

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2017

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School Art Room.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Stone; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick and Mr. Shuhi.

Also present were: Superintendent Turner; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Kubisek; Mr. Ammary and members of the public.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 21, 2016 as submitted.

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: approve the payment of FY 2016-17 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2017-15 dated 1/5/2017 in the amount of \$71,042.69; dated 01/19/2017 in the amount of \$356,701.63; dated -1/18/2017 on Food Service in the amount of \$14,267.19.

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. Litchfield Education Foundation – Ms. Reidy, treasurer, distributed a handout and reported on the following: updates made on website; new logo created by student; grant process improved; easier for teachers; results from survey done by 72 teachers; summary distributed; fundraising events; Minds in Motion event in April at HS; enrichment workshops; parents can attend; K-8 can attend; no more kid fest; target appeal held with 38 people donating; private donation of \$5,000 to be used for the arts; next meeting at OWL on Jan. 26th at 7:00 p.m.; Board members are invited; reaching out to students who are homeschooled; and input from Wamogo.

- e. Other public comment –
 - Ms. Tenney commented on: effectiveness of online courses; developing a budget that encourages successful completion of World Language program in French; and create a sense of communication and collaboration with parents.
- f. Correspondence-
 - Thank you note from Center School for holiday cookies from the Board.
 - Thank you note from Mr. Waugh for the Board's reception held for his retirement from the Board.
 - Handout from EdAdvance.
 - Email regarding sidewalks.
- g. Administrators' Report
 - Mr. Ammary reported: keys to good character started; teacher input; work on character trait weekly; empathy this month; assembly held; certificates received; kick off preschool and Kindergarten recruitment; January 30th Way to Grow program; Ready Set Grow program Feb. 6th; parent info Mar. 6th, Apr. 3rd, and May 8th; EdAdvance curriculum enrichment assembly last Friday; drummers performed; percussion assembly on Feb. 2nd; and chamber music on Feb. 8th.
 - Mr. Fiorillo reported: 21 students applied to Wamogo and tech school last year with 12 leaving; meeting with Plymouth and Wamogo regarding food service program; very successful; will continue next year; Litchfield participating in State review of food service program with mediator; focus on budget; principals' budget sent in before holidays; line by line items reviewed; cost for medical care up; salary increase; 5 year technology plan; need for Finance Committee input; Curriculum needs input; met with Board of Finance; want budget book early on; are on budget development schedule; health care costs are not available until later; March 1st present to Board; March 15th for approval; possibly give budget book to Board of Finance on March 1st; present to Board of Finance on March 20th; copy of audit received; include educational cost sharing; tuition reimbursement; 22% increase in health costs; 1½ % increase in budget due to health cost increase; reduction in some State mandates and State limits to towns with budgets.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: working on replacement for Ms. Yurgelun who will retire soon; 11 applicants; coffee house held with Mr. Porri; input from culinary students; music students and visual art students; mid-term starts tomorrow; French exchange student with EdAdvance; and Talent in Town still to be scheduled.
 - Ms. Kubisek reported: parent conferences held; almost completely full; have students lead conference; 2 scheduled during evenings and 2 held during day; status of 8th graders applying to other schools; 18 this year; if parents can't get a conference they can meet teachers at team meetings; and book fair held this year with profits to go to library for books or to classrooms for books.
 - Ms. Haggard – absent – had a Special Services Department update handout distributed to Board members.

Board members discussed: Board in position of defending the budget; Board of Finance cannot go line by line of Board of Education; Board feels confident with budget; need to put copy of State statute in front of book to Board of Finance members; and question if make changes to budget.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Turner reported: Drug and Alcohol survey completed and will arrange for presentation to Board; met with subcommittee regarding teacher evaluation document; teacher growth and development; look at other districts; purposeful; professional learning; Greenwoods parent workshop at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 23rd in the LIS library; on anxiety and depression; will have monthly series; update on Facebook page; pictures on website popular with parents; 1,300 views; need to get things posted; comments from teachers and parents; process ongoing with incoming preschool program; send communication to BZ and newspapers; and letters to community updating progress in schools.

Old Business

a. MOU agreement.

Mr. Simone reported: meeting with Selectman Leo Paul; wants to discuss the MOU with only a few members of the Board and a few members of Selectmen's Board; willing to discuss the MOU but not guaranteeing anything; refuses to meet with the full Board or the full Selectmen's Board.

Board members discussed: issues go to Mr. Paul; need to meet with both full Boards or nothing; some Selectmen have not been updated with the information that has been exchanged between the Board of Ed and Board of Selectmen.

New Business

a. Out-of-State Field Trip – NY Art Trip.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the Out-of-State Field Trip to NY Art Trip on March 10, 2017 as presented.

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

b. & c. Tuition Student Request- Mr. & Mrs. Prenoveau and Ms. Casbolt.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the tuition student's requests from Mr. and Mrs. Prenoveau and Ms. Casbolt as presented.

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

Committee Reports

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met last Thursday and discussed the following: Social Studies and Language Arts curriculum reviewed; new State standards for Social Studies; inquiry based; Ms. McAdams presented; writing in Social Studies; possible PD for this; put in curriculum development; status of Psychology; LA 7-12; PSAT inclusion; 3 new teachers; revise 9th grade curriculum; AP curriculum update; SS K-6 presented; 4th grade curriculum completely update; LIS 4-6 writing and reading; update enrichment curriculum and talented and gifted program; extracurricular academy K-6; some Fridays each month; pilot this year; Talented and Gifted identified; start in 3rd grade; also pilot for next year; reassignment of math assistants; 6 paraprofessionals hired; need additional time for Tier I and II; coaching model; and PD provided through Ed Advance; and budget issues for math needs this year.

Board members discussed the need for French teacher if possible.

Facilities and Technology Committee - Mr. Bongiorno reported the committee met and discussed the following: Litchfield Jazz band performed at the Possum Festival; excellent performance; survey data for web page; capital plan for this year; fiber optic line; petition town to consider going for grant and help pay for fiber optic line; save \$10,000; town refused; fiber optic needed and can save 1/3 of the cost with grant; needed to bid out in early January to apply for grant; capital money has not been appropriated yet; and on Feb. 1st start school wide infra structure on technology.

Finance Committee - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met on January 3rd and discussed the following: monthly year to date report; program 61 benefits; program 93 Special Education tuition; excess cost grant for current and coming budget; bidding issues; new piece of legislation statute for CT where a cap on municipal spending cannot exceed 2½%; and a list of exemptions left out of that statute.

Policy - Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet tomorrow evening.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to move to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss personnel; collective bargaining; and student records protected by FERPA.

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

Executive Session

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair: Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Stone; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick and Mr. Shuhi.

Invited to attend were Superintendent Tuner, Mr. Fiorillo, and Ms. Kubisek.

Returned to public session at 9:26 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Stone: to hire Angela Plourde for the 8th grade Mathematics position at Litchfield Middle School.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Stone: to hire Steven Aguayo for the 8th grade Spanish position at Litchfield Middle School.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

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

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