

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 4, 2015

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Media Center.

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

Absent: Ms. Carr and Ms. Fabbri.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 7:02 to discuss personnel.

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

Executive Session

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

Superintendent McMullin and Mr. Poole were invited to attend.

Returned to public session at 7:15 p.m.

New Business

- a. Recommendation to Hire – Director of Business Operations

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve hiring David Fiorillo as Director of Business Operations.

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

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the minutes of regular meeting of February 18, 2015 as submitted.

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

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the payment of invoices on Accounts Payable warrant date 3/5/2015 in the amount of \$85,243.89.

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. Other Public Comment – none.
- e. Correspondence
 - An email from Christian Bratina regarding concerns over 4.6% budget increase.
 - An email from John and Lucia Dieck regarding basketball passes for families.
- f. Administrators' Reports
 - Ms. Mongeau reported – in outline, on office business and professional development.
 - Ms. Turner reported – thanks to high school students and administrators for participating in Dr. Seuss Day; reading to students; creating poems; continuation of book club included in website; integrating art in the book club; and next parent workshop for Common Core scheduled next Thursday.
 - Mr. Poole reported – in outline, financial report included; business manager search; and facilities update.
 - Ms. Kubisek reported – winter athletics winding up; senior nights held; spring sports beginning; boys' basketball team competing in states; CAPT science scheduled for 10th graders; 8th grade testing coming up; March 12 – 14 “Footloose” in the auditorium; and NEASC visit begins on the 15th.
 - Ms. Murphy reported – water leakage incident; flexibility of staff and students; great under pressure; and CMT science on Thursday.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McMullin reported – Jazz Band to perform at Infinity Hall on March 15th with a portion of proceeds to go back to our music program; Litchfield High School Players performing “Footloose” on March 12-15th; Sunday, March 15th NEASC visitation begins; meet and greet scheduled for Board members; C.S. and L.I.S. visit to

Plainville Schools to observe “enVision” math curriculum; wonderful hosts; and examining the math and technology programs.

Old Business – none

New Business – Continued

- b. Request for continuation admission – Tuition waiver.

Superintendent McMullin shared an email from Deanna Palaia who will be moving to Torrington in March and is requesting permission for her two children to remain in Center School until the end of the school year with a tuition waiver and transportation at their expense.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to allow the two students to finish the school year free.

Board members discussed: concerns about the transportation responsibility being included in the motion; need to follow policy; concerns about people in the past who have been denied the request and coming back to be reimbursed; concerns over ability of parents to be able to pay tuition; 6 weeks free tuition included in policy with tuition payment after that; concerns for students’ needs; policy reviewed; pro rate tuition; exception for Seniors to complete final year; policy is policy; and possible financial problems for parents.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the students to go to school for the school year but pay for own transportation with 6 weeks free and the remaining weeks to waive their tuition.

Board members discussed: need to follow policy; held the line with other requests; not legal to know financial needs; kids not abandoned but moving to new school; parents’ choice; concern with small children and timing for the move.

MOTION withdrawn by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Falcetti.

Board consensus was to table this discussion until the next meeting with request for more information to be provided by Ms. McMullin.

- c. 2015-2016 Budget proposal.

Superintendent McMullin presented an outline of the Budget including: Special Education caseloads and impact; adjust if 1-to-1 para support is needed; and 4.16% increase after adjustments made.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the 2015-2016 Budget as submitted with adjustments and 4.16% increase.

Board members discussed: changes made; adjustments will not impact needs for educational programs; reduced cost for iPads; homebound tuition line combined; curriculum writing needs adjusted; math needs; supplemental materials; and printing needs.

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

Next step is to go to the Board of Finance.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Programs and Personnel - No report.

Finance - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will meet on Monday.

Policy - No report

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee met and discussed: auditorium needs; improvements discussed; input from Mr. Healy; \$26,000 in budget for lighting for stage; need for sound system; issues with sound board; sound with 5-year videos; fire marshal approves storage of acoustical screens; storage under stage; 5-year build-out plan for technology; accounts for replacements; develop standards; outline developed by Ms. Terry; positive direction for technology; policies needed for technology; BYOD; 1-to-1 issues; difficulty with students bringing their own devices; cell phone policy; broken pipes and water leak; frozen in road; tinting windows; transfer money from Capital; sidewalks to be done in summer; pothole issues; dig up pipes on Saturday; put shutoff valve so won't flood school any further; and domestic water stays turned on in school.

Mr. Simone appointed an ad hoc committee made up of Superintendent McMullin; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Bongiorno; Ms. Terry; and a principal.

Mr. Waugh reported that the scholarship committee has been scheduled to meet on April 28th and 29th.

Policies - to be reviewed when Ms. Carr is present.

Ms. Scozzafava reviewed the NEASC schedule with the Board and when they are needed in the process.

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, March 4, 2015

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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

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