

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2013

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library/Media Center.

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

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

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes for special meeting January 23, 2013 and regular meeting January 23, 2013.

MOTION withdrawn and second withdrawn.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes for special meeting January 23, 2013.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Rosser; Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Waugh abstained.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes for regular meeting January 23, 2013 with the following corrections: on page 3095 under "b" change, "Thank you for this," to Thank you for his," and on page 3096 under Committee reports change "Ms. Fabbri reported that he," to "Ms. Fabbri reported that the," change "Formen" to "Forman" and add "on having the 7th and 8th grade laptops ready for distribution" following "met target" under FFT report.

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

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the payment of invoices for 2012-2013 as required.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC – no report.
PTO – no report.
- b. LHS student council – no report.
- c. Other public comment:
 - Mr. Sandrib commented: on athletic impact on student learning; swim team needs; costs for sports; and investing in student lives with sports activities.
 - Mr. Dranginis commented: CJR Pool rental; swim program comparison with other sports' costs; number of students in swim program; need for I.S. and M.S. swim programs; college swimmers from Litchfield's program.
 - Ms. Morgan commented: swim program constant target during budget development; benefits from swim program; need for smaller classes in Kindergarten and first grade; need to keep French as a choice for students.
 - Mr. Sobek commented: concerns about BYOD for I.S. students who do not seem ready for that responsibility; need to justify educational purpose; teacher input and tools for teachers to use; and etiquette for use.
 - Mr. Batiste commented: peer group participation does lead to leadership skills.
 - Mr. Cuglar commented: need to draw students to Litchfield by providing more aggressive academic programming even in difficult financial times, need to keep class sizes small and maintain the French program.
- d. Correspondence:
 - Thank you note from Sherri Irwin.
 - Workshop pamphlet for Common Core.
- e. Administrators' Report
 - Ms. Murphy reported: CT read aloud day today; thanks to volunteers; professional learning committee February 11th; Math teachers K-5 sharing ideas with consortium from other districts, organized by Plymouth Public Schools.
 - Ms. Turner reported: CT read aloud day today; second lockdown held with A+ results; and plans for unannounced drill in the spring.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: spirit week this week; Wamogo home game Thursday and Friday; pep rally on Friday at the end of the day; random act of kindness to hold dinners for L.I.S and C.S. next week; letter to parents re: laptop guide and insurance with parents' signature; open session for parents who have questions on Feb. 13th at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.; and thanks to Tech team and 7th and 8th grade teachers for involvement. Board members requested a copy of letter sent home to families.
 - Mr. Zaremski reported: prevalence file received; rate of inclusion for past 5 years; timely evaluation; and need to have budget provide funding to address the needs of students and families who are in need of services.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler presented a power point of her recommended budget for 2013-2014. A copy of the budget proposal is on the school's website.

Mr. Lathrop reviewed the budget documents including: library book circulation document; C.S. largest circulation; analysis of pagers and cell phones; do not have pagers; cell phones from grant funds; cellular services for maintenance; costs of athletics; most expensive sports have least enrollment.

Board members discussed: town meeting date – May 8th; Kindergarten registration; 39 students currently enrolled; pool rental costs compared to field maintenance and lighting for other sports; cell phones for maintenance; wireless questions; infrastructure needs; reduce data manager helps fund tech position; OT/PC separate from speech pathologist; estimates on health benefits; information from Anthem; replacement question for courses offered now; keep lower grades teachers in place; supplemental needs; “fine by 9” goal; number of certified staff and the number in a classroom; no assistant's in K or 1st grade other than special education paraprofessional; online learning; need for French and Spanish at L.I.S.; \$250,000 technology; assessing the efficacy of the program; need to assess benefits of technology; technology in the real world; courses partnered with other schools; need for Smart Boards for classes; back-up plan if Capital does not cover Smart Boards; concern for kids who cannot look at screens due to head injuries; band, music and art help students learning; how will technology affect students when leave the system; need to know how to use tools and function in today's world; technology detailed in the budget; C.S. and I.S. wireless taken out; lease amount over years; need rational for tech items and better break down of items; big books are available at Central Office; FF&T meeting on Tuesday; need to determine what is educationally sound; and website has budget document and will be up dated when changes are made.

New Businessa. Overnight Field Trip – CT Convention Center, Hartford, CT

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the overnight field trip to CT Convention Center, Hartford , CT – All State High School Music Festival on April 2, 3, and 4, 2013.

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

b. Out of State Field Trip – Music in the Parks, Agawam, MA

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MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the Out of State Field Trip – Music in the Parks, Agawam, MA on May 17, 2013.

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

Committee Reports - none

Policies

a. Second Reading – Policy # 3516 Safety

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Policy # 3516 Safety as amended.

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

b. Second Reading – Policy # 3517 Security of Buildings and Grounds

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 3517 Security of Buildings and Grounds.

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

c. Second Reading – Policy # 5131.82 School Publications

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 5131.82 School Publications as amended.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

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

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