

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 18, 2015

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Media Center.

Members Present: Mr. Simone, Chairperson; Ms. Carr (at 7:02 pm); Ms. Rosser (at 7:02 pm); Messrs. Bongiorno, Clock, Falcetti, Shuhi, and Waugh.

Members Absent: Ms. Fabbri

Also present were: Superintendent McMullin: Mr. Poole; Ms. Mongeau; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Turner; Ms. Della Volpe, Ms. Kubisek; the public and the press.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve the minutes of special meeting of February 25, 2015 and regular meeting of March 4, 2015 as submitted.

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

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the payment of invoices on Accounts Payable warrant dated 3/19/2015 in the amount of \$145,959.40 and the second Accounts Payable warrant dated 3/19/2015 in the amount of \$7,916.81.

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. Shafer and Mr. Fitzgerald reported – programs scheduled with Ed Connection in the near future; program on internet safety and cyber bullying; options for parents to view programs online; parent academy to gather data for presentation; info to cover; early May, before prom, “Sarah’s Story” to be presented; issues with teaching and learning for students; planning for Parent Academy; “Project Purple” continuing; Litchfield Prevention Council on Facebook now; and updates available for all.

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d. Public Comment –

- Ms. Carr commented – concerns about speaking louder for the live Board meetings.
- Mr. Glandar commented – concerns about budget; subsidized lunches and weeding costs.

e. Correspondence - Letter of resignation from Ashley Roberts.

f. Administrators' Reports

- Ms. Turner reported – March 23rd the first Ready, Set, Grow meeting with Kindergarten parents; teachers' participating; April 1st whole school field trip to the Warner to see "Charlotte's Web," and movie day last week for whole school to view the movie, "Charlotte's Web.
- Ms. Murphy reported – successful PD day last Wednesday on technology; special thanks to Ms. Orado, Ms. Sullivan, Ms Terry and Mr. Landy for organizing and participating; reviewed Twitter, web site and technology in the classroom.
- Ms. Della Volpe reported – 53 to Washington, DC for music trip; 4 to participate in New England Music Festival; 6 students participated in COLT poetry competition with 4 winning; successful performance last weekend of "Footloose," on Friday 7th grade teachers to go to L.I.S. to meet with 6th grade teachers and plan transition days; conclusion of NEASC visit; thanks to Board for their participation; almost \$10,000 in grant received for assessment; aligning assessment with practices; same assessment language; explanation for students, family and faculty; and begin assessment plan for next year.
- Mr. Poole reported – Board members thanked Mr. Poole for his hard work getting them through this transition period; Mr. Poole thanked the Board for such a successful experience as Business Manager.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McMullin reported – terrific performance of "Footloose;" jazz band and chorus performances at NEASC gathering; successful 1-on-1 meeting with NEASC members; grateful for full Board turnout; COLT participation; survey results; abnormalities; key findings given to Board; meeting with CPP committee; next step, sharing data with families; sharing with Litchfield Prevention Council; input in Health class; before school and after school day care provided by Ed Connection for C.S. and L.I.S.; combined with Region 6; drop off after 6:30 a.m. and pick up by 6:00 p.m.; based at C.S.; registration on April 1st from 5-7 p.m. at Center School for all students who wish to participate; and excited for the offerings and the program.

Old Business

- a. Request for continued admission – Tuition Waiver
Superintendent McMullen had further input on the request.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to deny the request.

Board members discussed: Board policy reviewed; 6 weeks or less is an exception; tuition will be charged; transition out of district different than moving into district; 12 weeks remaining for student; 1/3 of the school year; and meeting student needs.

MOTION failed. Ms. Carr, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Simone voted in the affirmative. Ms. Rosser, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Clock, and Mr. Waugh voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

Further action is needed.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to approve the request.

MOTION failed. Ms. Rosser, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Clock, and Mr. Waugh voted in the affirmative. Ms. Carr, Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Simone voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

b. 2015-2016 Budget

Superintendent McMullin distributed a copy of a letter sent to the Board of Finance members answering questions they asked on Monday, March 16th, and changes in budget slides based on new information. Also distributed "Budget Reduction Worksheet 18-Mar-15."

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to cut the budget in accordance to the first tier to 3.79%.

Board members discussed: projections by experts; Kelly Services issues; better than the past; issues with Affordable Care Act; provided by Kelly Services now; 30% classrooms not covered previous years, 10% classrooms not covered under Kelly Services; possible increase in sub pay; issues with other districts raising pay at same time so a wash out; average pay for subs in area; possible permanent sub in buildings; possible interns to sub in schools; input from administrators; desk top PCs replace with docking stations; 50 desk top costs; needs in video lab classes; class to career issues; desktops at library at C.S. and L.I.S.; and \$25,000 cut in technology.

MOTION amended by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to approve to reflect \$25,000 cut in technology to bring it to 3.6% increase.

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Board members discussed: difficulty with Dell computers; insurance issues; issues with one on one use; keyboard issues; and need to support technology.

AMENDMENT carried. Ms. Carr, Ms. Rosser, Mr. Clock, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Simone, Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Waugh voted in the affirmative. Mr. Bongiorno voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION carried. Ms. Carr, Ms. Rosser, Mr. Clock, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Simone, Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Waugh voted in the affirmative. Mr. Bongiorno voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

New Business

a. Resignation

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the resignation of SRBI teacher, S. Ashley Roberts.

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

Committee Reports

Policy Committee - Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet tomorrow night.

Policies

- a. New Policy #6173 Homebound and Hospitalized Instruction – Return for second reading at next regular BOE meeting.
- b. First Reading – Policy #5113 Attendance and Excuses – Return for second reading at next regular BOE meeting.
- c. First Reading – Policy #5121 Examination/Grading/Rating – Return for second reading at next regular BOE meeting.
- d. First Reading – Policy # 6000 Concept and Roles in Instruction – Return for second reading at next regular BOE meeting.
- e. First Reading – Policy # 6112.1 School Day – Return for second reading at next regular BOE meeting.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 8:05 to discuss a Personnel Matter.

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

Executive Session

Present: Mr. Simone, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Bongiorno, Clock, Falcetti, Shuhi, and Waugh.

Superintendent McMullin: Mr. Poole; Ms. Mongeau; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Turner; Ms. Della Volpe and Ms. Kubisek were invited to attend.

Open session resumed at 8:10 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Waugh and seconded by Ms. Carr: 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 2014-2015 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and ratify adopt and accept the Superintendent's determination that the contracts be non-renewed.

Further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-referenced 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 is 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 Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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

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