

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 4, 2018

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the L.C.S. gym.

Present were: Ms. Carr, Chairperson; Ms. Stone; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Morosani; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Simone; and Mr. Terzian.

Also present were: Superintendent Turner; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Haggard (at 7:45 p.m.); Ms. Della Volpe (at 7:45 p.m.); Ms. Kubisek (at 7:45 p.m.); Mr. Ammary (at 7:45 p.m.); Dr. Pascento (at 7:45 p.m.); and members of the public.

Community Conversation

Board members participated in a Community Conversation to answer questions.

- Mark Yanaway commented: he has a student at L.H.S.; recommended date of graduation as June 22nd, Friday; with 180 days covered; issues with Warner availability; and will be disused later in the agenda.
- Margaret Hunt commented: possible telecommunication to cover classwork when snow days occur; Google class room used; view at home; and teachers participating.
- Lynn Scozzafava commented: second the great idea; learning on internet; 1-to-1 at L.H.S.

Board members discussed: issues with students who do not have access; majority have access; shortened day; good conversation; use library for access; possible town wide internet; use Chromebook now; build over time; use Google throughout district; use at home already; day care issues; can have paper copy for students to take home with snow day predicted; research other districts to see if works; students still need to go outside and play in snow; portion of day for school; chat live at home now; and possibly used somewhere in Virginia or Fairfield County.

- Glenn Curtiss commented: issues with threats in schools; past practices; officers used; confidentiality issues; have safety plan; involvement of whole staff; mental health issues; staff meets throughout year; need to check plan more than once a year; cost issues; involvement with Homeland Security; cost should not be an issue; input from Leo Paul; needs to be covered by town and Board; requests a serious look at security needs; money needed for protection; town could help; need for security updates in all schools; be safety wise; and ways to do even more.

Board members discussed: positive role model in schools with troopers present; possibly armed officers used; possibly roving officer used; if officer positioned outside all schools, criminal would drive right by; response time issue if shared officer; need for afterschool activities also;

good for students to encounter police officer on daily basis; good for students to have role model; attending different seminars regarding school safety; issues with communication during an event; how communicate with schools and police; large police presence; bring into schools; becomes more normal over time; police stationed at L.C.S. during arrival and dismissal; safety and security; students adjust to police presence; important to community and students; need conversation within community; possible metal detectors installed; take security seriously; need for funding security; not to stress communication but security needs; community members willing to pay for security of schools; need for security in offices and entry ways; and need for police officers on duty.

- Frank VanOrmer commented: possible 4th grade increasing to 4 classrooms.

Board members discussed: due to budget issues 4th grade will remain as 3 classroom teachers.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 14, 2018 with the following corrections on page 3699 in second sentence replace “BOE budget and make” to “BOE budget and Board can make,” on page 3700 under f. second motion change LCS to LIS; and on page 3701 under ii. add “withdrawn” to “seconded by Mr. Clock.”

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Mr. Clock: approve the payment of FY 2017-18 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2018-17 in the amount of \$206,449.54 dated 3/22/18; warrant # 2018-18 in the amount of \$171,929.50 dated 4/5/2018 and Food Service warrant dated 4/4/2018 in the amount of \$7,628.53.

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 – Helene reported on the Student Council activities at the L.H.S.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – none.
- d. Litchfield Education Foundation – Kathleen Reidy reported: success of dodgeball tournament; raised \$12,000 - 3 times the amount over last year; thanks to all participants and helpers; thanks to all schools who participated; Mind in Motion updates; 135 participants; numerous talents involved; input from high school; composer program with Paul Winter soon; band concert; band and chorus involved; L.I.S. participation in kids marathon; thanks to bus company for transportation needed; running 25 minutes; 30 students signed up; science

program offered by Lisa Shaia in conjunction with library; and bring mindfulness into classroom.

e. Other public comment- none.

f. Correspondence-

➤ Email from Sara and David Reynolds regarding reckless substitute bus driver.

g. Administrators' Report –

➤ Mr. Ammary reported: L.C.S. vision / philosophy presentation.

➤ Ms. Haggard reported: very busy season; make up programs that were cancelled with snow days; meetings rescheduled; PD provided for staff; and 2 programs presented.

➤ Mr. Fiorillo reported: Now that the FY 18-19 BOE budget has been approved by the BOF, we are shifting focus to the current year budget. Some expenditures are over budget, Professional Development, Utilities, and Building Maintenance. We are continuing to monitor Benefits/Health Insurance knowing that claims are running above guidance. There are areas that are currently under budget such as Special Education. We are closely monitoring the budget.

Board members discussed: formula for oil purchase; 10 year use history; 85,000 gallon use; 91,000 this year; boiler issue; cleaning it makes it more efficient; budget for next year; Special Education costs; \$142,800 excess costs; fluid numbers; 75% this year; state issues; Medicaid issues; update underfunding maintenance; possibly go to BOF for additional funds; \$100,000 shortfall; need to give update to BOF; have to revisit end of year; complex issues; very aggressive in 0% budget; be open and transparent; possibly more things to cut; don't make line item adjustments; don't skip buying library books; education is priority; have daily conversations; make adjustments all the time; not willing to sacrifice PD for maintenance; need to get back the \$100,000 for maintenance; big concerns about covering educational programs; attempt to fund most important things in budget like programs; already short in maintenance; didn't get all money back from town for maintenance; live within means; ask for additional funds from BOF; if PD isn't there or library books, educational opportunities are lost; have to budget those things; don't want to fill the underfunding of maintenance by cutting programs; expenditures for Special Ed update; budget mostly non-discretionary; level of services issues; direction school going dictates budget; if look at budget and have shortfalls how fund; and important to estimate correctly.

➤ Ms. Della Volpe reported: school calendar updates; end of year events; drill procedures updated; evaluate response time; need to improve; skill set issues; SAT May 21st; give pilot science testing next; calibrating scores; includes e format; AP classes 75% participation rate; asked to join summer Jubilee Celebration; need 10 to participate; and spectacular event.

➤ Ms. Kubisek reported: young writers update; winners included; competition updates; upcoming field trips; one to Natures Classroom; one to 8th grade outing; national music updated.

➤ Dr. Pascento reported: next week conferences held; Kids marathon with LEF funding; participate every Friday for 8 weeks; culmination in Torrington; grade 6 transition events; chorus and band updates; health screenings in progress; videos shown; spring concert scheduled; trip to Six Flags planned; programs enhanced in library; dodge ball participation; L.M.S. won but L.C.S. had best costumes.

Old Business – none.**New Business**a. Center School Vision Philosophy.

Mr. Ammary presented Center School vision philosophy and reviewed the following: our mission; partnership; benefits of partnership; partnership examples; commitment to support each other; benefits and examples; atmosphere; benefits and examples; and pictures with wonderful things happening at L.C.S.

Board members discussed: how evaluated; need to look for opportunities for feedback; collaboration successful; plan with stakeholders; enrichment area very successful; needs of the whole child; multiple intelligences; take something positive and implement every day learning; natural part of day; takes a lot of work; partnerships needed; 21st century skills; measuring for learning; success of program; what measurable progress occurs; happens on spot; STEM opportunities happen; bit boxes used; 4th grade to L.C.S.; organic feedback; what isn't working well; how to fix and game plan; student academic success; educational philosophy; collaboration moving forward; art studio; collaboration with grade levels; and share slides on website.

b. Center School Specialty Team – Seherr-Thoss Grant Request.

Ms. Moore, Library/Tech and Ms. Clementson, Art Teacher, distributed a handout from March 22, 2018 and presented the following: includes Cristin Marshall, Music Teacher and Andy Parker, PE Teacher.

Board members discussed: physical space needed; equipment needed; art equipment; choice based teaching; equipment to support learning; possible furniture needed; more accessible; library media input; collaboration in works; 21st century learning style used; problem solving; kids loved it after being tested; better outcomes for them; communicate with children in the world; healthy play for students; through grant work; criteria used; have package to review and possible grant application to be used for updating security.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and second by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the grant application as presented.

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

c. High School Graduation Date for June, 2018.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve June 25th as high school graduation date for 2018.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Terzian: to add to the agenda as h. a discussion of the last day of school for 2018.

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

d. Out of State Field Trip – Norman Rockwell Museum.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Ms. Stone: to approve the out of state field trip to Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA on May 7 and 14, 2018 as presented.

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

e. Teacher Resignation

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Ms. Stone: to approve the resignation of Dania Bartholomew effective June 30, 2018 as presented.

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

Board consensus was to discuss issues with maintaining teachers in CPP committee.

f. Update on collaboration discussions with Region 6.

Mr. Morosani distributed the minutes from the Joint Special Meeting held on March 20, 2018 and discussed the following: 5 classes each school hosts; drama production held in fall at Wamogo and in spring at Litchfield; Spanish issues; updated discussions going well; and inroads being made.

Board members discussed: bus issues; alignment of schedules needed; possibly share substitutes; work in consortium already; opportunity to share; very positive meeting; need further discussion; issues with play performances; synchronizing timing; sports shared; take classes to get to know other students from other school; Wamogo purchased vehicle; 40 students signed up, significant number; increased expenses for bus, \$9,000; schedules not aligned; need to make structured changes; 2 periods a day align; issues with scheduling delayed openings and early dismissals; need for co-op agreement; discussion on 3 hour delays for some snow storms; and need to further discuss with community.

g. Ad Hoc Technology Committee.

Board members reviewed the mission, make up and responsibilities of the committee and

discussed: possible need to reform; done by Technology Committee; educational development issues; needs to be addressed; issues with spending, grants, security, and usability; need to structure needs of district; issues with improving education; issues with developmental impact; is student learning; moving away from textbooks; input from Facilities and Technology Committee; natural transition to go to CPP committee; end game technology support of curriculum; is it effective in teaching; does it move education forward; do what needs to do for kids; is it a tool for learning; difficult to measure; need people from community that have expertise; staff involved; and need for Board participants in Ad Hoc.

h. Last day of school.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Mr. Terzian: to make the last day of school June 22nd the 180th day.

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

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Turner reported: Program review proposals from CREC, EdAdvance and Maureen Ruby; District Data Dashboard now live on website; new building safety updates; online; parent involvement; email updates and update with Region 6 collaboration.

Board members discussed: 3 classes for incoming 4th graders; possible orientation held for them; let parents know update; possible coffee hour held; have transition in place; program updates; block approved; free up time; scavenger hunt in summer for incoming 4th graders; parents participate; possible letter to parents of 3rd graders; shadowing possibility; give parents heads up; and parent input and participation.

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee did not meet but future agenda items will include school safety issues; updates on audit; school resource officer; entrance issues; need for sally port; funding for safety and security; can't give specifics for confidentiality issues; can give guidance; entrance needs; input from Seherr-Thoss grant as presented this evening; fixed assets; steel walls; electrical issues; and most needs as presented.

Curriculum, Program and Personnel – none.

Finance – none.

Policy – none.

Policiesa. First Reading

- i. Bylaw #9010 Limits of Authority – policy was reviewed. Return to BOE at next regular meeting for second reading.

MOTION made by Mr. Terzian and seconded by Mr. Clock: to move to Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. to discuss Confidential Documents.

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

Executive Session

Present were: Ms. Carr, Chairperson; Ms. Stone; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Morosani; Mr. Pavlick; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Simone; and Mr. Terzian.

Superintendent Turner was invited to attend.

Returned to public session at 9:54 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Ms. Stone: to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew B. Terzian, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary