

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 16, 2017

DRAFT

A special meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Center School gym.

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

Absent was: Mr. Bongiorno.

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 1, 2017 with the following corrections on page 3585, Ms. Carr's motion should read in the last line add "the difference will not be remitted to the parents" and remove "if it is less than no credit will be given," and add the vote status, "MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions," and on page 3586 under EdAdvance, add "that EdAdvance will be purchasing another building," and delete "the need for another building."

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

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 # 2017-19 dated 3/16/2017 in the amount of \$240,295.45 and on Food Service warrant dated 3/15/2017 in the amount of \$11,811.99.

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 reported on the following: fundraiser April 22nd; 95 registered; upcoming retro dodge ball tournament; open to all; 13 registered; launched "You Make a Difference," parents make a donation in recognition of employee; 8 honored so far; and kids enjoy this; science support researched; new Librarian updated

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on donations received; Minds in Motion at LMS; input from Ms. Kubisek; and grade participation numbers.

e. Other public comment – none.

f. Correspondence-

- Email from Litchfield Concerned Citizens re: FOI teacher tenure.
- Email from Litchfield Concerned Citizens re: FOI meeting between Mr. Fiorillo and Stacy Morgan.
- Post card from Litchfield Historic Society.
- Email from Debra M. Cahill re: personnel matter.

g. Administrators' Report

- Mr. Ammary reported: none.
- Ms. Haggard reported: handout, Comprehensive School Climate Inventory Facts; Introduction – The 13 Dimensions of School Climate Measured by the CSCI; including the following: website available; assesses the perceptions of multiple stakeholders, staff, parents, students; grades 3 – 12; quantitative as a needs assessment; measure of change over time; district-wide alignment in survey's administration; launching date; implementation; encourage community participation; report generated by National School Climate Center; highlights strengths and weaknesses; presented to BOE, administrators and safe-school climate committee; develop action plan; survey based on 10 years of research and testing; reliability and validity researched; data vetted; no parental consent needed.

Board members discussed: not same tool as last time; how draw inferences; did students improve or decline; some questions carry over; hopefully can be useful; joint venture from Prevention Council and Greenwoods; issues with staff questions; how to classify "leadership;" how to differentiate climate; parents could do it from different schools depending on where students attend; and leadership issues.

- Mr. Fiorillo reported: report during budget presentation.
- Ms. Della Volpe reported: successful running of play, "Urine-town."
- Ms. Kubisek reported: none.
- Ms. Murphy reported: none.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Turner reported: ongoing subcommittee meetings; LEED Committee meets Tuesday; more draft work needed; PD during early dismissals; and curriculum development on going.

Old Business – none.

New Businessa. SERAC Presentation –

Mr. Pascento distributed handout, “Litchfield School Youth Survey 2016 Draft Results” presented by Southeastern Regional Action Council, March 2017; and reviewed the following: sponsored by the Board; for students enrolled in grades 6 – 12; anonymous responses; 480 students participated; 21 excluded; 459 analyzed; 87% participation rate; survey participation by grades; 12th grade provides a lot of info; 37% use alcohol compared to 28% in 2014; alcohol use; get alcohol from friends; 30% use alcohol recently; up from 22%; electronic cigarettes among 12th graders 50% reported use; up from 35% in 2014; lifetime use of selected illicit drugs; marijuana use; most commonly used illicit drug; 12th graders 50% as compared to 50% in 2014; 27% recent use compared to 25% in 2014; not a lot of other drugs used; salvia is another hallucinogen; other illicit drugs; generally low among 12th graders; prescription medications; are a concern; up 30% from 19% in 2014; need to track by grade; classes have different cultures; over the counter medications; perception of harm % of risk; perception of parental and peer disapproval; perceived availability of various substances; family has clear rules; family rules and recent substance use; antisocial behavior; suicide and depression; top ranked prevention strategies by grade; self-concept; social supports; perception of school environment; perception of community; perception of harm; alcohol and marijuana clear perception of harm; student perception of parental and peer disapproval; aware of expectations of others; small district so a couple of students skew results; issues with parents who do not have clear rules; students feel safe in school environment; teachers and staff are cooperative; community is safe place to grow; percent sold very low compared to other towns; combustible tobacco; use of E cigarettes; and perception of harm high in traditional cigarettes.

Board members discussed: concerned with limited teacher support for social support; is broken down by grades; social environment component; input from Ms. Heuschkel; students seek support; issues with getting marijuana from parents; difference in socio economic component; how questions are asked can be confusing; so much info to get from survey; useful info; issues with including school climate report; use in advisory meetings; concerns with 14% having thoughts of hurting themselves; seem high in numbers; how students interpret questions; issues with social media; consistent with other districts and society as a whole; concerns with teenage issues; moods, feelings, who you are; details are significant; why depressed; need to support students when make aware of needs; Greenwoods input; greater than used to be; way to monitor web traffic; some are blocked; level of reality in teenagers; adding 6th grade is good idea; need for info; need to check results when students get older; need to educate parents to play active role; anxiety covered; info needed for programing; and answers are interpreted differently.

b. Teacher Resignation

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to accept the resignation of Kelly O’Connell as presented.

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

c. Out of State Field Trip.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Stone: to approve the Out-of-State Field Trip to Norman Rockwell Museum and Studio, in Stockbridge, MA on May 8, 2017.

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

d. 2017-2018 BOE Budget Review.

Board members reviewed the budget book and discussed: required instruction; next generation standards; big jump in LIS budget; input from administrators; SS at LIS; periodical increase; text books needed for Psychology; seniors take it; ½ year course; LMS support in SS; issues with State cuts; included in educational cost sharing cuts; not affected with Boards' budget; other school budgets; what get from state goes to town; FTE of paraprofessionals; adjustments made with math program; redid program now not needed; added additional Special Ed paraprofessional; 22 total now; .6 reduction; LEA contract; health care allocation will go down; adjustments made; field trip issues; not aware of any cancelled; \$60.00 fee for bus could be handled and field trip would not be cancelled; possible bus cancelled and students walked instead; not sure where rumor started; administration does not recall any cancellation; need to resolve for community info; budget well presented; no need to cut; Board of Finance presentation on Monday; need to be prepared for it; Selectman's budget percentage, amount of Capital budget; in line with expectations; Board has largest employment; issues with state mandates; school performance is great; DRG status a D; only D school to make this grade in State; issues with MOU transfer of 1.1 million in May; within 2012 MOU; transfer May 7th; Board can handle transfer; can prevail as good or better than town; issues with town selling equipment; possible auction; equipment and personnel will be given back; budget 3.18%; input from Board of Finance on Monday; they cannot specify what to cut; Capital and Selectmen's budget approved quickly as is; timing for budget to town; April 26th presented to town; and May 10th vote.

MOTION made by Mr. Pavlick and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the 2017-2018 budget 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 and

Committee Reports - continued

discussed the following: mandates issued; socio-economic concerns; Legacy program presented by Ms. Della Volpe; 2 seniors, 2 juniors; 3 prong program; needed for graduation; provided by guidance; Life Skills conversation; students monitored; some students opted to go to OWT; next year 7 enrolled; no limits for program; and flexibility for students to use the Legacy program.

Finance Committee – none

Ed Advance – none

Policy – none

Policies

a. Review

- i. Policy # 1112.6 Photographs, Broadcasting, or Videotaping Special School Activities – policy reviewed. No changes.

b. Second Reading

- i. Policy #1111 Broadcast of Board of Education Meetings

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to adopt Policy # 1111 Photographs, Broadcasting, Videotaping Special School Activities as revised.

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

- ii. Policy # 1112 News Media Relations.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to adopt Policy # 1112 News Media Relations as revised.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to move to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss Review of Non-Renewal Recommendations.

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

Executive Session

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

Invited to attend were Superintendent Turner and Mr. Fiorillo.

Returned to public session at 8:22 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Litchfield Board of Education non-renew the teacher contracts discussed in Executive Session at the end of the 2016-2017 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and ratify adopt and accept the Superintendent's determination that the contract be non-renewed.

Further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests for a hearing, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the above-named teachers and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statute 10-151; and further move that the Superintendent be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 8:25p.m.

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

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