

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 16, 2016

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School Art Room.

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

Also present were: Superintendent McMullin; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Kubisek; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Turner; and members of the public.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to change the agenda VII j. and k. to follow Executive Session.

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2016, and special meeting of March 8, 2016, with the following corrections: on page 3479, in the second line, delete the word "big."

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: approve the payment of FY 2-15-16 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant dated 3/17/2016 in the amount of \$214,904.21

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 – Ms. Garden reported; hosted speaker, Tim Walsh, Executive Director of Newport Academy; Tuesday the 8th at 7:00 p.m.; Walsh advised

communication is the most powerful tool; prevention comes with awareness; students should refrain from substance use until age 25; he can make a memorable presentation; empower students; smaller group discussions with grades 11 and 12, with grades 7-10 recommends activities; he does not support typical 'one and done' programs; they don't work; further meetings are always needed; offer parents an orientation; United Way input; and possible presentation to Board.

d. Other public comment:

- Ms. Wilson commented: the aggressive and condescending nature of the Board of Finance members at their last meeting with Board of Ed was very upsetting; thanked the Superintendent and Business Manager for all they do.

e. Correspondence-none.

f. Administrators' Reports

- Ms. Turner reported: high school students came to CS to read; also did a writing activity; CS Book Club continuing with school community reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*; AOK Club to visit to read with students; collaboration efforts across the grades is appreciated; pre-school lottery complete with 43 students, all who applied, being able to attend; great job done by teachers; Kindergarten registration ongoing; integrated preschool with Kindergarten and rest of school; social benefits of one program pre-K to 3; data gathering for students who attend preschool at CS and those who didn't shows students in CS pre-school are more likely to meet 3rd grade benchmarks.
- Ms. Kubisek reported: dance last Friday; Science CMTs completed; Booster Club is meeting on Monday to plan for remainder of the year; fundraising ideas and plans for the next Friday Fun Might; and anecdotal data regarding student behavior issues now that there is a separate middle school shows improvement.
- Ms. Murphy reported: Science CMT scheduled for next week.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McMullin reported on the following: CS Kindergarten registration 51 now; 7 have taken, but not returned application for K; will likely reach or exceed the 60 students as projected; 8th grade preliminary data for intentions to leave Litchfield are lower for next year than last year; 3 confirmed going to Wamogo and 5 confirmed to OWT; 5 applied to private school; and congratulations to cast and crew of *Starmites*; the cast had a surprise visit from the playwright which was very unexpected and exciting; and he added complimentary comment on Facebook.

Old Business – none

New Business

a. Tuition Student Request

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve the tuition

student request from Mr. & Mrs. Prenoveau for their daughter Kenyon Denver Prenoveau to attend LHS in the fall.

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

b. Litchfield Hills Rowing Club restructuring

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the Litchfield Hills Rowing Club restructuring as presented.

Board members discussed the following: request to approve these out-of-state requests can be like going down a slippery slope; has become a club-type sport; similar to cheerleading sport; possible certification of the sport; partners with Wamogo; share expenses; coaching issues as to who pays for the coaches and their overnight, out-of-state expenses; timing with applying for this change in program; crew was grandfathered into school-sponsored organization at first; now that they left, can't get back into the school-sponsored organization; need for input from the coaches; Wamogo may be on track with change; issues with lacrosse, which is also a club sport and is not BOE supported; sounds like a club sport, like a soccer club; crew used to be a much bigger enrollment; limiting players to compete; competitions have been difficult in the past; what insurance issues may arise; van usage to attend out-of-state; 7 athletes from Litchfield, 9 from Wamogo; issues with fees for the sport; CIAC issues; and need for further info.

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

c. – f. Tabled

g. “Supplemental Skills” Reorganization

Superintendent McMullin distributed a proposal for reorganization of math support positions and discussed the following: almost in effect now with a math curriculum specialist and one non-certified, highly-trained paraprofessional; current model has Math Curriculum Director working on math curriculum, data collecting, PD, technology, and tiered support; currently use certified teachers and a pull-out; need to train paraprofessionals to work in the classrooms, in centers; need for classroom teacher to work directly with students who need support, in the classroom, not pull-out; classroom teachers well-versed in interventions; budget costs outline provided; need for 4 non-certified hires including benefits to replace 2 certified teachers with very small, pull-out caseloads; and implementation schedule.

MOTION made by Mr. Waugh and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the “Supplemental Skills” Reorganization as presented.

Board members discussed the following: who currently does Tier III pull out; numbers of students being services; benefit packages included currently, as well; increase in number

paraprofessionals; decrease in certified teachers; need for training paras in math model; extra set of hands for teacher; participate in PD days; small decrease in budget, but not the reason for the model; teachers losing positions will take open positions in district; losing certified positions; and input from the LEA about bumping, not eliminating positions.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions. Mr. Shuhi recused himself.

h. Litchfield Legacy Program

Superintendent McMullin distributed a proposal from Ms. Della Volpe and Ms. Haggard to develop a Litchfield Legacy Program within LHS and discussed the following: an alternate work schedule approved by LEA; hours of program will be after regular school day; students can work at a job during the day; use of online programming to individualize math and English classes; could use 4th period for science classes with 2 – 2:30 break time; budget costs included; issues regarding Special Ed, Social Worker, and administration addressed; Dean of Students would act as the program's administrator; individualized program for students addressing skills needed for jobs; for kids who think outside the box; for at risk students; for students with issues with social anxiety; cut down on our outplacements by providing for kids' needs; and specialized programming.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the proposal for development of a Litchfield Legacy Program within LHS as presented.

Board members discussed the following: inclusion of possibly 6 seniors who could benefit; input from other schools in the area; one outsourced student costs \$50,000; eliminated one out-placement could pay for the whole program; helping at-risk kids; possibly open program to other school districts; need to get our feet under us, first; issues with circumventing the curriculum; students would almost be privileged; can go to bed late unlike if participating in the normal school day; issues with recourse if students don't keep up the contract requirements; need for rules; have to be accountable; get input from Canton; all forms are viewable from Canton website; defining the "job" students must hold as regular employment or internship; minimum number of work hours; school is not made for everyone; need to be productive; students become resourceful; cause disciplinary issues; need to maintain high school grades; receiving and giving for students; graduation rate is high now; need to not let this become a dumping ground to avoid dealing with disciplinary issues; input from Dean of Students; working directly with the teacher; students do take alternate routes by their own choice and not by the school's; Dean of Students administrator for program; has to be a small, manageable group; perhaps paraprofessional is needed for support; number of students will make a difference in the teacher's caseload; cost savings over out-placement; and input from Watertown's program.

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

i. Budget considerations

Mr. Fiorillo reported: presented to Board of Finance; not a positive reception from them; no action recommended; no action needed; need to wait until other budgets are presented to the Board of Finance; 2.8 increase in Board's budget; no motion made by BOF so no response necessary; will be available to answer questions in the future; and goal is to go in the direction presented.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Programs and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met and discussed the following: thank you to the Board for approving the two initiatives presented this evening; music and art offering new courses next year, without pre-requisites; discussed NEASC recommendations for curriculum; LIS scheduling changes; still need increased time in LA, math, science; already increased time for Spanish class; PE schedule; increase in STEM offerings; 20 additional minutes instructional time; decrease time for pickup; block of time needed; music needs; recess time and lunch time; and 40 minutes increase in PE.

Education Connection - Mr. Waugh reported that the committee met and discussed the following: lobbyist issues at State Department; cuts in State budget; 2 months severe cuts; and need to go to grants for funding.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to move to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss Personnel.

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

Executive Session

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

Superintendent McMullin and Ms. Turner were invited to attend.

Ms. Turner left at 9:00 p.m.

Returned to public session at 9:20 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to move to that the Board hire Ms. Turner as Superintendent of Schools subject to the term as discussed in Executive Session.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

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

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