

Approved 3/14/2018

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2018

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the CS gym.

Present were: Ms. Carr, Chairperson; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Morosani; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Simone; and Mr. Terzian.

Absent was: Ms. Stone.

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2018 and special meeting of February 8, 2018 with the following corrections on page 3681 in second motion remove “;” after twice; on page 3682 under Mr. Fiorillo report remove “;” between scheduled and after; on page 3685 change under motion “Ms. Carr” to “Mr. Pavlick;”.

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Morosani: approve the payment of FY 2017-18 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2018-13 dated 1/8/18 in the amount of \$214,448.17; warrant 2018-14 dated 2/22/2018 in the amount of \$170,087.01; warrant 2018-15 dated 2/8/2018 in the amount of \$318,008.98; on Food Service warrant dated 1/10/2018 in the amount of \$8,188.63 and Food Service warrant dated 2/8/2018 in the amount of \$7,741.01.

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 – none.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – none.
- d. Litchfield Education Foundation – Ms. Reidy reported: Litchfield Bee on March 6th; winners go to West Hartford; culmination of program with Ms. Shaia from OWL; dodgeball tournament March 24th at 2:00 p.m., 14 signed up; 18 sponsors; possible BOE

team; 2nd annual, Minds in Motion April 7th; need chess teacher; businesses participating; adult portion will include screening of documentary; made available to HS and MS; Dr. Pascento liaison to LEF; and grants given out so far.

e. Other public comment- Mr. Shannon commented on the process of hiring of coaches.

f. Correspondence-

- Thank you note from Ms. Perusse for edible arrangement.
- Letter from Ed Advance regarding scholarships.
- Email from Stacy Morgan regarding 7th grade.
- Letter from Mr. Fiorillo regarding “Energy Star Certification at Center School.”
- Letter from The Litchfield Music Parents regarding developing a plan to replace old instruments.
- Letter from Eve Moura regarding class size.
- Email from Ms. Scozzafava regarding Student Assault.
- Email from Matt DeRienzo regarding budget issues and concerns.
- Email from Melissa Hahn regarding reading program.
- Email from Craig and Isabel Benson regarding reading intervention issues.

g. Administrators’ Report –

- Mr. Ammary reported: PD update; aligning curriculum with CSCI; Growth Mindset update; school wide monitoring meetings; Keys to Good Character and Second Steps; addressing CSCI survey results; LEED and Parent Feedback Goals; volunteer opportunities at CS; Way to Grow program update; Kindergarten Ready, Set, Grow dates set; and Kindergarten registration week in February.
- Ms. Haggard reported: update on using NWEA data for identifying students; update on roll out of Gifted identification protocols; meeting held regarding mindfulness practices/PD; student crisis response protocol; Greenwoods partner updates; budget preparation for FY 18-19; and medical reimbursement.
- Mr. Fiorillo reported: budget presentation in PowerPoint.
- Ms. Della Volpe distributed a handout reviewing: newspaper “The Torch;” 2nd edition; school counseling updates; LHS alumni panel; parents could attend; career speaker series organized by Ms. Scozzafava; art class student, Hadley Towne designed this year’s holiday pewter ornament for the Park and Rec to sell.
- Ms. Kubisek reported: kids literature quiz at CCSU; Rube Goldberg machines project; end of second quarter; letter to parents regarding school climate update; growth mindset attitude update; student led conferences held; budget update from LMS; Random Acts of Kindness week; worksheets sent home to parents who could not attend conferences; new math teacher hired; and update on 8th grade applicants to attend other schools next year.
- Dr. Pascento reported: Grade 5 completed SBAC Interim Assessment; 4-6 completed Narrative Writing Unit; ITI completed an “Escape Room Box;” scheduling meeting held; PD focused on Mindset; report card changes; bake sale held by student council; communication through Virtual Backpack; CSCI action
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plan; new administrative assistant; and need parents for first enrichment day in February.

Old Business – none.

New Business

- a. Wonder Student Presentation - Eighth grade social studies teacher, Josh Orosz and LIS teacher, Kristen D'Amore-Jenks, introduced students to present what it was like to see the movie "Wonder" as an all school field trip and included the following: realistic experience; benefits to the students; themes involved; put yourself in others shoes; fun for kids; caring for one another; feel bad, go see a teacher; inspired all; safe learning environment; be open to discuss with administrators; bonding experience; what to do in school community; good to see movie together; supported by principals and superintendent; funding from PTO; message taken back to school; be giving every day; thanks for support from BOE; thoughts and reflections on movie; gather strength; choose kindness; think of others; issues with peer pressure; do the right thing; respect others; foster respect; be friendly but mostly be a friend; empathy and kindness every day; be able to use teachers to share issues; and parent involvement is a very important message.
- b. Tree Planting in Memory of Diane Knox - Diane Blick and Gary Waugh presented on how to honor Diane Knox; service to community; dedicated to schools; devoted math teacher; served on BOE and BOS; possible tree or bench in community; need input from Board; possible garden club input; be a part of the community she worked for; and finalizing ideas.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and second by Mr. Pavlick: to approve investigating, as presented, a way to memorialize Diane Knox.

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

- c. Out of State Field Trip- Six Flags Great Adventure, NJ.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the out of state field trip to Six Flags Great Adventure in NY on June 8, 2018 – Grade 12.

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

- d. Out of State Field Trip – Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve the out of state field trip to Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY on May 18, 2018 grade 9-12, Art and Latin.

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

Superintendent's Report

- a. Superintendent's Budget Proposal - Superintendent Turner shared a Power Point presentation and reviewed the following: Litchfield Public Schools Budget – 2018-2019; thank community for coming; our mission, on website; district goals, on website; student achievement, culture, communication; resources; Superintendent's letter, on website; zero increase; district accomplishments; student achievement, culture, communication; challenges; state impacts on budget; external budget drivers; unfunded mandates; state reduction to education cost sharing (ECS); impact to town of Litchfield; Special Education reimbursement rate; budget history, 14-15 to 17-18; average increase 2.7%; budget development style; zero based budget; priority based budget; budget development schedule; Superintendent's proposed budget, \$18,933,526.00/0% district enrichment; history enrollment by schools; NESDEC; enrollment projections; increase by 2027; employees' salaries chart; proposed stipend/staffing adjustments; (-7.9) FTE; projected class sizes pre-K to 8; current/projected; general fund staffing history (FTE); budget drivers; categories that have increased; benefits; plant operations; outside tuition; costs listed; budget categories that have decreased; (-\$386,418); adjustments to school services/operations; looking ahead; co-op with Wamogo; gifted program use current staff; pre-K – 12 alignment; social emotional well-being; energy efficiency; goal for great education at Litchfield and budget documents distributed.

Board members and Mr. Fiorillo discussed: scheduling issues; March 7th Board approval needed; March 19th presented to Board of Finance; need to meet before the 7th; have Facilities and Technology committee meet from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. and have special meeting for BOE to discuss budget at 7:00 p.m. on February 26th at L.C.S. gym; need input on program changes; things added; budget is an estimate; be sensitive targeting specifics; things can change, like benefits cost; have conversation on details; spend time reviewing document; possible ways to make cuts; not making arbitrary cuts; digest budget; need to trust professionals; running school is their job; trust Superintendent and administrators; need to not cut programs; what programs cut and what cost of programs; Summer Academy \$8,840 serves 20 – 40 students; Spanish L.I.S. cost \$60,000 plus benefits; 180 students without Spanish; no good cuts; issues with Spanish; originally grades 4, 5 and 6 would cover Spanish I; need to increase Spanish time took from other areas; now does not cover Spanish I requirement; now exposure to foreign language; foreign language should be taught in elementary school; journey is important; 2 different views presented for foreign language; direction to follow; more time needed, not less; tried all programs; cultural experience; more significant course as feeder program; what educational goal; support foreign language; need to look at other side; Curriculum Committee involved; needed more rigor in Spanish; curriculum drives the budget; could put Spanish in budget; Board of Finance input; least impact on learning;

Spanish listed to cut; least impact to community; if want to add, then not a zero budget, ½ FTE \$25,000 to \$50,000; possibility of sharing some costs with Wamogo; support zero increase; programs cut; L.H.S. class sizes; 1.0 Tech Ed teacher; 1.0 Business teacher; 1.0 English or SS teacher; loose classes not programs; Tech Ed 2 teachers 12 courses; won't offer some courses; class size is issue; being zero increase an issue; don't want programs cut; possible percent increase to save programs; need further discussion; zero % increase same as last year; identify target areas; switch things out; review along the way; Superintendent feels strongly about how to get zero percent increase; and further discussion needed at special meeting on Monday, February 26th at 7:00 p.m. at L.C.S.

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday and will discuss the letter from Music Parents requesting replacement of outdated and used music equipment. Discussion of Ad Hoc Technology Committee with goals, tasks and creation.

Curriculum, Program and Personnel – none.

Ad Hoc Collaborative Committee - Mr. Morosani reported that the committee met and discussed the following: Region 6 input; meeting held with Superintendent and Ms. Della Volpe; possibly Latin, Science, French, Music to co-op; students scheduled for classes; bus needed; \$9,000 grant; further meetings on the 14th and 20th; PD and special education collaboration; and budgeting issues.

Finance - Mr. Simone reported that the committee met and discussed the following: the budget process as covered tonight.

Policy – Policy Committee met and reviewed policies to be presented next.

Policies

- a. First Reading
 - i. Policy # 0100 – Philosophy/Goals of the Litchfield Board of Education – policy reviewed. Return for second reading at next regular BOE meeting.
 - ii. Policy # 5131.81 – Cell Phone / Electronics Devices Policy – policy reviewed. Return for second reading at next regular BOE meeting.
 - iii. NEW: Bylaw # 9314- Suspension of Policies, Bylaws and Regulations – bylaw reviewed. Return for second reading at next regular BOE meeting.
 - iv. Bylaw # 9500 – Philosophy and Bylaws of the Board of Education – bylaw reviewed. Return for second reading at next regular BOE meeting.

Litchfield Board of Education Meeting, February 21, 2018

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Clock: to move to Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters and Pending Claims and Litigation.

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

Executive Session

Present were: Ms. Carr, Chair; Mr. Simone; Mr. Terzian; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Morosani; and Mr. Pavlick.

Superintendent Turner and Mr. Fiorillo were invited to attend.

Mr. Fiorillo left at 8:46p.m.

Returned to public session at 9:14 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Terzian", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew B. Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary