

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 14, 2018

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Center School gymnasium.

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

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 21, 2018 with the following corrections on page 3692 under Facilities and Technology add “Discussion of Ad Hoc Technology Committee with goals, tasks and creation.”

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

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the minutes of the special meeting of February 26, 2018 as submitted.

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: approve the payment of FY 2017-18 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2018-16 in the amount of \$167,634.52 dated 3/8/18 and Food Service warrant dated 3/7/2018 in the amount of \$7,650.47.

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 – Mr. Terzian reported: Dodge Ball tournament on the 24th; and Saltwater Grill participating in donating a portion of sales to LEF.
- e. Other public comment- none.

f. Correspondence-

- Anonymous letter regarding issues with L.C.S. reading program.
- Email from Amanda Golovin regarding Budget cuts.
- Email from Jack Reynolds regarding the elimination of Spanish at L.I.S.
- Email from Becky Stull regarding 4th grade 2018-2019 School Year.
- Email from Isabel Benson regarding the Reading department.
- Email from Diane Wilson regarding Center School Reading Department.
- Email and letter from Hillary Marcinko regarding class size 2018-19 incoming 4th grade.

g. Administrators' Report –

- Mr. Ammary reported: second enrichment event; parent volunteers included; workshops held; jazz ensemble from L.H.S. performance; thanks to Ms. Della Volpe and Mr. Porri; and positive student comments.
- Ms. Haggard: no report.
- Mr. Fiorillo reported: budget discussion later.
- Ms. Della Volpe reported: building of student schedules taking place now; percentages of students' requests accommodated; "Into the Woods" successful performances; and scheduling issues.
- Ms. Kubisek reported: student led conferences held; and first round for teachers with next year's scheduling.
- Dr. Pascento reported: end of year calendar; online progress reports; parent/teacher input; NWEA schedule; and 2nd enrichment day scheduled.

Old Business – none.**New Business**a. 2018-2019 BOE Budget Review.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the budget as presented at a 0.31% increase.

Board members discussed: issues with coordinator stipends; duties for coordinators; district wide testing areas; curriculum standards, new standards up and running; concerns with Language Arts cuts; teacher collaboration; administrator input; efficiency used; more efficient and effective; coordinators possibly back next year's budget but less than 16; on curriculum and instruction; role of building principals; new responsibilities for principals; program not going away; collaboration needed; issues with 4th grade cuts; issues with reading program at L.C.S.; many addressed with letters from the community; Board of Finance approves money; job to keep schools going; possibly present higher increase to BOF and let them deny; budget amount concerns; layers of budget; multiple structures; work with number settled on; issues with eliminating courses; Spanish class status; secondary to what number is from BOF; put forth budget that is reasonable; contractual obligations percentage; take what have and go forward; priority of Spanish class over L.H.S. classes and 4th grade numbers; 0% arbitrary number; issues with what BOF looking for; most cuts come from direct instruction from teachers to students; need more cuts in administration and not teachers; don't cut teachers; if cut administrator can achieve 0% increase; removing coordinators affects student outcome; all cuts come out of teaching;

issues with L.M.S.; need for restructuring; administration numbers; need thoughtful process; need for further discussion next year; this is Superintendent's budget; if BOE budget and Board can make direct changes; make moves on line items; meetings with BOF; 0% recommendation from BOE Finance Committee and the BOF; budget process included all parties involved; start with zero budget and build step-by-step; educational cost sharing issues; where going forward; State of CT gives less and less each year; decreases each year; boiler issues and needs; snow budget good; insurance coverage issues; input from Personnel Committee; first budget at 3.8%; maintenance and custodial services; soft numbers; special education variables; priorities set; input from Superintendent; serious cuts made; administrators can make budget work; priorities set by Superintendent to do least harm to students; issues with Spanish and summer program; health care issues; Board of Selectmen budget issues; heating issues; complicated heat budget; discussion with BOF and Capital money in budget for BOE.

MOTION carried. Ms. Carr; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Simone voted in the affirmative. Ms. Stone; Mr. Morosani; Mr. Shuhi; and Mr. Terzian voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

b. Overnight Field Trip – Nature's Classroom.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and second by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the out of state field trip to Nature's Classroom, YMCA Camp Jewel, April 23-24, 2018.

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

c. Out of State Field Trip- Museum of Natural History, NY.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the out of state field trip to Museum of Natural History, NY April 26, 2018.

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

d. Out of State Field Trip – Fantastic Festival, Six Flags New England.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the out of state field trip to Fantastic Festival, Six Flags New England, Agawam MA, April 27, 2018.

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

e. Teacher Resignation.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve the resignation of Lianne Ambruso as read by the Superintendent with regret and thanks for her years of service.

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

Board consensus was to discuss issues with maintaining teachers in CPP committee.

f. Oil Tank Grant Approval – Public Works.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to endorse the request for review of final plans, form SCG-039 for LCS in regards to the underground storage tank removal project.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to endorse the request for review of final plans, form SCG-038 for LIS in regards to the underground storage tank removal project.

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

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Turner reported: District Dashboard to be released tomorrow; Board committee meetings scheduled; Finance on the 26th; Ad Hoc committee; meeting with Region 6 administrators; HS principals and Superintendents met; scheduling issues when sharing classes; AP Bio; Economics; continue meetings; promote school sharing; need to help students; 2 periods during day could work; adjusting to schedule and instructional day; 2 periods can match up; periods 3 and 4 especially; possibly start in fall; and scheduling for snow days on target for now.

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology – none

Curriculum, Program and Personnel - Ms. Stone reported that the committee met on March 1st and discussed benchmarks for L.C.S. presented by Mr. Ammary and Ms. Sullivan; SRBI update; Ms. Ferrari discussed ELA at L.M.S./L.H.S.; meeting schedules discussed; once a month for now.

Finance – none

Policy – policies to be reviewed next.

Policy Reviewa. Review

- i. Bylaw #9000 Role of the Board and Members (Powers, Purposes, Duties) – policy reviewed.
- ii. Bylaw #9010 Limits of Authority – policy reviewed and revised. Will be returned for first reading at next BOE meeting.
- iii. Bylaw # 9133 Committees and Advisory Committees – policy reviewed.

b. Second Reading

- i. Policy # 0100 – Philosophy/Goals of the Litchfield Board of Education.

MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve Policy # 0100 Philosophy/Goals of Litchfield Board of Education.

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

- ii. Policy # 5131.81 – Cell Phone / Electronics Devices Policy.

MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve Policy # 5131.81 Cell Phone / Electronics Devices Policy.

Board consensus was to bring back this policy to the committee for further review.

MOTION withdrawn by Mr. Pavlick and seconded withdrawn by Mr. Clock.

- iii. NEW: Bylaw # 9314 - Suspension of Policies, Bylaws and Regulations.

MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Simone: to approve Policy # 9314 Suspension of Policies, Bylaws and Regulations as written.

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

- iv. Bylaw # 9500 – Philosophy and Bylaws of the Board of Education.

MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Policy # 9500 Philosophy and Bylaws of the Board of Education as amended.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Clock: to move to Executive Session at 8:16p.m. to discuss a Personnel Matter involving the Review of Non-Renewal Recommendations.

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 (via telephone); Ms. Stone; and Mr. Pavlick.

Superintendent Turner was invited to attend.

Returned to public session at 8:29 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Litchfield Board of Education non-renew the teacher contracts discussed in Executive Session at the end of the 2017-2018 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and ratify, adopt, and accept the Superintendent's determination that the contract be non-renewed.

Further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests for a hearing, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the above-named teachers and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statute 10-151; and further move that the Superintendent be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing if required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Morosani and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew B. Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary