

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 19, 2017

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Center School gym.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Stone; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick and Mr. Shuhi.

Also present were: Superintendent Turner; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Haggard; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Murphy and members of the public.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to add to the agenda as VII c. a discussion of the custodians and as VII d. a discussion of outside maintenance.

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 special meeting of March 29, 2017 with the following corrections on page 3601 fourth sentence from bottom change “student” to “students,” on page 3603 second sentence change “like” to “such as;” and to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 5, 2017 with a correction on page 3606 in the last sentence remove “who” in the motion.

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: approve the payment of FY 2016-17 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2017-21 dated 4/202017 in the amount of \$203,136.36.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Mr. Simone abstained due to working for All-star Transportation.

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications

- a. STPC –none.
PTO – none.
- b. LHS Student Council – none.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – none.

- d. Litchfield Education Foundation – Ms. Reidy reported: successful dodge ball tournament fundraiser; 18 teams; over \$5,000 raised; 500 people involved; great event; community involvement; planned for next year; this Saturday “Mind in Motion” event; enrollment exceeded goal of 182 registered students; poor representation from 7 and 8 graders; mostly K-6; 112 families from Litchfield and 40 from surrounding towns; 23 presenters; noon to 4 p.m.; 21 LHS students involved; cooperation at LHS with room use; funding to support programs in Science, English, Enrichment, etc. and video presentation available.
- e. Other public comment – none.
- f. Correspondence-
 - Email to Litchfield Concerned Citizens regarding Teacher tenure.
 - Email to Litchfield Concerned Citizens re: FOI request for David Fiorillo contract effective dates.
 - Letter from Frederick L. Dorsey to Mr. Paul re: a response to letter dated March 24, 2017 covering “Maintenance Agreement” and “Custodial Agreement.”
- g. Administrators’ Report
 - Ms. Haggard reported: survey launched today; parent portal available; teachers taking it; staff and students taking it; survey is valid; not complicated; end of year plans with Special Ed; IDEA grant up for renewal; wellness project in conjunction with Prevention Council; 27 staff involved; parent collaborative with new pilot for Enrichment program; parent feedback; and bring forward to Board
 - Ms. Kubisek reported through Superintendent Turner: Nature’s Classroom starting; Friday Fun Night this week; 8th grade to Mystic Seaport for field trip on Monday.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Turner reported: none.

Old Business

- a. Budget - Upcoming Budget Hearing on the April 26th.

New Business

- a. Healthy Food Certification.
Ms. LaBarbera distributed handouts including, “3 Steps for HFC Application Process,” and “Two Considerations for HFC Statement” and reported: Litchfield audit review update; every 3 years; passed with flying colors; 3 minor corrective actions needed that were done; snack choices; list available; can have fundraisers on second consideration; first one can’t have fundraisers; can have cookie sales; parents have to pick up products from fundraiser; timing for sales; and input from Board to stay in timeframe.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Option 2 for HFC application process.

Board members discussed: financial issues; constraints with Federal requirements; student choices limited; issues with food being appealing; perhaps buy more if not involved with Federal program; snacks list; National School Lunch Program reimbursement greater; only one school opted out; very difficult financially to not be enrolled; healthy food can be appealing; successful survey of students; have overwhelming favorable response; negative effect financially to opt out; could sell food after school at events on school property; why take option 1; perhaps prevent obesity; and audit completed in one and a half days.

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

b. Out of State Field Trip – Six Flags New England, Agawam MA – 6/8/2017

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve the Out of State field trip to Six Flags New England, Agawam, MA on 6/8/2017 as presented.

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

c. Custodians

Mr. Fiorillo distributed a copy of the March 24, 2017 letter from Leo Paul and a response letter dated April 4, 2017 from Frederick L. Dorsey to Leo Paul and discussed the following: discussed in Facilities and Technology Committee meeting: plan in place and conflict with planned May 8th date; difficult for Town; possibly hold to July 1st; school out June 22nd so work can begin for custodians in school; and issues with posting positions right away to start on the 22nd.

Board members discussed: issues with allowing transfer on the 1st of July instead of May 8th; need MOU in place; hire now since Town has money in budget; Board can't hire and pay from the Town; people already approaching to apply for jobs; 2 FT and 2 PT positions available; funding issues to fill positions; if sue, spending town money; need to be discussed at Selectmen's' meeting; need for resources; issues of trust; need to communicate with parents; issues with being short staffed; \$1.077 million budgeted for town for next year; will need staff; need town to give funding for staff; extend MOU but need staffing with it; people already vetted; possible transfer money through Board of Finance; extend MOU and need to fill positions that are budgeted.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to extend the MOU until June 30th subject to filling positions that have been budgeted.

MOTION withdrawn by Ms. Carr and Seconded by Mr. Shuhi.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to extend the MOU subject to the vacant custodial positions being hired and paid for by the Town at the amount budgeted.

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

d. Exterior Maintenance

Mr. Fiorillo distributed Town of Litchfield, Department of Public Works/Board of Education, School Building Maintenance Agreement; a memo from Leo Paul regarding Recognition of Service dated 6/22/04 to Mitchell Bodnar regarding a shared maintenance plan; email from David Fiorillo to Frederick L. Dorsey re: Mediation; email from David Fiorillo to Superintendent Turner re: Outside Maintenance; several emails from Finance Director to David Fiorillo regarding Outside Maintenance; and discussed the following: letter from Finance Director; budget amount \$190,000; position in town budget; goes back to 2003; asked for evidence; asked for copy of contract; had contract approved by Board of Ed and Board of Selectmen; working well for a long period of time; need for mediation; need to give reasons why giving back to schools; how to budget contract; small amount of \$80,000; memo from Leo Paul praising Mitch for work in 2004; need to get funds back; get portion of salary for Mitch; could recommend mediation; need to tell us why change what has been working so well; why give wrong amount and why different from Town budget.

Board members discussed: Len Fasano current manager of custodians; process better if not separated; successful since 2004; need for Len to be back with Board; offers to give us contract but not the person; issues with Capital funding needs; issues with windows; boiler needs; all done by public works; are joint contracts; no cost of living increases; from 2003; repairs ongoing; prefer to not take back; need laundry list of expenses; need to send correspondence; maintenance needs for both; agreement went well for 14 years; Board does not want it back; best interest of town and community; possible recourse if stop now; won't accept offer; possible mediation; input from attorney; have contract signed by both parties; continue as things are; why believe save town money; need proof; who decides what to give back; Board of Finance can give funds back; need for spreadsheet; cost of maintenance for schools needs to be specific; need to ask for that amount; issues with capital items; issues with snow removal, sanding and salting; have Board of Selectmen cut out if needed; \$250,000 is real number; need for parents to understand this; need for information on spending; reasons why saves town money; need records from 2003; asbestos issues; request public forum; hiring by First Selectman; how put it in our budget before town meeting; could bill town if needed; terminating positions by Mr. Paul; need letter to parents; motion is not in best interest of town; possible start litigation; issuing contracts for next year without the Board of Ed on the document; some contracts have been cancelled; no response from letter from Mr. Fiorillo on April 4th; no date to terminate maintenance; need litigation or input from Board of Finance; need for motion at town meeting for increased funding; need to respond under FOI; need

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to force their hand; attorney recommends continue as if contract in place; if stop services need litigation; need FOI complaint for failure to reply; sent to Finance Director; need all payments over past 3 years; possibly 14 years; and need to go back even more for Capital issues.

Committee Reports - none.

Ed Advance - Ms. Carr reported that the committee met and discussed: new offices; set schedule for meetings; hiring going on; bussing issues and really going strong.

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

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

Executive Session

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Stone; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick and Mr. Shuhi.

Superintendent Turner, Ms. Haggard and Ms. Della Volpe were invited to attend.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to hire Corilyn Rafferty Wales as a Special Education teacher at LHS.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Donald Falcetti, Secretary

Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary