

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2014

Approved 6/18/2014

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Library Media Center.

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

Also present were: Mr. Lathrop; Mr. Zaremski; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Turner; Ms. Kubisek; the public and the press. Dr. Wheeler was excused.

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve minutes of the special meeting May 8, 2014 with the following corrections: on page 3253 under "Presentation" add the sentence, "Discussed firms that presented, to represent Litchfield in its' search for a new Superintendent."

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of the special meeting May 12, 2014 with the following correction, the date is Monday, not Tuesday; on page 3254 in the last paragraph change "Pandadisio" to "Pandiscio."

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of regular meeting May 14, 2014 with the following corrections: on page 3259 under New Business b. change "Car" to "Carr;" c. Healthy Foods Certification change "rom" to "from;" on page 3260 d. Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs change "ala carte" to "a la carte;" and on page 3261 e. Vote to renew non-tenured teachers for 2014-2014 school year change "Kassey" to "Kassay."

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

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 6/5/2014 in the amount of \$279,644.08.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the payment of invoices on Accounts Payable warrant dated 6/5/2014A in the amount of \$455,294.07.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the payment of invoices on Food Service warrant dated 6/5/2014 in the amount of \$24,892.88.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC – none.
PTO – Ms. Stone reported: activities completed for year; executive meeting to be held to review mission statement, financial statement; general session to be held to elect new officers.
- b. LHS Student Council, Arielle Brandt reported on the student council activities at the high school.
- c. Other Public Comment
 - Ms. Sobek commented on school issued devices, filtering and Board policy.
 - Mr. Shuhi encouraged community members to contact him for input on filtering issues.
 - Mr. Glander commented the use of drug dogs in the schools.
- d. Correspondence
 - 3 letters from Andrew Sewell regarding police searches.
 - Letter from Serafino Bueti regarding police searches.
 - Thank you note from Theresa Simaitis.
- e. Administrators' Report
 - Ms. Murphy reported: Junior Achievement taking place; Litchfield Bancorp involved; Library Media Specialist, Debbie Benedict, to attend a free workshop at Library of Congress in D.C., and a long process for SBAC testing.
 - Ms. Kubisek reported: successful senior trip; 7th grade to N.Y.C.; Celebration of Excellence held; tennis team to state tournament; Berkshire League banquet at Aqua Turf; Athletic Award ceremony June 6th; 8th grade to Holiday Hill; Pops Concert coming up; and teacher evaluations in progress.
 - Mr. Lathrop reported: successful implementation of Health Savings Account set up with staff; help during faculty meetings to clarify process; Food Service meet-

ing on June 20th to get feedback including Chartwell.

- Ms. Turner reported: Junior Achievement held last week with help from Mr. Clock; field day held last Friday; grade level plays taking place; and Flag Day on Friday the 13th.

Superintendent's Report – none

New Business

a. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the out of state/overnight field trip – Close Up, Washington, DC, March 15-20, 2015.

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

b. Resignation

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the resignation of Kelley Boianghu as Guidance Counselor the end of this school year June 2014.

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

c. Recommendation to Hire

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to hire Karen Tesch for the position of School Counselor at L.I.S. and Center School.

Board members discussed: social worker position in budget; need for social worker; has ties to community; knows agencies available to families; one in district; transients issues; need more global use of employees; how counselor position created when not in budget; need for outreach; part of team; district needs; effects on IEPs; training for social worker; counselor split between C.S. and L.I.S.; need for continuity of services; public perception of need for social worker and not counselor; need for Board to be notified if positions changed; 61 applicants; didn't plan for both counselor and social worker; line item with Board of Finance; input from administrative council; need mental health professional; need consistency in elementary grades; public concerns with budget item; possible table until next meeting; need for counselor for high school due to recent resignation.

Five minute recess was held.

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MOTION withdrawn by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Fabbri and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve Karen Tesch for school counselor at Center School and L.I.S. in addition to hiring a social worker for the district.

Board members discussed: need to follow approved budget to hire social worker; adding FTE; issues with class sizes and need for possible FTE to reduce class size; large class size in 1st grade; candidate worked at Susan B. Anthony and victims services; counselor limited to stay in building; summer enrollment possible changes in class size; with added social worker, could free up space for school psychologists; .4 FTE psychologist lost recently; in the past had full time school counselors in elementary grades; concerns with budget limitations; Superintendent's salary unknown; and need to add mental health professional.

MOTION withdrawn by Ms. Fabbri and seconded by Ms. Carr. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Fabbri and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to hire Karen Tesch for the position of School Counselor at L.I.S. and CS.

MOTION carried. Ms. Fabbri, Ms. Rosser, Mr. Clock, Mr. Bongiorno and Mr. Waugh voted in the affirmative. Ms. Carr, Mr. Falcetti and Mr. Shuhi voted in the negative.

d. Smart Board Bid

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to award bid #14-05 to Connecticut Business Systems (CBS) for digital white board.

Board members discussed: per unit cost bid; grant funds for 4 new ones; 4 permanent installs at L.I.S.

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

g. 36-Month Power Agreement

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to request the Town of Litchfield to enter into a 36-month Power Agreement with Integrys Energy on behalf of the Litchfield Board of Education.

Board members discussed: CL&P standard rate offer 9.9 cents; electrical futures at 17 cents.

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

h. Food Service Amendment

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to authorize the Superintendent of schools to execute the attached Amendment with Chartwells School Dining Services.

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

i. Lunch Prices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to change school lunch prices to \$3.00 at Litchfield High School and \$2.75 at Litchfield Intermediate School and Litchfield Center School.

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

- e. 2013-2014 Closeout Purchases – Mr. Lathrop distribute an expenditure packet and reported on the following: \$144,000 left; salaries encumbered; tutoring, subs, coaching, yearlong stipends, Special Ed reimbursement; additional purchases, copiers, gas, etc.; repairs on laptops, \$68,000; graduation expenses; adjustments \$93,573 with \$50,000 to OPEB trust account; and fuel oil to top off tanks.

Board members discussed: OPEB recommendations possibly off budget stay course for now; revisit in future; library on list; 25% savings if purchase oil now; cost options for device repairs; input from Matt; insurance cost for students; need to finish year in black; not paying for PSATs and extracurricular expenses.

MOTION made by Mr. Waugh and seconded by Ms. Carr: to accept the proposals for closeout purchases in spending funds to close fiscal year specifically for fuel and utilities.

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

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- f. 2014-2015 Budget Amendment – Mr. Lathrop reported - \$20,000 cut from Board of Finance; and could take out of sub line item.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to accept the proposal to take \$20,000 out of sub line item to make good on \$20,000 reduction.

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

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met and discussed items already covered during the meeting but also discussed MS assistant swim coach as required by state, and add assistant crew coach needed for safety issues since enrollment is so high.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to move to Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss Personnel Matter.

Executive Session

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

Return to public session at 9:25 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Ms. Carr: to hire Herbert Pandiscio as Interim Superintendent.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

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

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