

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING January 9, 2014

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Deborah Downie, Secretary, Faith Leitner, Alisa Morrison, Craig Esposito, Alexa Garvey, and Terry Stefanski.

Also present were Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Emily Craig, Student Government, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Frank Todisco, Chairman opened the meeting by introducing and welcoming the newest Board member, Terry Stefanski.

Board Presentations

Doug Hammel, staff and students presented a presentation that stressed Deans Mill School's new motto "High Expectations for All". Teacher, Krysta Dessereaux shared her idea of the Wise Owl Publishing Center. Students Owen Mercier, Nora Brannegan, and Assistant Principal, Allison Hine talked about the community gatherings and their positive affect on students and the community.

Dr. Van Riley and the Board thanked the students and staff for a well-done presentation.

Communications & Recognitions

Communications

There were no communications.

Recognitions

There were no recognitions.

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones commented on the 2014-15 Proposed School Calendar in regards to Christmas break and February vacation.

Cindy Nadeau also commented on the 2014-15 Proposed School Calendar and the LEARN Regional calendar and believes Version B would be the most beneficial for students.

Mrs. Whipple commented on the versions of the 2014-15 Proposed School Calendar in regards to Christmas vacation, the idea of building in snow days, and graduation date.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – December 12, 2013 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Faith Leitner:

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda Items A-C as presented.

All: Aye

Second Read/Action: Policy 5123.3a Graduation Participation

Dr. Riley noted that this policy was brought to various groups for discussion.

The Board and Student Government representative Emily Craig, discussed the pros and cons of the policy. The Board asked that the Policy Committee and Dr. Riley revisit to make changes in the language, in areas of the appeal process and incorporate community service options. No action was taken.

BOE Committee Meeting Calendar

Frank Todisco asked that this item be brought back and added to the next month's Board meeting agenda in order to get more feedback from Board members. The Board had a brief discussion on scheduling of meetings and community involvement.

Approval/Action: 2014-15 School Calendar (Versions A, B, C, D)

Frank Todisco reported on a legislative law that will be coming into effect soon, which will mandate all schools to go with the regional calendar. This is currently an option for the 2014-15 school year but will be mandatory for the 2015-16 school year. Guidelines on this issue will be forthcoming; Dr. Riley recommended that a 2014-15 school calendar not be approved at tonight's.

The Board agreed to bring back the 2014-15 Proposed School Calendar for the next meeting. No action was taken.

Proposed Budget Presentation

Dr. Riley presented his memo on the proposed budget (see attached) and asked that a few things be considered before making a decision on the final budget such as SEED impact, Special Education Program Delivery System, and Special Program Requests.

Dr. Riley had available a handout on his budget proposal and recommendations. (see attached handout). Dr. Riley explained that his budget proposal addresses the needs of all students and staff. Dr. Riley went through the budget proposal document in detail and answered the Board's questions. Dr. Riley asked that the Board gather questions for discussion at the upcoming Board budget workshops.

The Board had a few requests. Frank Todisco requested a detail breakdown of the staffing section of the budget proposal. Administration to provide this document. Craig Esposito requested a list of unfunded mandates regarding SEED and Common Core, other costs related to SEED implementation and energy increases. Emily Craig spoke on alternative energy to save cost.

SHS Principal Selection Process

Dr. Riley alerted the Board and community of the timeline regarding the SHS principal selection process and stressed that starting this process early is important to insure a good pool of candidates. Dr. Riley noted that parents, staff, and community will be contacted to participate in this process. Dr. Riley also asked that Board members take part in the screening process.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Riley had available the revised 2013-14 school calendar reflecting the change in the last day of school due to the recent snow days. Dr. Riley noted that the school calendar might still change and those changes will be made as they occur.

Monthly Report

All monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet.

The Board had not comments or concerns regarding the month reports.

Committee Reports

Craig Esposito reported that the Board Finance Committee met before the Board meeting and discussion focused on the budget proposal, technology funds, Title I Grant, and budget workshop process.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones had questions on the timeframe in which the new 2014-15 school calendar would be discussed and approved.

Items for Future Agendas

- Presentation on fundraiser at SHS

Board Comments/Concerns

No comments or concerns at this time.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 2: To adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

Aye: All


Deborah Downie, Board Secretary