

DRAFT

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LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 17, 2017

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Center School gym.

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; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Kubisek; Ms. Murphy; Mr. Ammary and members of the public.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to add to the agenda as VII. e. Teacher Retirement; as X c. LIS Principal; and as X iv. Math Supplemental Skills.

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Stone and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 3, 2017 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 Mr. Fabbri: approve the payment of FY 2016-17 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2017-23 dated 5/18/2017 in the amount of \$218,975.60 and Food Service warrant dated 5/17/2017 in the amount of \$9,890.60.

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 – Melissa Brodeur updated the Board with an outline of student council activities over the last few months.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – none.
- d. Litchfield Education Foundation – Ms. Reidy reported: successful fundraiser held; teacher recognition to 4 at CS, 2 at LIS and 3 at HS; parents have ability to thank teachers; video

on line; 22 student and 5 adults at workshops; popularity of robotics; grants given to 7th grade science teacher; 2 more grant applications in progress; and quality parents joining this foundation.

e. Other public comment –

- Kathleen Reidy commented: compliments to LIS Principal; need for Board to possibly use focus group with parents to help find replacement.
- Ann Marie Curtis commented: compliments to LIS Principal; and need to fill position with competent understanding of the needs of students.
- Stacy Morgan commented: concerns over the filling of the LIS Principal; need for transparency; need for public input; issues with comments at Curriculum, Programs and Personnel committee meeting; need for trust and concerns over retribution on students.

f. Correspondence-

- Thank you note from Theresa Simaitis for flowers from the Board in recognition of Nurses' Day.
- Letter from Francesca Kracht re: process needed when hiring new LIS Principal.
- Email from Julie Foss re: LIS Principal.
- Email from Gwen Burgess re: BOE meeting 5/17/17
- Letter from Peter Losee re: Litchfield Board of Ethics finding no violations by the respondent Frank Simone.
- Letter from staff at LIS re: having staff both certified and non-certified involved in replacing LIS Principal.

g. Administrators' Report

- Mr. Ammary reported: testing completed; two 3rd graders honored with writing for submissions; Jackson Bates and Jack Reynolds; went to Storrs to Performing Arts Building; over 1,300 applicants; 83 selected; need to promote next year; first enrichment academy on Friday; 24 workshops of different varieties; pilot enrichment academy for next year; summer programs in math and writing academy and open to all students.
- Ms. Della Volpe reported: thank you to STPC for teachers' day luncheon; Teacher Appreciation week held; LEF program with students involved; contact from former student, Jocelyn Courtney re: "Chasing Dragons" video to be presented to students; input from nurse, Theresa Simaitis attended; viewing before end of school year; shown to 8th graders, too; possibly May 31st or in the fall on Oct. 12th; input from Theresa Simaitis and Carmella Westcott; and AP exams done first 2 weeks of May.
- Ms. Kubisek reported: thank you for teacher appreciation celebrations; parent input; had raffle and prizes; finish testing this week; students taking longer this year; Friday visit to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital; 8th grade testing on Monday; and fun day Friday.
- Ms. Murphy reported: thank you for teacher appreciation celebrations; thank you to LEF awards; field trip last Friday; 5th grade to Ellis Island; Immigration Nation culmination at EdAdvance; thank you to 5th graders for their efforts; 5th grade sharing info; and orientation events in June.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Turner reported: updating the Newsletter for completion in June to be emailed to community members.

Old Business – none.

New Business

- a. China Trip – Staff members distributed an outline of “Cultural Immersion Benefits” and reviewed the following: the benefits; possibly having Chinese students come to Litchfield.

Dante commented: enjoyed cross-culture experience; more understanding; great potential; open mindedness; spectacular sight at Great Wall of China; best day of life.

Jack commented: school nothing like ours; 10 times our size; for English classes talked in Chinese; great economic differences; students became friendly; very open and learned a lot.

Sara commented: started talking to female student before traveling to country; school had 3 floors with 9,000 students on one campus; stressed to get in car at first; love to have students come here and need to go back in the future.

Randy commented: great bond with students; student named Joy offered possible involvement in debate team; chose not participate but did research for Joy’s argument and she used the info; kindness from Mom; have had French exchange students; did go to Costa Rica, but China is the best; need for our teachers to contact theirs; performance of dragon dance; and use of calligraphy.

Meredith commented: inexplicable life experience; nice host family; issues with tap water; father immediately got bottled water; inspiring at school; learn English at early age; students aspire to graduate and go to other countries; and these students have courage to go to other countries.

Board members discussed: the difference in teaching styles; issues with kids acting out; teachers accept their behavior; one of the top high schools in the country; get punished in different ways; more relaxed teaching style; not as advanced technology wise as us; no consequences for students; classes taught by American teachers, not Chinese; input from Principals; not a lot of inquiry based learning; mostly all memorization; 15-20 in classroom but up to 50 in regular high school classes; students apply to attend the special high school; need to share costs for other trips; students stay with host families; input from Housatonic Valley High School; eager to come here; see colleges when here; overwhelming experience for all; cost issues; China wants to learn inquiry based learning; a privilege to be included; and gifts sent from parents in China.

b. Oil Tank Replacement Project.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the oil tank replacement project at LIS and the oil tank replacement at LCS as complete.

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

c. Teacher Resignations.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the resignation of Elizabeth J. Chalker, kindergarten teacher, as of June 22, 2017.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Stone: to approve the resignation of Sarah Norwood, as special education teacher as of the conclusion of the school year.

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

d. Administrator Resignation.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the Resignation Jennifer Murphy as LIS Principal effective June 30, 2017 with great sadness and regret and thank you for 10 years of service.

Board members commented: thank you, great environment for teachers and students, go above and beyond.

MOTION carried. Ms. Fabbri, Mr. Pavlick, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Shuhi, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Simone voted in the affirmative. Ms. Carr, Ms. Stone and Mr. Clock voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

e. Teacher Retirement.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the retirement of Jocelyn Regenbogen as HS math teacher as of June 2017 with thanks for many years of service at LHS.

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 discussed the following: update on PE curriculum; pre-K – 12; preschool for PE; team building activities; 7th and 8th grade exercise science for full year; HS 9th and 11th grade participate; graduation requirement; preschool update, handout; “PK Pre-Post Language Arts Data 2016-2017,” reading and writing outline handout; Language Arts update; how achieving; update on Guidance Department; meet the needs of the whole child; careers covered; social-emotional curriculum updated; common language for all students; Naviance program; 6th grade to 12th grade curriculum; advisory program in 6th grade; conferences with parents; phenomenal presentation for guidance; summer agenda covered by Julie Haggard; more info needed; part time vs. full time position; distributed “Superintendent’s Goals 2016-2017 End of Year Update, May 17, 2017,” “Litchfield Board of Education Superintendent Evaluation 2016-2017,” need to complete for next Board meeting; and Ms. Stone will tabulate info.

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee met and discussed: custodial services; July 1st take over; summer plans; some capital projects did survive; door replacement; bid for sidewalks; fix curbing and sidewalks; propane leak fixed; line needs replacement; contracts started by town to be used for schools; need to put together a value for what the Board has to cover from the town; \$117,000 given from town; over \$80,000 used before end of summer; not reasonable; bring to Board then go to Board of Finance for more funding; without a building technician; need to replace John Whalen’s position; job ad online; technology audit held; backbone and wireless; licenses; curriculum programs; band width use; update from Jamie; plan for breakage; numbers included; need to finalize replacement for custodians; and need to get dollar amount for maintenance needs.

Policies

- a. Second Reading
 - i. Policy # 1120 Board of Education Meetings

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve Policy # 1120 Board of Education Meetings as revised.

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

- ii. Policy # 2000.1 Board-Superintendent Relationship

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Stone: to approve Policy # 2000.1 Board-Superintendent Relationship.

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

iii. Policy # 5118.2 Truancy

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Stone: to approve Policy # 5118.2 Truancy as amended.

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

iv. Policy # 5118.2 Enrollment of the Children of Non-Resident Certified and Non-Certified Staff

MOTION made by Mr. Carr and seconded by Ms. Stone: to approve Policy # 5118.2 Enrollment of the Children of Non-Resident Certified and Non-Certified Staff 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 Personnel Matters.

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.

Superintendent Turner, Mr. Ammary, Ms. Della Volpe, Ms. Murphy and Mr. Pascento were invited to attend.

Returned to public session at 9:05 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to hire Jamie McDevitt as Library Media Specialist at Litchfield Intermediate School.

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

Litchfield Board of Education Meeting, May 17, 2017

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to hire Heather Trueman as Math Teacher at Litchfield High School.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to hire Paige Young as Math Teacher at Litchfield High School.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to renew non-tenure teachers for the 2017-2018 school year.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to hire Kristina Olmstead as the Math Supplemental Skills teacher at Center School.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

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