

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 17, 2015

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield 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; and members of the public.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 3, 2015 with the following corrections on page 3379 under PTO capitalizes Memorial Run/Walk, and change “running the entire event” to “organizing the event;” and on page 3383, under “g” change “return for second reading” to “go to Policy Committee for review.”

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 special meeting of June 8, 2015 (A) with the following correction on page 3384 change “Also present was” to “Also present were.”

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 special meeting of June 8, 2015 (B) with the following correction on page 3386 change “Also present was” to “Also present were.”

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

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve payment of FY2014-15 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant dated 6/18/15 in the amount of \$175,261.69 and FY 2014-15 invoices Food Services warrant dated 6/17/15 in the amount of \$26,699.75.

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.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – none.
- d. Other Public Comment
 - Ms. Stone: commented on consideration of a male candidate for Dean of Students.
 - Ms. Wilson: commented on involvement of Board in selection of town manager.
 - Ms. Landau: commented on reassignment of Special Education teacher.
 - Ms. McKenna: commented on issues with NHS student disciplinary process.
- e. Correspondence
 - Email from Ms. Landau regarding reassignment of special education teacher.
- f. Administrators’ Reports
 - Ms. Mongeau – none.
 - Ms. Turner reported: Flag Day ceremony held outside; grade 3 moving up held today; and tomorrow night preschool and 4 year old program graduating to Kindergarten.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: 8th grade moving up this evening; Saturday at 5:00 p.m. graduation to be held; Mabry Awards held recently; sample of thank you notes shared by Committee members; recognize Miles Macchiorolli and Kyle Linebarger for running the live Board meetings; and Sara Mitnik won National recognition in Nashville for her vocal performance.
 - Ms. Murphy reported: Junior Achievement Day was held thanks to the many volunteers who helped; chorus and band concerts held; field day last Friday; thanks to volunteers; moving up tomorrow night; today, 6th grade fun day with obstacle course built; thank you to the organizations that enhanced student learning including, LEF \$7,000 MakerSpace and more hands on learning; After School Arts Program for 5th grades; and Ed Connection for Immigration Nation program.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to move letter “g” under New Business to Executive Session letter “c.”

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

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent McMullin reported on the following: status of positive school climate;

Superintendent's Report - continued

Strategic Planning Committee will be involved beginning in September; scheduling Calvin Terrell speaking on anti-bullying grant request to LEF; input from Susan B. Anthony and Wheeler Clinic to support students in need; after-school care programs in elementary schools through Ed Connection; enhancements with new web page; math curriculum arrived; thanks to custodians who delivered 87 boxes; optional PD to be held Monday, June 22nd; grateful for choosing the Litchfield school system; caring staff; committed and knowledgeable administrators; grateful students; and thanks to Board members for working tirelessly for what is best for kids.

Old Business – None**New Business**

- a. Facilities Update - Mr. Healy distributed “Litchfield School Projects Program, Summer – 2015” and discussed the following: Center School; Intermediate School, High School; and Districtwide including contractor; status; starting dates and notes.

Board members discussed the following: ADA requirements; realistic schedule; window film at all schools; sign in front of middle school; and status of new town manager and Board involvement choosing one.

- b. Authorize Superintendent to submit all state and federal grant applications

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to authorize the Superintendent to submit all state and federal grant applications.

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

- c. 2014-2015 Gifts, Grants and Bequests Report - Board members discussed sending thank you notes to all donors listed; adding the list of gifts to the web page.
- d. Non-Union Defined Comp Plan

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the Non-Union Defined Comp Plan as presented.

Board members discussed the following: start dollar-to-dollar; for those who don't qualify for town or teachers plans; match 4%; and start 2016; less than \$7,000 total per year.

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

- e. Projected Year End Fund Balance - Mr. Fiorillo reported on the following: projected under \$25,000; allocated to summer projects; Math paid for; website paid for; and AESOP paid for.
- f. E-Rate Funding - Mr. Fiorillo reported on the following: \$16,000 discount on phones and some technology; insurance coverage for LIS phones; removing wall in LIS library; books covered; and wall removal permits heat distribution to pipes.
- h. Substitutes - Superintendent McMullin reported on a substitute improvement plan including: pay subs \$75.00 now; pay Kelly \$31.00/day; need to pay substitutes more; Affordable Care Act issues covered through AESOP; substitute teacher rates in other districts; manage substitutes ourselves; liability issues with Kelly Services; fill rates; one permanent substitute per building that would be salaried with benefits; help teachers to be more flexible in visiting other classes if covered by substitutes; \$85.00 proposed rate; and in-house substitute coordinator.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the substitute improvement plan as proposed.

Board members discussed: software costs \$7,500 first year, \$3,500 following year; software used in hundreds of school systems; person to manage software; personal touch with substitutes; software used for reporting; patterns picked up; and software tracks Affordable Care Act.

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

- i. Proposal for reduced tuition for District Employees children -

Superintendent McMullan presented the proposal for reduced tuition rate for children of full-time Litchfield School District Employees and discussed the need to bring to Policy Committee; possible perk for candidates to choose Litchfield to teach in; need to get highest quality candidates; can attend children's activities locally and not have to take whole day off; supports employees; and validates their importance to us.

Board members discussed: help with Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR); this was offered in past teacher contracts; need for Policy Committee review.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Programs and Personal - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met and discussed all items covered this evening and including the Superintendent's evaluation process.

Scholarship - Mr. Waugh reported that the committee met and awarded \$100,000 to high school graduates and \$200,000 to undergraduate students enrolled in colleges; large total for small community; and appreciate the efforts of the committee members who work so hard for the students.

Facilities and Technology – None

Financial

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met and discussed items already discussed.

Policy - Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet next Thursday.

Policies

a. Second Reading – Policy #4118.51/4218.51 Employee Use of Social Media

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to approve Policy # 4118.51/4218.51 Employee Use of Social Media as revised.

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

b. Second Reading – Policy # 4149/4249 Employee Use of the District’s Technology Systems

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve Policy # 4149/4249 Employee Use of the District’s Technology as revised.

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

c. Second Reading – Policy # 4149.2/4249.2 Bring Your Own Device

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 4149.2/4249.2 Bring Your Own Device as revised.

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

d. Second Reading – Policy # 5131.4/6177 Technology

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve Policy # 5131.4/6177 Technology as revised.

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

e. Second Reading – Policy # 5131.41 1-To-1 Computing

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 5131.42 Bring Your Own Device as revised.

MOTION rescinded by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve Policy # 5131.41 1-To-1 Computing as revised.

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

f. Second reading – Policy # 5131.42 Bring Your Own Device

MOTION made by Mr. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve Policy # 5131.42 Bring Your Own Device as revised.

MOTION failed. Ms. Rosser; Mr. Clock and Ms. Carr voted in the affirmative; Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Shuhi; Mr. Waugh and Mr. Falcetti voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

g. Second Reading – Policy # 5131.8 Cell Phone/ Electronic Devices Policy – goes back to Policy Committee for review.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to move to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss student disciplinary issue; Superintendent Evaluation and recommendations for hire.

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

Executive Session

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

Ms. McMullin, Ms. Vella Volpe and Ms. Mongeau were invited to attend.

Returned to public session at 9:32 p.m.

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, June 17, 2015

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to hire Jillian Kuraska as Guidance Counselor at Litchfield High School.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to hire Ruth Foster as French Teacher at Litchfield High School.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to hire Jacob Gioia as Special Education Teacher at Litchfield High School.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to hire Katie Gallucci as Special Education Teacher at Litchfield Intermediate School.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to accept the resignation of Kate Mrowka as English Teacher at Litchfield High School.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Waugh and seconded by Ms. Carr: MOVED, based on the evidence in the record, that **Student B** be expelled for a period of one calendar year, effective May 27, 2015 and continuing through May 27, 2016, based on **Student B's** conduct which violate Policy # 5114.1 of the Board of Education against endangering persons or property and disrupting the educational process:

- a) During the period of expulsion, the Board will provide **Student B** with an alternative educational opportunity that is deemed appropriate by the Administration, in accordance with the provisions of Section 10-233d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

- b) During the period of expulsion, **Student B** will not be permitted to be on school grounds and will not be permitted to attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities, without the express prior consent of the Superintendent.
- c) During the period of expulsion, **Student B** will meet as scheduled with a counselor. The need for continued counseling will be by determination of the counselor. Verification of on-going counseling or the determination that further counseling is no longer needed will be provided in writing from the counselor to the Superintendent.
- d) During the expulsion **Student B** must satisfactorily participate in the alternative educational program including: a) earning acceptable grades in all courses; b) attending regularly; c) completing all assignments and projects within the prescribed timeframe; d) cooperating with tutors; e) abstaining from any serious disciplinary infractions; and f) avoiding any action that results in arrest.
- e) **Student B** will be permitted the opportunity for readmission on May 27, 2016.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Waugh and seconded by Ms. Carr: to extend the contract of Ms. McMullin by one (1) year through 2017-2018.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

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

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