

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 5, 2017

Approved 4-19-2017

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 5, 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; Mr. Ammary; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Murphy and members of the public and the press.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to add to the agenda as VI a. a discussion of the budget and as VI b. a discussion of the survey.

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 8, 2017 with the following corrections on page 3588 correct the spelling of Litchfield in the title, on page 3589 change Jodie to Jodi; on page 3590 change Jodie to Jodi, Barns to Barnes; Christie to Kristi; on page 3593 change Mr. Shuhi's statement to "a lot of what we are talking about is at the operational level" and the minutes of the special meeting of March 16, 2017 as submitted.

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 # 2017-20 dated 4/6/2017 in the amount of \$210,094.99 and on Food Service warrant dated 4/5/2017 in the amount of \$9,838.20.

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.

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- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – none.
- d. Litchfield Education Foundation – none.
- e. Other public comment –
 - Mr. Hatfield commented: maintenance concerns with grounds issues; LHS music trip protocol for dropping bags off; and a more positive message for the students.
- f. Correspondence-
 - Email from Kathleen Reidy regarding clarification of field trip discussion.
 - Email from Jill Vermilyea regarding a thank you to the Board members.
 - A letter from Leo Paul regarding the motion made by the Selectmen to return duties to the Board of Education for care, maintenance and operation of school buildings and grounds effective July 1, 2017 instead of May 7, 2017 as scheduled.
 - Email response to Litchfield Concerned citizens regarding Teacher Tenure (same request).
- g. Administrators' Report
 - Mr. Ammary reported: holding conferences now through Friday; update on Keys to Good Character; thanks to Ms. Murphy for organizing Waterbury Symphony Orchestra assembly enjoyed by all; successful dodge ball fundraising tournament held with LIS as the winner; congratulations to Jack Reynolds and Jackson Bates for participating in writing project and being selected out of 1,500 participants with an awards ceremony on May 11th; meeting with 3rd graders to determine how to make playground better and improvements to be made.
 - Mr. Fiorillo reported: distributed a copy of letter to Mr. Paul regarding contract violations; 10-220, 10-240, and 10-241 included; two contracts including maintenance agreement and custodial agreement; possible breaching of maintenance agreement with enforcement issues; custodial agreement timing, transfer and funding issues; timing issues; need for mediation session; and need for amicable separation for the good of the town; Board of Finance input; transferring funds goes through them; and need to clarify what is going on.

Board members discussed: no agreement; issue with holding until July 1st instead of May 7th when MOU ends; input from Attorney; issues with transferring money on May 7th; exterior maintenance going well for 7 years; not interested in taking that over; issues with equipment needed for exterior maintenance; can't take exterior maintenance with funding needed; need to get on Board of Finance agenda for funding issues; possibly pay for mediation; issues with Selectmen transferring full amount of funds needed; possible wait until after vacation; possible quotes going out now; need for budget info from 7 years to see what is proposed and needed funding to be included in transfer; need to show all numbers; curbing and sidewalk issues; issues with prior capital funding; can't provide services with funding appropriate amount; not in best interest of town; will cost town more money if not done correctly; FTE removed; employees still working for schools; rejections from the Selectmen; need to work this out for the community; need to move forward; wait for response from letter sent from Mr. Fiorillo; issues with Selectmen not wanting to meet with both boards; need to make concerns known; Board of Finance feels exterior maintenance should remain as its been because worked well for 7 years; can't participate at Board

of Finance meetings; issues with incorrect statements made during meeting and can't correct; possible meeting scheduled between all three Boards; need to wait until response of letter; need to public pressure and make more receptive; possible request funding from Board of Finance if not given full amount from Selectmen; possible sub contacts needed if take over exterior maintenance; cost town more money; need same amount as Selectmen budgeted for exterior maintenance; issues with plowing needs; some plowing contracted out already; mowing needs need to be covered; need for date to determine budget needed; info sent to all Selectmen and not just First Selectman; best for kids; and need to not have to sue.

- Ms. Della Volpe reported: none.
- Ms. Murphy reported: none.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Turner reported: development of newsletter; working on template; find on website; 3 or 4 times a year; good for communication with the community; get draft to Board for approval; student testing starting; 5-8 schedule done and a picture from the assembly at CS.

Old Business

- a. Budget - Mr. Fiorillo reported: distributed handout with reduction proposed by Board of Finance of \$45,000; meeting with Board of Finance on Monday; concerns with mill rate rising too much; reached common ground; will impact programs and staff; need input from administration to determine cuts; issues for taxpayers; could be lowered even more; 3 to 1 vote in favor of reduction; and not sure what services will be affected.

Board members discussed: concerns with reducing \$45,000; concerns where cuts to be made; issues with impacting staff; possibly reduce attorney fees to cover amount; Board of Finance done in good faith; difficult to support if impact on students; town meeting decides; can go to town meeting at 2.5% as previously stated; mill rate cap from Board of Finance; need for compromise; administrators and directors determine where to cut; issues with MS sports; coaching concerns; table needs; contract needs for attorney; 2.3% reasonable and in line with other towns; and need in paper to be published.

MOTION made by Ms. Fabbri and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the budget as recommended by the Board of Finance at 2.3% increase including a reduction of \$45,000.

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

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Board members discussed: steps to be taken to complete budget process; need info for exterior maintenance; budget proposed town side; and need to cover exterior maintenance with same amount used by the Selectmen.

- b. Survey - Issues with parents concerns and how survey driven.

New Business

- a. High School Graduation Date for June 2017

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the High School Graduation date for June 22, 2017 at the Warner Theater.

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

- b. Teacher Resignation

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to accept the resignation of Martin R. Ariola effective April 18, 2017 as presented.

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

Board members discussed: concerns with staff leaving the system especially in MS and HS; need for exit interviews; can't put too much weight on exit interviews because need recommendation for next job; need for standardizing process; have gone through 5-6 Superintendents; what need to be doing in administering schools; need for interview process; have questions; need to try and identify what is going on; possible options for meetings for exit interviews; need for some productive information; possible solutions; can't ignore turnover numbers; CS and IS not so much an issue; some due to relocating; have Superintendent research other schools and what they do; some personal reasons; could document if are known; have different reasons for leaving; need to improve going forward; input from CAFE chart; actively work to improve situation and need to refer to Personnel committee.

- c. Out of State Field Trip – Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; May 15, 2017

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the Out of State Field Trip – to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, Boston MA; May 15, 2017.

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

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Committee Reports - none.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Donald Falcetti, Secretary

Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary