Envirothon club to hike Appalachian Trail section; Prevention Council sponsoring Marc Mero as speaker; champion of choices; Welcome Back Dance held; corn maze fundraiser; peer mediators to be trained by Ms. Heuschkel; open house held on September 28th; and TSA robot update.
 - Ms. Kubisek reported: teacher training in MAP assessment; formal observations started; ELA and Math interventions; SRBI plan; CPT October 13th; Marc Mero presenting “Be Against Destructive Decisions,” assembly; Red Ribbon week update; education activities in “Future Is Key, So Stay Drug Free,” first Fun Night last week; evacuation drills update; school climate team training; teacher goals regarding parent communication; decisions for next year’s budget; and Mr. English and students building a school store for LMS and Booster Club.

Ms. Stone arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Turner reported: Board Goals update; District Improvement Plan; district coordinators meeting on October 18; PDEC first meeting on November 2nd; Curriculum Committee meeting next week; School Climate Team training from Amanda Weitzel; working on District Data Dashboard; communication multiple points; and preliminary discussions with administrators on the budget for next year.

Old Businessa. Maintenance Update.

Mr. Fiorillo reported: handout regarding, "Exterior Maintenance Update," communication with Facilities Manager; needed repairs sump pump and water heater; \$47,000 spent, \$109,127 encumbered in contracts; need course of action; supplemental appropriations; freeze funding; or defund programs; need to manage things that pop up; will exceed our budget since not given \$200,000 that the selectmen used over the past 8 years; only given \$117,000 instead; need to keep up with the expected level of service; defunding of programs that were approved to pay for exterior maintenance is unjustified.

Board members discussed: issue with encumbrances; possible eliminate rugs for LCS; cheaper to clean; saving money by buying washer and dryer to do mop heads rather than paying for them to be cleaned; painting update; status of water heater; possible damage if not fixed; issues with capital planning; some things could be purchased over time; expenses close to the budgeted number; need to notify Public Works; they need to handle it; issues with roof leaks; clogs in school; send letter with expenses; make in known to public; possibly freeze budget to get funds to use for maintenance; infrastructure has to work; don't want to take from programs; need to go to Board of Finance to ask for funding; possibly freeze non-essential funding; possible shortage in funding; need to notify Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to possibly hold emergency meeting to fund needs; solar farm savings; possible need to have public forum; education of students cannot freeze spending; leaking roof has to be fixed; if programs don't affect outcome of student achievement then possibly freeze; have solid goals and commit to programs; vital to student advancement; possible places where we can cut; education needs funding; possible lunch tables funding delayed; already purchased; money is encumbered already; aren't going to have money to pay for contracts; need to get in front of Board of Finance; personally libel for schools; need to not take from education budget; Board did not ask for outside maintenance; possible identify areas in budget to freeze; is a shortfall; 2 different numbers presented; need to repair boiler; need to repair water heater; already encumbered; Selectmen always got \$200,000 for the past 13 years; Board of Selectmen made contracts for outside maintenance; some are multi-year contracts; get multi quotes on water heater; \$17,000 to fix it; update Board of Finance; possibly send letter; property damage can happen to schools; need emergency meeting to get funding.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to fix water heater and sump pump and come up with ideas for options to pay for it.

MOTION withdrawn by Ms. Carr and second by Mr. Clock.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to request as soon as practicable funding for repairs with a list of options to pay for it.

Board members discussed: sump pump issues; LIS leaks; week and a half ago; need to present to Board of Finance; need options to pay for; need to call special meeting to pay for repairs.

MOTION withdrawn by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi.

New Business

a. Out of State Field Trip.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve the out of state field trip to Berkley College of Music High School Jazz Festival, Boston, MA – February 10, 2018 as presented.

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

b. Healthy Foods Certification.

Holli LaBarbera presented an update on Healthy Food Certification including the following: need for a vote; need for consideration of 1 and 2 to be approved.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve consideration 1 to participate in the HFC as presented.

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

c. Exemption of Food Items Certifications.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve consideration 2 to be exempt for after school events as presented.

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

d. State Testing Results.

Mr. O'Connell distributed a copy of a sample, "Connecticut Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Results" and presented a slide show on state testing results and included the following: State Test Results, 2017; 2015 to 2017 ELA Comparison by Grade; 2015 to 2017 Math comparison by grade; ELA comparison by rough cohort; math comparison by rough cohort; CMT science by grade over 3 years; CAPT Science, Grade 10; CT School day SAT, Grade 11, 2017; participation rate 2017; test dates, 2018; public information sites.

Board members discussed: Special Ed students roll in scores; differently reflected; our portion same as State; participation rate; DRG comparison; tend to teach to test; get performance data; teach higher order thinking; rather than content knowledge; students become skillful; students interpret, analyze; imbedded in the curriculum; practice skills; learning higher level thinking skills; pilot at HS; ask one question; engage in critical thinking; Common Core, CMT and CAPT; science standards; develop conceptual understanding; students answer questions, not teacher; assesses higher level thinking; conceptual understanding stays with you; become more skilled in analyzing; summative assessment; more formative kinds of assessments; need for PD; teachers need skills to teach higher level thinking; K-12 kids are challenged; problem solving; analyze and summarize; align PD; teacher evaluation process and goal setting; rigorous process; layered observations are intense; student directed; teacher facilitator; shift for teachers; give mini tests, have objectives; go figure out answer instead of giving answer; more emphasis on growth mindset; closure activities in class; where at; move forward and continue growth.

Committee Reports

Policy - Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet tomorrow night.

Ed Advance - Ms. Carr reported that the committee met and reviewed the range of services offered; with a list of resources; and could tap into for cost savings ideas.

MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Ms. Carr: to move to Executive Session to discuss Superintendent's Goals at 8:45 p.m.

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

Executive Session

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

Superintendent Turner was invited to attend.

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Litchfield Board of Education Meeting, October 18, 2017

Returned to public session at 9:35 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Carr: to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Donald R. Falcetti, Secretary

Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary