

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 15, 2011

Approved 7/13/2011

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School art room.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Falcetti, Gorman, Katzin, Noone, and Shuhi.

Also present were: Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Mr. Zaremski; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Longobucco; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Kubisek; the public and the press.

MOTION made by Ms. Fabbri and seconded by Ms. Carr: to add to the agenda as II e. a discussion of a residency request and to remove II d. from the agenda.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the consent agenda with the following corrections on page 2570 in the first line change “snakes” to “snacks,” under SSP first line change “resented” to “presented” and in the last paragraph, second line change “historical” to “historic”:

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting May 18, 2011.
- b. Approve payment of invoices for 2010-2011 budget as required.
- c. Approve out of state field trip – Close Up, Washington, DC.
- d. Approve residency request for Danielle Karwowski to complete her senior year at LHS.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. Ms. Fabbri reported on the STPC activities including the following: \$14,000 given back to the schools; \$3,000 of that to go to Rachel’s Challenge for next year; the new officers for next year have been chosen. Co-Presidents: Betsy Fabbri and Kristen Arnold; Co-Vice Presidents: Lori Shuhi and Debby Elwell; and Treasurer: Doris Baker.
- b. Ms. Moore reported on the PTO activities including the following: cultural enrichment through the year; money raised at the first annual Joanne McCormick RR was donated in the amount of \$5,000 to the Pancreatic Action Network; first annual “son” event on

May 26th; and plans for next year including the popular Parents Night Out to be held on October 21st.

- c. Mr. Hogan commented on the confidence he has in Mr. Dranginis as a swim coach.

Phil Simonin, identifying himself as a representative of the student body at LHS, spoke concerning the fees for student parking and the policy for use of the funds raised.

Ms. Crampton commented on her support for Mr. Dranginis as swim coach.

Dr. McGeehin commented on supporting Mr. Dranginis as swim coach.

Ms. Bauer commented on the Center School garden proposal and questioned a variety of issues that need to be addressed.

Mr. Neller commented as a concerned property owner on the Center School garden proposal and the farmer's market.

Mr. Losee commented on the garden proposal.

Michaela Stanley read a letter from Debra and Lewis Donne supporting Mr. Dranginis.

Mr. Sandrib commented in support of Mr. Dranginis.

Adam Stanley commented in support of Mr. Dranginis.

Connor Doyle commented in support of Mr. Dranginis.

Tim Crampton commented in support of Mr. Dranginis.

Ms. Shipp commented in support of Mr. Dranginis. She also commented on supporting the garden at Center School.

Ms. LaGattuta commented in support of Mr. Dranginis.

Ms. Stanley commented in support of Mr. Dranginis.

Cameron Heinz commented in support of Mr. Dranginis.

Gracie McGeehin commented in support of Mr. Dranginis.

d. Board members received the following correspondence:

- An email from Kenneth Matthews regarding a student disciplinary matter.
- A copy of a letter from Kay Carroll to Lee Losee, Warden, regarding the Farm Fresh Market.
- A copy of a letter from Lee Losee, Warden, to Kay Carroll regarding the Farm Fresh Market.

e. Administrators' Reports – none

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Board packets now to be available to Board members via a link in an email to a file on the webpage file tree.
- P.D. activities for Monday, June 20 will include curriculum development sessions; Attorney Susan Freedman session to be presented to administrators, special education teachers and staff regarding FERPA requirements.
- The American Association of School Administrators and the National School Boards Association Joint Resolution Calling for ESEA Regulatory Relief was distributed and reviewed.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve discussion and action of the resolution as read by Dr. Wheeler.

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

- Region 10 adopted a motion authorizing action against the Connecticut Board of Education for an increase in tuition for magnet preschool and Greater Hartford Magnet School for the Arts. At this time Dr. Wheeler does not advise the Board to join this action.

New Business

- a. Personnel – update on resignations, new employees and transfers - Dr. Wheeler updated the Board on resignations, new employees and transfers including the following: for Preschool Kim Beach Roe replacing Erin Bates who transferred into a special education position; Adam Piechowski replacing Christopher Vicare who resigned from LIS;

Krista Beyer replacing Christopher Stupak who resigned from LIS; and Michael Roy for the Latin position at LHS.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Noone: to approve the recommendations of the administration to hire Michael Roy; Krista Beyer; Kim Beach Roe and Adam Piechowski.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Fabbri abstained.

b. Vote to renew non-tenured teachers for 2011-2012 school year –

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Noone: to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the renewal of the following Non-tenured teacher for 2011-2012: Elizabeth Bailey; Brooke Hazen; Amy Killiany; Matthew McDevitt; Randi Zanesky; Rachel Caporuscio; Jessica DeLucia; Jennifer Digliani; Rebecca Duquette; Heidi Lechich; Mark Obolewicz; Andrew Parker; Caitlin Van Stone; Shoshana Armington; Carrie Gibbs; Mary Lou Hunchak; Edward Lok; Diana Melendez; Peter Perkins; Kerri Petti; Daniel Porri; Patricia Smaldone, and Christine Taylor.

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

c. Discuss and vote to authorize the Superintendent to accept and act upon all resignations and to recruit and appoint certified and non-certified staff throughout the summer prior to the first Board meeting in September –

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to authorize the Superintendent to recruit and appoint certified and non-certified staff through the summer prior to the first Board meeting in September.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative except Ms. Fabbri and Mr. Shuhi who voted in the negative. Mr. Falcetti abstained.

d. Authorize the Superintendent to submit all state and federal grant applications –

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to authorize the Superintendent to submit all state and federal grant applications (Consolidated grants; IDEA; Adult Education; Titles I, II, IV, V; Perkins; Technology; BESB; Special Education Excess Cost; Transportation; E-Rate, etc.) as necessary to meet the requirement submission dates.

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

Mr. Gorman left at 8:15 p.m.

- e. Center School garden proposal presentation - Mr. Burgess distributed “Center School Garden – A Community-Building Opportunity” and presented the Center School garden proposal.

Lauren Richardson and Ellen Eterly, master gardeners, presented the proposed site plan to the Board.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Rosser: to accept Center School garden proposal for placement of the Edible Garden at Center School.

Board members discussed the need for careful planning to effectively maintain and sustain the garden, as well as supports for teachers.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Fabbri and Mr. Katzin abstained.

- f. Gifts/Grants received FY 2010-2011 - Dr. Wheeler distributed an outline of “Gifts/Grants 2010-2011 School Year,” and thanked all who donated so generously.

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee is scheduled to meet on Monday to discuss only two items. He suggested that the Board consider cancelling the meeting due to the limited agenda.

Finance - Mr. Noone reported that the committee is scheduled for June 27th and he cannot attend. Board consensus was to combine both meetings on June 20th.

Curriculum and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met Wednesday and discussed library media curriculum; a 2 year plan for assessing enrollments in World Language courses to determine viability of continuing to offer three languages, and the supplemental skills program.

Policy – the committee will meet on June 16th.

Policies

- a. Policy Committee recommended policy # 4114.1 Retirement be rescinded.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to rescind policy # 4114.1 Retirement.

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

- b. First Reading – Policy # 4117.4 Suspension/Dismissal – No changes noted, return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- c. First Reading – Policy # 4118.11/4218.11 Nondiscrimination – No changes noted, return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- d. First Reading – Policy # 4118.112/4218.112 Sexual Harassment – Correct “Ledyard” to read “Litchfield” in first paragraph, return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- e. First Reading – Policy # 5141.21 Administering Medication – several changes were suggested, the policy will return to committee.
- f. First Reading – Policy # 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations – no changes noted, return for second reading at next regular meeting.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Falcetti, Secretary

Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary