

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2015

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 21, 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; Messrs. Bongiorno, Clock, Falcetti, Shuhi and Waugh.

Also present were: Ms. McMullin; Mr. Poole; Ms. Mongeau; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Turner; Ms. Kubisek; the press and members of the public.

MOTION made by Ms. Fabbri and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to add to the agenda under New Business VII c. a discussion of a finance letter.

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

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2014 with the following corrections: page 3319 change name to "Eykelhoff" and change "broke" to "adjourned" under reception for Superintendent and on page 3323 capitalize "Plumb Hill," under committee reports.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of the special meeting of January 8, 2015 as submitted.

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

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve payment of FY 2014-15 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant dated 12/16/2014 in the amount of \$336; on Accounts Payable warrant dated 1/8/2015 in the amount of \$237,311.32 and on Accounts Payable warrant dated 1/22/2015 in the amount of \$423,310.95.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications

- a. STPC – none.
PTO - Ms. Stone reported: General meeting Thursday, January 29th at C.S. at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, April 4th fifth annual Joanne McCormick family run/walk; Thursday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m. L.I.S. magic show assembly including C.S. attendance.
- b. LHS Student Council – none.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council - Ms. Garden reported: Project Purple launch next week; mission statement completed; advertising through Constant Contact, thanks to Superintendent; WZBG involved; input from Mr. Storrs, school advisor; purple wrist bands ready to distribute; going door to door with business participation; display decals; and purple ribbons available.
- d. Other Public Comment – none.
- e. Correspondence
 - Thank you notes to the Board for holiday cookies from C.S., L.I.S. and L.H.S.
 - Report from Education Connection outlining and overview of the programs and services provided to Litchfield schools for 2013-2014.
- f. Administrators report
 - Ms. Turner reported: L.A. workshops held with 3 more scheduled; Monday, Ready-Set-Grow meetings for Kindergarten registration and parent information; C.S. book club to begin on Wednesday reading *Charlottes' Web*; skits done by faculty; parent involvement; L.H.S. students performing skits for the book club; book on line, if needed; and 24 registered for Kindergarten in two days.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported – M.S. recently attended leadership conference; H.S. music field trip cancelled due to weather; possible reschedule in future; 9 students participating in Music Festival held in New Britain; and Mr. Storrs facilitating Project Purple at L.H.S. – Mr. Storrs reported: Prevention Council input; launch on Tuesday at basketball game; mission statement done by students; input from M.S. and H.S. students; kids looking forward to launch of project; input and cooperation with other clubs participating; including C.S. and L.I.S.; and infancy of the program.
 - Ms. Murphy reported – assembly held to introduce new Superintendent with questions and answers from students; promoting literacy and life-long readers; container designed by Audrey Ryan and Adeline Lamond and built by Mr. Whalen and Mr. Gillman, for students to put books in and take books out; share reading.
 - Ms. Mongeau reported: 16 new referrals and 3 did not qualify.
 - Mr. Poole reported: \$108,000 surplus; Red Sky – 911 system operating in C.S.; integrate in L.H.S. soon; bid out fuel oil \$2.09/gal.; budget work in progress;

medical insurance increase between 6-7%; and need input from Superintendent in budget process.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. McMullin reported: thanks to everyone for heartfelt welcome; update on Ed Connection survey for before-school and after-school day care opportunities for students and parents; L.H.S. exams next week; January 28th third quarter; 2 snow days so last day of school stands at June 16th; Jamie Terry looking into homework in/homework out options for students and parents; Jamie Terry also setting up student helper program at M.S. and H.S. to capture interest of student who have great technology skills; and Ms. Della Volpe and Mr. O'Connell won grant for \$10,000 to study assessment.

Board members discussed: results from student survey on drugs; data to go to Curriculum Committee for review; and possible need for AP Computer Technology class that is being offered by Wamogo.

Old Business – none

New Business

- a. 2015-2016 School Calendar presented.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the 2015-2016 School Calendar as presented.

Board members discussed: value of early dismissal time for P.D. days; disadvantage of starting on Friday in August; Veterans Day alternatives and benefits to students; last year for Board to have input in calendar; next year universal calendar for EDCONN RESC; P.D. in beginning of year vs. throughout year; issues with P.D. days during winter dependent on weather; issues with busses with Wamogo; and already approved by Region 6.

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

- b. Technology grant proposal.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Clock: to give Ms. McMullin the ability to apply for a technology grant.

Ms. McMullin presented: more consistent platform; iPads for grades K- 2; Chrome Books for grades 3-5; keyboarding needs for 3rd grade; touch screen for younger students; \$65,300 for Board; 36.79% of purchase State will pay; and draw down by June 30, 2016.

Board members discussed: analysis if technology is helping learning; evidence if students better prepared; research that students learn better with paper; technology needed to support new math curriculum; essential for differentiated instruction for high fliers and struggling students; pre and post assessment; amount of resources on line for students; Common Core standards; math practices; problem solving settings; broader exposure than workbooks; computer access curriculum; need access to curriculum; included in technology plan for system; wireless infrastructure covered in grant; math curriculum research based; every student receives same opportunity; allows for individual needs being met; once do it have to keep doing it; need data to see if students doing better; computers needed to access progress monitoring for students; top notch programs extremely rich in technology; need for Special Education programs; pinpoint support needed for students; books cost more than online programs; technology used by all levels of students; need proof to see if working; need to try it to see if it is working; technology indicates student needs; how affect SAT scores or Special Education programs; efficacy of technology needed; helps become better writer; better thinkers if analyze authenticity of website; needed for SRBI students; directed intervention; pinpoint problem; and testing for students in right level.

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

c. Finance letter.

Board members discussed correspondence from Leo Paul; town hall Finance Director resigned; and possible cost savings if shared services.

Board members discussed: input for shared services; difficulty in doing so; past practices in other systems didn't work well; divided loyalty Town vs. Board of Ed; possible need for assistants for both Litchfield town operation and Board of Education if only shared business manager; cost savings spent on administrative assistants; complicated budget system; two different pension programs; issues with town needs; \$10,000 for Budget Sense used by school; Munis cost \$10 - \$15 thousand; Munis complicated computer program; cost in conversion; payroll for 140 in school system and 40 in town; Budget Sense education based; issues with audit by Bloom Shapiro; possible town pay for survey; two different entities; not great idea right now; little cost savings if need assistants; and someone with 085 needed for Board of Education business office.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to thank the Board of Selectmen for investigating this matter and if they would like to do further investigation that is ok with us but at this time the Board of Education is not interested.

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

Committee Reports

Curriculum, Program and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met on January 8th and discussed: presentation by Mr. Roy; Foreign Language programs; Latin; Spanish; French; objectives of curriculum; 7th and 8th grade enrollment; French enrollment issues; options to keep French; possible dual degree of staff; Spanish curriculum for 4, 5 and 6th grade; and 6th grade teachers schedule.

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee met and discussed: Plumb Hill issues; Mr. Healy covering those issues; completion of OCR issues by Mr. Healy; phones working; phone bills; data bills; connect buildings through internet; red sky needed in L.I.S. and L.H.S.; \$5-600 dollars needed to update to make compatible; 5-year tech plan based on education needs; math; reading; inventory; Jack Healy and Jeff Holzman to attend Facilities meetings on monthly basis; met with Board of Finance to change Capital budget money for security needs for window tinting and shades; to be done during spring break or during summer because too disruptive; L.I.S. auditorium issues; get input from Warner Theater; need for input from Mr. Kassay, Mr. Porri and Mr. Perkins; need to be included in capital budget; equipment is 14 years old; and determining strengths and weaknesses of the facility.

Finance - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee met on Monday and discussed: financial report; budget issues and past practices; priorities in budget; Tuesday, Feb. 10th next meeting; look at budget pages in detail; letter from Mr. Geiger requesting Board input at Finance meeting; and budget needs input from Superintendent so can't present to Board of Finance when requested.

Policy - Ms. Carr reported that the committee did not meet this month.

Policies

- a. Second reading – Policy # 1325 – Advertising and Promotion – Board consensus was to send this to attorney for review.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 1325 – Advertising and Promotion as a new policy.

MOTION failed. All votes were in the negative. There were no abstentions.

- b. Second Reading – Policy # 5124 – Reporting to Parents.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve Policy # 5124 – Reporting to Parents as presented.

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

c. Second Reading – Policy #5141.7 – Student Sports – Concussion and Head Injuries.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve Policy # 5141.7 – Student Sports – Concussion and Head Injuries as presented.

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

d. Second Reading – Policy # 5160 – Protective Holding/Physical Intervention.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve Policy # 5160 – Protective Holding/Physical Intervention.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

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

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