

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 5, 2014

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Library/Media Center.

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

Also present were: Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Lathrop; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Turner; Ms. Kubisek; Mr. Zaremski; and members of the public.

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of regular meeting February 19, 2014, with the following corrections: on page 3223 under public comment change “Perilla” to Parilla,” on page 3224 under correspondence; change “Buckland” to “Bucklin,” under administrators’ reports, change “aloud” to “Aloud,” and on page 3226, under old business change the last sentence to “Board consensus was to have decision stand and not reopen the issue.”

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of special meeting February 20, 2014 as submitted.

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

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the payment of invoices on Accounts Payable warrant dated 3/6/2014 in the amount of \$248, 655.89.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC – none

- PTO – Ms. Lynn Stone reported: April 5th – Joanne McCormick Memorial Family Run and Walk in memory of Joanne McCormick; March 20th next parent academy focusing on Language Arts and Reading; March 27th “Son” event at L.I.S.; March 20th new officers for PTO to be elected.
- b. LHS Student Council – Matt McCarthy reported on the student council activities at the high school.
- c. Other Public Comment
- Ms. Andrulis commented in opposition to the student life survey and cited possible after school programs for students.
 - Ms. Carr commented on “Talent in Town” to be held on March 15th from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Litchfield Firehouse.
- d. Correspondence
- An invitation to the LHS National Art Honor Society induction ceremony.
 - An invitation to the CT Freedom of Information conference.
 - A letter from ED Connection regarding a scholarship opportunity for L.H.S. students.
 - A letter from Christian Bratina regarding the budget.
 - A letter from Lynn Murphy supporting the L.H.S. Principal.
 - John Bongiorno reported he received a phone call from George Tilby requesting an opportunity to start a Leo Club after school; Mr. Tilby is in support of the Prevention Council. Referred to L.H.S. administrators.
- e. Administrators’ Reports
- Mr. Zaremski reported: handout, “Special Education Regulations – Burden of Proof – Connecticut State Board of Education Follow-up,” stakeholder group process; response to the Board Question; Other Related Issues; time limits; next step; 11% identified in Litchfield which has held steady; 12.4% state prevalence; PPT process started with 54 to go; 12 out of district PPT in various parts of CT; and CJR brochure distributed. Dr. Wheeler commented: money spent for Burden of Proof cases (lawsuits) could be better spent on programs for students.
 - Ms. Turner reported: very successful “Read Across America Day,” thanks to L.H.S. Principal and L.H.S. students who visited Center School to read; and hoping to have more days like this.
 - Ms. Murphy reported: “Read Across America Day” was held and sponsored by PTO; reading true stories; students pledging to become life long readers; book drive for students in elementary school in Washington state; and science CMTs to be held March 20th.
 - Ms. Kubisek reported: Play went well last weekend; well attended; started science CMT and CAPT; SBAC test to be given between March 15th and through April; basketball team in tournament; cheerleading in competition in New Haven on Friday; swimming and diving in state championships; Chelsea Hayward 6th in New England in indoor track and field event; March 17th

Winter Sports Awards; Prevention Council moving along; developed sub-committees for school and community.

Superintendent's Report

- a. Panorama Presentation: Survey for Educator Evaluation Plan; survey staff and parents; use same as last year; mid-April on line; \$1500 for survey; 10% on teacher and administrator summative evaluation at end of year; look at growth from last year; and not student life attitude survey.
- b. Regionalization status: Conversation with Leo Paul and Mr. Simone to have a start point; findings from ED Connection; significant savings potential; enrollment and scheduling data; FTE reductions; 5 sections for teachers; class size effects; classes with less than 10 students; drafted letter to go to Mr. Paul requesting that he formally contact the three first selectman from Wamogo towns to determine interest in beginning a study.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Falcetti; to have the Superintendent send a letter to Leo Paul to formally request that we begin the process of studying regionalization with Region 6.

Board members discussed: broadened diversity of classes; singleton courses offered at Wamogo; freedom to structure programs; how savings will be allocated to towns involved; 4 years in the works; need to push along to get started; reimbursement rate will be different; fewer administrators; and community sees the need to study.

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

New Business

- a. Donation toward installation of "Center School" name - Donation from Dr. Deborah Wheeler and Gary Wheeler of \$500.00 toward installation of "Center School" name above the entrance to the school.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the donation of \$500.00 from Dr. Deborah Wheeler and Gary Wheeler toward the installation of the name "Center School" above the front entrance.

Board members thanked Dr. Wheeler and her husband for their generosity toward a lasting legacy.

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

b. Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools Concerning the Institution of Teacher Non Renewals Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes #1-151.

MOTION: Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151; the Litchfield Board of Education nonrenew the teacher contracts of Erin Butler, Elizabeth Chalker, Ashley Labonte, Cristin Marshall, Sarah McHugh, Kimberly Roe, Kristen Babowicz, Emily Bernard, Jose Cerra, Rebecca Duquette, Elizabeth Johanson, Maria Krafty Melissa Michaud, Mark Obolewicz, Adam Piechowski, Jill Sage, Kimberly Thompson, Patricia Alber, Gabriel Alejandro Alvarez, Amy Bainbridge, Christy Barrett, David Constant, Ernesto Davila, Stephanie Fletcher, Kyle Harris, John Kassay, James Parker, Francesca Rivellini, Michael Roy, Tyler Schuck, Alexander Schwartz, Jeffrey Sherman, Joyce Sidlosky, at the end of the 2013-2014 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and ratify adopt and accept the Superintendent's determination that the contract be nonrenewed.

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 of a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to so move the motion.

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

c. 2014-2015 BOE Budget Development – Present to Board of Finance March 24th.

Board members discussed: possible too high at 4.67%; possible cuts to consider; leave as is and let the Board of Finance determine what appropriate number is for the town; budget discussion already held; emails from parents concerned about percentage; could take items out now and hold firm with Board of Finance; possible cuts to Math program, \$60,000; not a good time to start a math program; \$22,000 in transportation cuts possible; \$45,000 in tech budget cut next year; leave pre K program; reasonable cuts; 4.68 does not include math text books; math program not an extravagance and teachers hope to have for next year; PD funding; testing patterns; SBEC testing need asset now; possible surplus budget can be used; austerity can only go so far; contracts, HSA move forward with 2% of the budget; renewal information not available yet; 4.25% if remove technology and transportation cuts; NEASC already in budget; K enrollment at 56 now

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but is expected to go up; lose 2nd grade and 4th grade teacher; and second pre-school teacher needed.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Carr: to leave the budget at 4.68% increase.

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

Committee Reports

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee will meet next Thursday where the math program is supposed to be on the agenda. Pilot lessons will not be done by then.

There will be an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee has not met.

Finance - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met and everything has been covered during the meeting that took place at the meeting. An expanded list of prioritized items of possible cuts should be completed for Board perusal.

Policy - Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet the Thursday after Curriculum, Programs and Personnel meets.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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

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