

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 14, 2014

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the LHS Library Media Center.

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

Also present were: Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Lathrop; Mr. Zaremski; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Turner; the public and the press.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to add to the agenda as VII f. a discussion of Superintendent search process.

MOTION amended by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to add to the agenda as VI a. a discussion of Superintendent search process.

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

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to add to the agenda as VI b. a discussion about school safety.

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

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the minutes of regular meeting April 30, 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 5/15/2014 in the amount of \$183,611.24.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC none.
PTO – Mr. Sobek reported: successful book fair last evening; successful fundraising from the Joanne McCormick road race; and thanks to community for very successful year.
- b. LHS Student Council- slide show presentation by Antonio Moratore and Alexandra Rockness – “Make-a-Wish” visit to Beardsley Park; students dressed in Disney Characters; presented letter to winner; part of AOK Club lead by Ms. Johnson; 1,000 people in audience; interaction with kids; and positive impact on our lives as well as kids involved.
- c. Public Comment – none.
- d. Correspondence
 - Thank you note from Beth DeFiore.
 - Letter from CABA.
 - Letter from Dr. Arthur Bettencourt regarding recent meeting held with Board.
- e. Administrators’ Reports
 - Mr. Zaremski reported: letter from Knights of Columbus awarding \$1,051.78 to the L.P.S. Special Services Department; successful PD held this afternoon with Dr. Dan Murray, Executive Director of Wellspring, regarding positive mental health and Educators Tool Box; and numerous graduations and awards will be presented to students over the next two months.
 - Ms. Turner reported: Kindergarten orientation held today; 4 sessions total; well attended; 65 enrolled so far; and number should increase over summer.
 - Mr. Lathrop reported: meeting held with Finance Committee; fiscal position for the year; Special Ed tuition; reimbursement from the State; Healthy Food Certification; and input from Chartwells.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: \$3,500 raised by AOK Club and presented to Make-a-Wish; successful Prom weekend; great compliments from venue; award season coming up – Mabry, NHS, Celebration of Excellence; athletic, senior night and graduation.
 - Mr. Waugh reported: Scholarship Awards to be held on June 6th, 8:30 in the morning at Litchfield Community Center; and \$250,000 dispensed to students.

Superintendent’s Report

- a. 2013 Cohort graduate rate for Litchfield 98.8%, second in state; 1.2% other adult completed an adult Ed program at Ed Connection, really 100%.
- b. Invitation today to present to CT Common Core Standards Implementation Task Force, handout “Common Core Implementation: Best Practice,” petition for moratorium on CC; how developed knowledge; curriculum integration; instructional competencies;

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community engagement; commitment; concern and lessons learned.

Board members discussed: \$75,000 State does not reimbursement; technology upgrades part of CC; unfunded mandate; and less money in the budget.

- c. Governor Malloy – Statement- May 7, 2014, School Nurse Day; citation sent; and honoring our nurses with flowers.
- d. Litchfield Lions Scholarship – Dr. Wheeler traveled to Japan; met with Lions in Tokyo; celebration of 50 years in Litchfield; exchange of flags and other mementoes with Mr. Bongiorno, President of Litchfield Lions.

Old Business

- b. School security – Resident Trooper, Jim Holm, requested letter from the Board of Education giving permission to bring canines to the school and to notify parents of intent.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve a letter from the Superintendent to the Litchfield Police to allow canines to be used in school security.

Board members discussed: need for probable cause; when Administrators can handle it; when police need to be called; evidence needed; when arrests will occur; lockers searched and cars searched; possible lockdown or during periods; issues if student has on self; change in atmosphere from learning environment to fearful environment; prevention council stuck; no survey was done; could scare students to not bring drugs to school; need to follow rules; need for intervention; possible police state; issues with heroin; law enforcement intervention; need to replace survey; need for data from students; input needed from Ms. Kubisek and the committee; and could retract permission at any time.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative except Ms. Carr who voted in the negative.

Board consensus was to notify parents through Constant Contact.

- a. Superintendent Search Process – Herbert F. Pandiscio, Consultant distributed a copy of, “Superintendent Search Agreement Between Herbert F. Pandiscio, Search Consultant and The Litchfield, CT Board of Education,” which included: fees and expenses; what the search process includes; time frame for the search; if no suitable candidate found, search will continue without additional fees; and need to notify if Board wants to have participation by others in the interviewing process.

Board members discussed: number of possible candidates; how to narrow down candidates; possible costs; focus groups; students included; need for confidentiality; information to be shared with Board; include other town Boards; need for people to speak freely.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the contract as submitted.

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

Board members discussed finding an interim candidate with Mr. Pandiscio who agreed to do that job, also. Need to consult Board Attorney for a contract to be presented at the next meeting, June 4th.

New Business

a. Resignation

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the resignation of David Constant as L.H.S. English teacher at the end of this school year.

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

b. Out of State Field Trip – New York City, NY

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the out of state field trip for the 7th graders to NYC on May 28th.

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

c. Healthy Foods Certification

Dr. Wheeler recommended: the Board of Education certify and approve that all food items offered for sale to students under the school district's jurisdiction and not exempt from the nutrition standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education meet said standard for the 2014-2015 school year, and exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day and on the weekend, such sale is at the location of the event, and such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store. Need to recertify each year.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to approve and certify that all food items offered for sale to students under the school district's jurisdiction, and not exempted from the nutrition standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education on August 1, 2006, will meet said standards for the 2014-2015 school year, and will

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exclude from certification school food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, such sale is at the location of the event, and such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

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

d. Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs

Recommendation by Dr. Wheeler: The Litchfield Board of Education hereby agrees to enter into an agreement with the Connecticut State Department of Education for the operation of a “Special Milk Program, a School Breakfast Program, a National School Lunch Program, a Child and Adult Care Food Program, and/or a Summer Food Service Program, Herewith referred to as Programs for one or any combination thereof, pursuant to the National School Lunch Act, as amended (60 Stat. 885, 42-USC 1751) and the Child Nutrition Act, as amended (80 Stat.88t, 42-USC 1771) and subject to all present and subsequent regulations issued pursuant to said status”

Further, the Litchfield Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent and Director of Business Operation as signatories to this agreement.

Board members discussed: issues with fundraising groups; after school activities; State Standards and Federal Standards are the same; \$7,000 from State; \$60,000 from Federal government; food service deficit of \$50,000 for this school year; health food issues; possibly have own food service; net savings \$16,700; and issues with a la carte menu.

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

f. State of Connecticut Healthy Beverages

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to approve and certify that all beverage items offered for sale to students under the school district’s jurisdiction, and not exempted from the nutrition standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education on August 1, 2006, will meet said standards for the 2014-2015 school year, and will exclude from certification such beverage items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that such beverage is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, such sale is at the location of the event, and such beverage is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

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

- e. Vote to renew non-tenured teachers for 2014-2015 school year.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the renewal of the following tenured teachers for 2014-2015: Erin Butler, Elizabeth Chalker, Ashley LaBonte, Cristin Marshall, Sarah McHugh, Kimberly Roe, Kristen Babowicz, Emily Bernard, Jose Cerra, Rebecca Duquette, Elizabeth Johanson, Melissa Michaud, Mark Obolewicz, Adam Piechowski, Jill Sage, Kimberly Thompson, Patricia Alber, Gabriel Alejandro Alvarez, Amy Bainbridge, Christy Barrett, Ernesto Davila, Stephanie Fletcher, Kyle Harris, John Kassay, James Parker, Francesca Rivellini, Michael Roy, Tyler Schuck, Alexander Schwartz, Jeffrey Sherman, Joyce Sidlosky.

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

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology – cancelled

Board members discussed: Baseball field status, possible fencing; ramp in front of building; lighting at H.S.; issues with new barriers; possible painted by art students; need something more aesthetically pleasing; possible fund raising for replacements of stations; possible send letter to First Selectman; need to raise the bar in the future; possibly wait until new Fire Marshall comes on in September; possible funding from LEF; and waiting until security project is complete before changing anything.

Finance - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met on May 5th and discussed the following: Food Service; monthly expenditures report; next meeting June 2nd; discuss surplus money; and list to be discussed.

Policies

- a. Second Reading – Policy # 5141.24 Occupational Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve Policy # 5141.24 Occupational Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens as amended.

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

- b. Second Reading – Policy # 5141.4/4118.25 Reporting of Child Abuse

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MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Policy # 5141.4/4118.25 Reporting of Child Abuse.

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

c. Second Reading – Policy # 5141.22 Communicable and Infectious Disease

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 5141.22 Communicable and Infectious Disease.

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

Board members thanked Dr. Wheeler and her husband for the donation of the beautiful Center School sign.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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

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