

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 7, 2012

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, 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, Falcetti, Katzin, Shuhi, and Waugh.

Also present were: Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Mr. Zaremski; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Longobucco; Ms. Murphy; the public and the press.

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of February 15, 2012 as submitted with the following correction on page 3001, first sentence under Superintendent's Report the dates should read 2012-2013.

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. Waugh: to approve the payment of invoices for 2011-2012 budget as required.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC - Ms. Fabbri reported: thanks to all volunteers at the basketball concession stand, goal was reached for a \$2,000 scholarship this year.

PTO – Ms. Moore reported: co-sponsored Goshen Players performance that was sold out; thanks to Ms. Fabbri for sharing the idea; 2nd annual Joanne McCormick Road Race to be held on Saturday, April 21st at 11 a.m.; and T-shirts available to support the race.

- b. LHS Student Council – Joe Wihbey reported on the high school student council activities.

- c. Public Comment –

- Tracy Connelly from AFSCME # 1303392 commented on the maintenance issue.
- Robert Okoski shared letters of appreciation from students to Mr. Whalen and Mr. Okoski.

d. Correspondence –

- A copy of a letter from Dr. Brandt regarding the school calendar.
- A letter from the State Board of Education notifying LHS that they were among the top performers in the 2011 Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge.

e. Administrators’ Report

- Ms. Della Volpe reported: Spring production “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” to be held on Friday, March 9th; Saturday, March 10th; and Sunday, March 11th matinee.
- Ms. Murphy reported: CMTs started this week.
- Ms. Longobucco reported: Family Art Night on February 23rd; small cast presentation from Charlie Brown play; and CMTs this week and next.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Wheeler reported:

- Long Term Substitute Assistant Principal, Thomas Banas, from Region 15.
- Attendance at the Northwest CT Economic Development Council meeting with four high school students: Lily Deering, Alec Fabbri, Philip Simonin, and Joe Wihbey who shared special insights for workforce development.
- Strategic School Profile 2010-2011 including: enrollment; indicators of educational need; CMT and CAPT student performance scores; SAT results; graduation and dropout rates; activities of graduates; district staff; hours of instruction per year; district expenditures and revenues; special education expenditures; students with disabilities placed in education settings other than this district’s schools; and time spent with non-disabled peers.

Board members discussed: issues with students with disabilities and their needs being met; possible need to expand preschool to meet needs of students not attending nursery schools; typical students in preschool as a model; PPL inter-district program eliminated and the needs for other diversity programs; Rachael’s Challenge and grant with Torrington Schools.

Old Business

- a. 2012-2013 Superintendent’s Budget Proposal - Mr. Buccitelli distributed the “2012-2013 Budget Workshop” from 2/27/2012 and “Litchfield Public Schools Copier Cost Per Year” outline and reviewed the costs of copying vs. printing. Copying is 1/10th of the cost of printing. Principals could use the budget savings from copying for school supplies.

Mr. Shuhi reviewed the budget adjustments that were discussed at Monday’s Finance Committee meeting.

Board members discussed the following: administrators did a good job with the budget; maintain Science program; impact of State directives; math and science needs; need for Science in grades 4 and 5; hours of science instruction in grades; need to keep world language teacher in the Intermediate School; concerns over means of assessing program; allow more time in Language Arts if world language is eliminated; need for end of year assessment; issues of strategic plan with enrollment dropping 14.2% and staff dropping 5%; need to divide money in different areas; gap in science in the Intermediate School; issues with tech updates; technology mostly for high school; need to visit schools that are technology rich; remote learning programs; take classes from home; student needs for Language Arts; possible grants for technology; timing for grants is off schedule for the budget; can't be capital item because shelf life is less than 10 years; possible money available at end of year; praise to the technology department and Ms. Longobucco for all their hard work; need to go forward in technology; various budget configurations; copier costs and rental fees; toner costs; administrative team set priorities to not reduce existing opportunities for students such as world language and supplemental skills; prefer teacher over director of technology; teacher can take on some responsibilities of director; possible students taking on IT jobs and get credit for that; need for phase 2 and 3; reduction in IT assistant and data manager pays for IT coordinator; present on the 19th; possible medical savings money at the end of year; revisit Language Arts at the end of year instead of technology; support for technology teacher and not technology director; and if Language Arts scores are weak then why cut Language Arts Supplemental skills.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the list of adjustments as presented and eliminating \$117,802 and remove tape drive line item.

Board members discussed: takes away opportunities for students; our job is to advocate for students; don't take out what is in budget already; and costs of leaving all items in the budget

AMENDMENT made by Mr. Katzin and seconded by Ms. Carr: to restore the Science position, restore the World Language position, restore the Language Arts Supplemental Skills position; remove the IT director and modify it to two technology teachers.

AMENDMENT failed. All votes were in the affirmative except Ms. Fabbri, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Shuhi, Mr. Falcetti, and Mr. Simone who voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION carried. Mr. Simone, Ms. Fabbri, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Falcetti and Mr. Shuhi voted in the affirmative. Ms. Rosser, Mr. Katzin, Ms. Carr, and Mr. Waugh voted in the negative.

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Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, March 7, 2012

Committee Reports

Curriculum, Programs, and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee will meet on March 8th.

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee met and discussed the following: technology perspective; phase 1 and 2; quotes returned; review facilities; maintenance positions; and thanks to Ms. Longobucco and the technology team for their vision and focus.

Policy - Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet on March 15th.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to move to Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss and take possible action concerning a personnel matter. Dr. Wheeler was invited to attend.

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

Executive Session

Present were: all the above Board members and Dr. Wheeler.

Open session resumed at 9:10 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the LEA, accepting the resignation of Wendy Pataky.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

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

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