

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 6, 2015

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library-Media Center.

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

Also present were: Superintendent McMullin; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Mongeau; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Turner; Ms. Kubisek; and the public.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Carr: to add to the agenda as VI d. a discussion on Region 6 and Litchfield.

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve minutes of special meeting of April 16, 2015 as submitted.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 20, 2015 as submitted.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting with the following corrections on page 3363 change "SBEC" to "SBAC."

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

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve payment of FY 2014-15 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant dated 5/7/2015 in the amount of \$129,976.27.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications

- a. STPC – none.
PTO – Ms. Stone reported: April 4th successful Joanne McCormick Memorial Run/Walk held; special thanks to Kirsten D’Amore-Jenks as facilitator; April 24th boys night out with almost 90 in attendance; May 5th teacher appreciation luncheon held; May 21st last meeting with new officers needed.
- b. LHS Student Council – none.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – Mr. Waugh reported: forum held on bullying a week ago; poor attendance; available on Prevention Council’s web site; excellent information; aligned with younger children; and need for parents to find time to attend.
- d. Other Public Comment – none.
- e. Correspondence
 - Thank you notes for Administrative Assistants’ Day recognition from CS; LIS; HS and Board Secretary.
 - Email from Chris Sanders regarding Region 6 and Litchfield talks.
 - Email from Michael and Vivian Courtney regarding the Indoor Track Team.
- f. Administrators’ Reports
 - Ms. Turner reported: Smarter Balance testing in progress; to be completed by May 21st; ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously) done today; sample of books completed by Ms. Clementson and Ms. Moore; artwork and research completed by students; PTO supplemented printing; can borrow books; possibly offer to parents to purchase; copies in library; huge undertaking; Ms. Maraia involved; specials collaborate in “Healthy World: Healthy Me” program; and text could supplement non-fiction books available to students.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: M.S. Smarter Balance testing occurring; 13 AP testing going on; 2 more than last year; H.S. Smarter Balance take place after AP testing; Prom this Saturday at Fairlawn Country Club; STPC holding pre-prom activities at Litchfield Inn; A-OK Club held “Make a Wish” breakfast; Scholar Athlete event to be held with Arielle Brandt and Quinton Lautz as recipients; M.S. speaker, “You Don’t Know Me Until You Know Me,” in coordination with Wamogo M.S.; held day and evening with 50 people attending; Sarah Panzau Evans spoke from the Prevention Council; meetings held with Scholarship Association; and STPC luncheon held today.
 - Ms. Murphy reported: Smarter Balance testing in progress; 4th grade schedule, 6th grade schedule; 5th grade participated in Immigration Nation with Ed Connection; went to Ellis Island; and PTO teacher appreciation luncheon held today.
 - Mr. Fiorillo reported: Financial; Food Service; Facilities; Information Technology and Transportation information.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McMullin reported: enrollment up 4 students since last month; 2 M.S. and H.S. chorus and band concerts held; praises for the music and band teachers; acoustical shells used with excellent results; annual Pops Concert to be held on June 10th at the H.S. at 6:30 p.m.; and messages sent to the faculty for teacher appreciation week.

Old Business

a. 2015-2016 budget

Mr. Simone reminded the Board that the vote to approve the Budget is next Wednesday.

b. Second Review – Text Book Proposal – A.P. US History

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve the textbook for A.P. US History as proposed.

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

c. Second Review – Text Book Proposal – A.P. Literature & Composition

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to approve the textbook for A.P. Literature & Composition as proposed with increase of purchase from 8 proposed to 12.

Board members discussed: info on e-books; cost savings issues; need for students to flip back and forth in books; need for 6 – 18 books; A.P. text averages 10/class; and need for 12 A.P. Lit text books.

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

d. Region 6 and Litchfield discussions

Board members discussed: letter in the newspaper; negative input from Region 6 last year during open discussion; basis for public input is problematic; Region 6 voted to go forward on their own without sharing anything with Litchfield; limited funding to review sharing programs; issues with hiring consultant; since new Superintendent need to reassess needs; need for informal discussion; sharing at different levels in educational needs; issues with Region 6 pulling out of A.P. Psych class; gun shy with starting new discussions; if improvements can be gained for students then pursue options; need to go forward cautiously; need to keep door open;

need for Superintendent and administrators to be involved; need for two Superintendents to start discussion; A.P. classes issues; possible schedule conflict; delivery of classes can be an issue; political issues with Regionalization; student co-op issues; unwillingness of Region 6 last year to go forward; issues with levels of sharing; enrollment issues with both districts; need to coordinate educational resources for children; town issue and not Board's; and need to start discussions with the two Superintendents.

New Business

a. Retirement

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the retirement of G. William Conklin, Biology Teacher with thanks and regret.

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

Committee Reports

Curriculum Programs and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee will meet next Thursday.

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee met and discussed the following: technology update; Dell replacing all devices due to issues with devices, extends lifetime another 4 years; insurance included; extend life of contract; acceptable use regulation developed by Jamie; window film at bid process; update on doors; ad hoc tech committee moving forward; issues with C.S. phone system being so old; filtering BYOD; cell phone policies; and staff uses.

Finance - Mr. Shuhi reported that the meeting was cancelled and monthly report will be included at the next meeting.

Policy - Mr. Carr reported that the committee did not meet. A possible discussion on dress code has been requested by members of the public. Meets in two weeks.

Scholarship Committee - Mr. Waugh reported on the following: meetings held on the 28th and 29th; 2/3 of senior class included in interviews; great kids with great goals; thankful for committee members; and for staff who helped mold students.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

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

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