

Approved 2/15/2012

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2012

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Library Media Center.

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

Also present were: Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Mr. Zaremski; Ms. DellaVolpe; Ms. Murphy; the public and the press.

MOTION made by Ms. Fabbri and seconded by Ms. Rosser: to approve the minutes of Special Meeting January 18, 2012 and Regular Meeting January 18, 2012 with the following corrections; on page 2994 under the first motion “source funding” should be changed to “funding source” and under the second motion “approve” should state “adopt.”

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the payment of invoices for 2011-2012 budget as required.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the field trip to Agawam, MA for Music in The Park competition.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Fabbri voted in the negative.

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC – Ms. Fabbri reported on the following: next meeting Feb. 6th; Dr. Wheeler will give an overview of the Superintendent’s budget proposal.
PTO – Dr. Wheeler reported that the Parents’ Night Out is scheduled for Friday, February 3rd at the Community Center from 7 – 11 p.m.
- b. LHS Student Council- Joe Wihbey reported on the high school student council activities.
- c. Public Comment
 - Dr. Brandt requested consideration of Yom Kippur to be included in the school calendar for 2012-2013.

- Ms. Carr commented on having Rosh Hashanah be recognized in the calendar as Yom Kippur should be as both are a “day of rest”, and cited in our holiday policy so that teachers may be sensitive to the students who participate. Ms. Carr stated that teachers need to be aware of the need for some students to also be off on Rosh Hashanah.
- d. Correspondence
 - Copy of CEA position paper “A View from the Classroom”.
 - A copy of the Park and Rec 10 year improvement plan.
 - A letter from Ed Connection offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior.
- e. Administrator’s Report
 - Mr. Zaremski reported: 105 PPT meetings with school staff and parents to date; 60 more scheduled; annual review meetings; early intervention results; teachers’ volunteer prep time to attend PPT meetings; and challenges to balance needs.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: class registrations for next school year; musical production in March; and thanks to Ms. Longobucco supporting the Disney breakfast to be held on February 8th.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Scheduling a joint meeting with Policy and Curriculum Programs & Personnel for the 16th of February to review Graduation Requirements Policy # 5127.1.
- Discovery Grant progress: 5th graders meeting with Torrington 5th graders from Torrington and Vogel-Wetmore; diversity awareness workshops; Feb. 15th family reception at the Warner.
- Wayne Prescott will present to CPP on business and technology education curriculum including Twitter, Flicker in the classroom; district is lifting You Tube and Facebook filter for educational purposes.
- World language enrollment numbers will be finalized during registration.

New Business

- a. 2012-2013 School Calendar - Dr. Wheeler reviewed the two draft versions. Both provide to 181 instructional days.

MOTION made by Mr. Katzin and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve Version 2 as the calendar for 2012-13.

Board members discussed: having December 23rd or 24th off sometimes which is non-holiday for Christians; Yom Kippur is the highest holiday; need to accommodate Jewish students

and teachers; significant number of schools in CT have Yom Kippur off but not in northwest corner; Board discretion in determining calendar; need for staff to provide consideration for students during the holiday times; students have to make choices to come to school or celebrate the holiday.

MOTION made by Mr. Waugh and seconded by Ms. Carr: to amend Version 2 to include the 26th of September 2012 as a holiday.

AMENDMENT failed. Ms. Carr, Ms. Rosser and Mr. Waugh voted in the affirmative. Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Katzin; Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Simone voted in the negative.

MOTION carried: All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Carr, Ms. Rosser and Mr. Waugh voted in the negative.

- b. 2012-2013 Draft Budget Discussion - Mr. Simone reported that he sent a letter to the Board of Finance advising that Dr. Wheeler has been told not to attend the Board of Finance meeting to present her budget proposal, and that any member of the Board of Finance is encouraged to attend the Board of Education meeting on February 15th where Dr. Wheeler will be presenting her 2012-2013 budget proposal to the Board of Education. The Board of Education will present their budget to the Board of Finance after it has been adopted. The Board will receive their Budget documents February 2nd with the big budget book available in the Central Office; including in the Superintendent's draft proposal there is a 0.99% increase; favorable rates in health care; savings in utilities; enrollment projection for next year is 1,130; 16 tuition students to Wamogo; 5 to the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Magnet School; 2 FTE reductions; addition of Science teacher at LIS; Special Education expenses showing an increase; and Special Education position will be filled with someone specializing in behavior management.

Board members discussed the following: 2 FTE specifics; how accommodate loss of federal funding; tuition costs; PD expenses; and presentation to the Board of Finance on March 19th, Finance Sub Committee will meet on the 27th to discuss the budget after it is presented on the 15th.

- c. Safe school Climate Plan - Dr. Wheeler reported that the Safe School Climate Plan was presented in December.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the Safe School Climate Plan as presented.

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

Committee Reports

Curriculum Programs and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee will be meeting next Thursday.

Finance - Mr. Shuhi reported that the Committee met on January 23rd and discussed the following: money from MIRMA; data analysis system; budget; projected budget for the balance of the year that looks lower than expected which can be a buffer for the year.

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee discussed the following: budget; wireless infrastructure needs; V-brick; pay as you go or annual contract; stay with annual contract; and options to distribute resources.

Policy – Ms. Carr reported that the committee met on January 19th and reviewed several policies that have been sent to the BOE for First Reading at this meeting.

Policies

- a. First Reading Policy # 1314 Fund Raising - Board consensus was to send Policy #1314 back to the Committee to be discussed during the March meeting.
- b. First Reading Policy # 3280 Gifts – no changes noted. Return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- c. First Reading Policy # 3280.1 Gifts, Grants and Bequests Form – no changes noted. Return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- d. First Reading Policy # 4131 Professional Development – no changes noted. Return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- e. First Reading Policy # 4133/4233 Travel; Reimbursement – no changes noted. Return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- f. First Reading Policy # 4131.5 Continuing Education Unites (CEU's) and regulation – no changes noted. Return for second reading at next regular meeting.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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

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