

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**JANUARY 22, 2014**

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Media Center.

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

Absent was: Mr. Bongiorno.

Also present were: Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Zaremski; Mr. Lathrop; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Turner; Ms. Kubisek; and members of the public.

Dr. Wheeler stated: personnel matter involving Ms. Della Volpe; agreement made to return to work; plan to address with school and community; suspended for 10 days unpaid; counselling to be completed; plans to address the students in the classroom; life decisions made; and per advice of counsel this is the extent of statements to be made.

**Approve Minutes**

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the minutes of regular meeting January 8, 2014 as submitted.

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

**Approve Payment of Invoices**

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the payment of invoices on Accounts Payable warrant dated 1/23/2014 in the amount of \$191,259.78.

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

**Public Comment and Correspondence**

- a. STPC – none.  
PTO – none.
- b. LHS – student council – none.
- c. Other Public Comment

- Mr. Sandrib commented on student life survey; 1-to-1 laptop program fees; and regionalization.
  - Ms. Lubo commented in support of survey; Principal incident; and regionalization.
  - Ms. Sobek commented on Principal's behavior; examples for youth lacking; and possible replacement needed.
  - Ms. Schildgen commented on drugs and moral issues at L.H.S.; leadership ability of the Principal; and ability to guide youngsters.
  - Mr. Sobek commented on 1-to-1 computer program security issues; options to keep computers until problem solved and protection can be offered.
  - Ms. Scozzafava commented on validity of own device at school like a cell phone along with the computers that are being offered; use of phone by students in classrooms; message being sent if phones are prohibited.
  - Mr. Wagner commented on non-support of survey and possibly staff and faculty take the survey too.
  - Ms. Andrulis commented on supporting the computer program in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; and questioned the opt-out process for not doing the survey.
- d. Correspondence
- A letter from Mr. and Mrs. Lupo regarding the personnel matter with Ms. Della Volpe.
  - A letter from Ms. Rockness regarding the personnel matter with Ms. Della Volpe.
  - A letter from Mr. Pellegrino regarding the personnel matter with Ms. Della Volpe.
- e. Administrator's Reports
- Ms. Turner reported: Kindergarten meetings being held for information gathering and projected numbers from the local preschools.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- a. Thanks for the following donations:
- \$5,100 donated for a classroom set of tablets by Ray Cappella.
  - Percussion equipment for L.I.S. stage donated by David Patchell of East Coast Sheet Metal valued at \$1,500.
- b. Presentation of Superintendent's Proposed Budget 2014-2015 - available on the school web site.

Dr. Wheeler presented a power point including: 2014-2015 Budget Proposal; \$16,617,997.00 total proposed, \$759,542 in new dollars, 4.79% proposed percentage increase; priorities; class size impact K, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>; areas of significant savings; areas of greatest increase; enrollment longitudinal data, January 1, 2014: 989; FTEs; reductions; restructuring; additions; replacements; tuitions; other areas of note; 2014-2015 proposed budget pie chart; and next steps, present to Board for adoption Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> or March 5<sup>th</sup>; Board

of Finance review March 17; Town budget Hearing April 23<sup>rd</sup>; and Annual town Budget Meeting May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Wheeler acknowledged that the increase is high; she will collaborate with the Board during the next six weeks to finalize her proposal.

Board members discussed: small budget increases over the past several years; budget book is also online; principal recommendations; hiring mental health professional; 2% in salary increase; retirement issues; 3 positions to be taken out; special services needed; insurance needs; need to get insurance bids every 3 to 4 years; meeting with benefits' specialist on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>; self-insure now; stop gap portion of insurance; laptop insurance fees; tuition fees; regionalization committee already formed and homeland security recommendations and costs.

### **New Business**

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the out of state field trip to Ellis Island as presented.

Ms. Murphy reported: 5<sup>th</sup> grade inter district, diversity program; Immigration Nation; 5 field trips; and other schools involved.

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 on January 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed: Health curriculum for grades K – 12; AP Psychology course; alternative courses; AP courses for next year; and Spanish teacher certification in place.

Policy – the committee met on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Policies**

- a. First Reading - Policy #4118.51/4218.51 Employee Use of Social Media – revisions made. Return to BOE for second reading at next regular meeting.
- b. First Reading - Policy # 5131 Bring Your Own Device and 1-To-1 Computing – revisions made. Return to BOE for second reading at next regular meeting.
- c. First Reading - Policy # 5131.4/6177 Technology – policy reviewed. Return to BOE for second reading at next regular meeting.

- d. Rescind – Policy # 5131.81 Use of Beepers-Paging Devices/Cellular Telephones – tabled until Facilities and Technology Committee Chair can review.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

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

### **Executive Session**

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

Dr. Wheeler was invited to attend.

Open session resumed at 8:30 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Carr: to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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

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