

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2017

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the LCS gym.

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

Absent was: Ms. Fabbri.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to add to the agenda as XI, an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter – Special Education Teacher hiring.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to add to the agenda as VIII. e. under New Business a discussion of suspension of Policy.

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

Board members recessed to hold a reception for retiring Board members and Mr. Simone announced that he appreciated all the Board has accomplished over the 7 years he has been Chair, but he has decided he will not run for Chair this time.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 1, 2017 as submitted.

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Carr: approve the payment of FY 2017-18 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2018-09 dated 11/16/2017 in the amount of \$174,975.91 and on Food Service warrant dated 11/15/2017 in the amount of \$9,635.35.

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 Weymouth reported on the Student Council activities at LHS.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – none.
- d. Litchfield Education Foundation – none.
- e. Other public comment- none.
- f. Correspondence-
 - Thank you note from Betsy Fabbri for the gift she received from the Board.
 - Email message from John Morosani regarding Monday night’s BOE presentation at the BOF.
- g. Administrators’ Report –
 - Mr. Ammary distributed a handout reviewing the following: student achievement; PD; PLCs; parent teacher conferences; culture; Keys to Good Character; second steps; action plan for survey results; communication; conference; and use of Twitter and Bloomz.
 - Ms. Haggard distributed a handout reviewing the following: student achievement; roll out of NWEA data to parents; intervention teams; grant money supporting district initiatives; culture; input from Prevention Council; CREC conference; communication; collaboration with Greenwoods; and Prevention Council; regional drug prevention; resources; and candidate for hire.
 - Mr. Fiorillo reported: Thank You to Mr. Bongiorno and Ms. Fabbri for their service on the Board and welcomed the new members; proposed budget development schedule handed out; new this year is a preliminary meeting with the BOF in December; Green Team met; would like to roll out energy usage dashboard to the various boards in town; BOE Chair, Superintendent, Chair of Finance and I met with BOF regarding exterior maintenance; clarification on mid-year capital related items was given which was to notify First Selectman and Public Works Direct to discuss; with regards to supplemental appropriation for external maintenance, the BOF doesn’t want to see programming adjustments at this time; LHS gym floor was resurfaced; Capital Improvement Plan to be submitted to town on November 1st; need for Board representation on that committee; new requirements per adopted State budget includes: each local and regional BOE to enroll as a Medicaid provider and participate in the DSS Medicaid School Based Child health program by 12/1/2017; BOE to file administrative contracts with Town Clerks for posting to webpage; BOE to notify municipalities of the hiring of administrative personnel not in budget appropriation or budget proposal; municipalities, when possible, are to consult with local BOE about jointly purchasing Property & Casualty or Workers’ Compensation insurance; BOE, after going out to bid, to consider lower cost municipal goods and services contracts; volunteers may provide services to

town; fingerprinting fee will increase to almost \$110 per volunteer as of 12/1/2017; possibly purchase finger printing machine for district.

- Ms. Della Volpe distributed a handout reviewing the following: student achievement; All National Music Festival participation; specialized learning program holding Thanksgiving Dinner; career speaker series; Chamber Choir; concert; culture; AOK Club; Technology Student Organization blood drive; FBLA club annual food drive; projects to raise funding for relief efforts in Puerto Rico; NFLHS bake sale; school climate meeting; social media use; communication; STPC meeting; and student perspective for fundraising activities.
- Ms. Kubisek distributed a handout reviewing the following: student achievement; culture; school climate committee meeting; second step; break goals into small steps; autumn fest participation; communication; photographic submissions; Booster Club events; resources; LMS school store; and donation status.
- Dr. Pascento distributed a handout reviewing the following: student achievement; NWEA assessments; second steps social emotional curriculum; enrichment days planning; culture; action plan for CSCI committee; drills held to date; SRBI protocols; emergency plan update; student council activities; communication; virtual backpack; principals' newsletter; parent conferences to be held; promote caring and kind environment; and LIS faculty council topics and plans.

Superintendent's Report – none.

Old Business – none.

New Business

a. Tuition Exemption Request.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the tuition waiver request for a 12th grade student to complete senior year at LHS.

Board members noted that the Legacy program is working and has helped this student.

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

b. 2018-2019 School Calendar.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the school calendar as presented.

Board members discussed coordinating the calendar with surrounding schools like Wamogo.

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

c. 2018 Board of Education and Committee meeting schedules.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Option A as presented with September 19th eliminated due to Yom Kippur and have all committee meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

Board members discussed: not combining Finance with Facilities and Technology; and if needed can call special meeting in September to cover the BOE Meeting being eliminated.

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

d. District Improvement Plan.

Superintendent Turner and the administrators presented a power point for the District Improvement Plan based on Board goals and reviewed the following: mission statement; student achievement; LCS; specific areas of focus; rationale; teaching and learning; benchmarks; Workshop model; components reviewed; movement break; look at whole child; LIS; rationale; smart goals; realistic growth; intervention model; track students over time; curriculum standards; writing with Columbia; Workshop model used; hands on; target intervention; follow students at school; look at K-12 now; share info; replicate effective instruction; metric used; statistical significance; track students on various assessments; sufficient data; intervention progress; hones in on standards; 100% students will make growth; range of students; prepares for real world; goals; how look at achievements; standards based report cards; teachers show assessments; standards drive everything; achieve mastery; yet, not yet mind set; narrative part of report card; on PowerSchool; LMS; math; rational; Smarter Balance standards; action plan; 7th grade benchmarks; 8th grade Smarter Balance; problem of the day; Envisions; interim assessments; very aligned; match elementary to LMS math transitions; drop off in student performance in 7th and 8th grade; LHS; rationale; 21st century learning; 6 key steps in Capstone; stepping points; garner from past learning; student led project; how compare across the state; present findings to audience; input from juniors; Pupil Services; learning challenges; rational; best practices; benchmarks; achievement result in growth; action plan; accommodations defined; smart goals; specific, measurable, timely; student strengths; multiple kinds of learners; learning profiles; SIMS model; Lexia; math intervention; core curriculum; Pre K- K level develop screening process; look at student growth over time; shift in demographics; behavior issues covered; give skills to address social emotional needs; and qualitative challenges for social emotional cuing.

Board goal #2 Culture: CSCI survey data used; LCS committee meeting; strong survey data; safety trended lower; action plan; Second Steps Program; measures tier 2 and tier 4 SRBI benchmark plan; LIS; lower in physical safety; security; needs in building; minor adjustments;

advisory plan; behavior needs; tier 1 strategies; input from support staff; CARE team; pillars of character; Susan B Anthony PD that fosters character; kindness statements; feel same; MS; sense of social emotional security; rational; action plan; get info to parents; focus groups to address concerns; second step program; LHS; lower in social emotional security and social media; school safety concerns; teased, harassed, social media; develop action plan; student and parents; abusive social media; feed into policy discussion; need for monitoring when there is a complete. Pupil Service; aligned social emotional development with school counseling; support tier 1; rationale; self-advocate; gauge assessments; and teacher check list.

Board goal #3 Communication: LCS; communicate on a monthly basis; newsletter; district newsletter; website; phone calls; report student achievement as needed; action plan; LIS; effectiveness of communication among constituents; power school; report cards; update website; email blast weekly; no complaints from parents yet about lack of communication; 1 to 1 devices; input from Ms. McDevitt; 21st century forms of communication; LMS; use website; new items; rationale; two way communication; unit of study; piloting Google Classroom for parents; could change platform for next year; LHS; LEED parent feedback goals; PowerSchool; SMART goals measurable; mid-year conferences; Google classroom; possible move to that; structured parent teacher conferences; now in mass; have orientation; open house; curriculum night; issues for signing up for conferences; are student led; PowerSchool model; parents can come to meet with teachers separately; meet with guidance counselors for college planning; wasn't effective model; more people attend; limited attendance with individual conferences; parents can schedule as needed; need for more feedback from HS parents; feedback mechanism; could inform parents in Newspaper steps for scheduling conferences; only 20% attended individual conferences; intervention model; students with behavior or academic issues; reach out from school; have students in room to be a part of conference; responsibility of parent to follow up; behavior issues; could call principal; proactive not reactive; statute that conferences have to be available; Pupil Services; all modes of communication used; action plan; outside agencies included; collaboration with Greenwood; PTO and LEF; Prevention Council; web page improvement; additional parent forum; use of technology; Google forum; and increase staff and community learning.

Board goal # 4 Resources; District Action Plan; maintain highly effective teachers; LCS; preschool; gifted; graduation rates; collect with all; town input; agencies in town; school service projects; transportation shared with other schools; food service shared; district plan put on website and thanks to administration for all their input.

e. Suspension of Policy.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to suspend the policy for one day to hold the next Board of Education meeting on the 6th as scheduled.

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

Committee Reports

Curriculum, Program and Personnel - Ms. Stone reported that the committee met and discussed the following: LHS art presentation; very comprehensive; asking for .5 additional art teacher; graphic drawing; illustration II; why they want to offer these courses; consider in budget; will present to Board soon; 6,7,8th grade math programs; Glencoe until 2019; have resources K-12; transitioning between grades 6 and 7; how start conversation; update from Superintendent; and plans for each school.

Finance – none

Facilities and Technology – none

Policy - none

Policiesa. Second Readings:i. Policy # 6146 Graduation Requirements

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy #6146 Graduation Requirements as amended.

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

ii. Policy # 4218.14 Nondiscrimination (Employees)

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Policy # 4218.14 Nondiscrimination (Employees) subject to 2 changes that were made.

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

iii. Policy # 5145.4 Nondiscrimination (Students)

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 5145.4 Nondiscrimination (Students) as amended.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss personnel.

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. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Shuhi.

Invited to attend were Superintendent Turner, Ms. Haggard, and Ms. Della Volpe.

Returned to public session at 9:18 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to hire Catherine Pennell as a Special Education Teacher at LHS.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Donald Falcetti, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary