

**STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING March 13, 2014**

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room. Members present were Deborah Downie, Secretary, Faith Leitner, Alisa Morrison, Alexa Garvey, Craig Esposito, and Terry Stefanski.

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

**Board Presentations**

Frank Todisco introduced Alicia Dawe, WVS/WBS Principal, who along with Ruth Rose, Assistant Principal, teachers Ashlee Holland, Whitney Olsen, Kerry Ryder, Kai Duran and students Abigail Nadeau, Ciara Torruella, Kyle Lowry, and Sydney Champagne presented a presentation on Community Partnership with Mystic Seaport. Mrs. Dawe and Mrs. Rose gave an overview of the collaboration between West Broad Street School and the Mystic Seaport in which students in grade 3 and 4 are able to learn about the seaport and its environments.

**Communications & Recognitions**

**Communications**

No communications at this time.

**Recognitions**

Alisa Morrison recognized student, Ben Logel who received the Spirit of Life Award for his participation in the Special Olympics.

Deborah Downie congratulated the SHS Drama department for their great production of *Cinderella*.

Emily Craig recognized the National Honor Society for their blood drive assembly.

Dr. Van Riley recognized the Board members, as March is Board of Education month for their many hours of dedication and work to the district. Dr. Riley presented the Board with survival kits, and thank you cards and books from both the kindergarten class at DMS and grade 4 at WBSS. Dr. Riley thanked Ruth Rose and Allison Hine for putting together these special gifts.

**Comments from Citizens**

Cindy Nadeau noted that April 2 is Autism Awareness day and there will be a fundraiser at Twisted Vine in Westerly organized by parents to support students in the district.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Minutes – February 6, 2014 (Regular)  
February 13, 2014 (Regular)  
February 20, 2014 (Special)  
February 25, 2014 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report
- E. Annual Contract Non-Renewal Authorization by the BOE
- F. Healthy Food Certification Statement (ED099)

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

**Motion 1:** To remove item E – Annual Contract Non-Renewal Authorization by the BOE from the consent agenda for further discussion.

All: Aye

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

**Motion 2:** To approve the Consent Agenda Items A, B, C, D, and F as presented.

All: Aye

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Faith Leitner:

**Motion 3:** To authorize and direct the Superintendent of Schools, in his capacity as Chief Executive of the Board of Education, to make and communicate decisions concerning the non-renewal and termination of certified professional staff in the Board's employ and to furnish written notices of non-renewal and termination and, where required, reasons therefore, to affected non-tenured teachers, as provided in provisions of the Connecticut Teacher Tenure Law applicable to non-tenured teachers.

All: Aye

**Budget Update and Discussion**

Frank Todisco reported that both he and Dr. Riley met with members of the BOF, discussion focused on the possibility of sizeable cuts to the budget. Mr. Todisco noted that next Wednesday the Board will know for sure whether more cuts will be needed. Mr. Todisco informed all that there will be a Special Board meeting on March 27 before the public hearing to discuss budget changes before the referendum.

**Full-Day Kindergarten Update**

Nikki Gullickson reported on the DRA2 scores and the improvement in kindergarten scores between this year and last year. Mrs. Gullickson noted that 90% of students are at goal. Mrs. Gullickson and Dr. Riley thanked the Board for supporting the full-day kindergarten program and the Wonders Reading program.

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Riley congratulated the district for implementing the first Mobile Food Pantry a couple of weeks ago, which was able to distribute meat, fruits, vegetables and other goods to 89 families in our community. The next Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled for April 7, in which the administration and Board of Education members will be present to distribute goods, more families have inquired about the program bringing the number closer to 100 families.

Dr. Riley also reminded all about the following important dates:

- March 18 Town Meeting at SHS at 7 p.m. for approval of DMS roof project
- March 19 BOF Deliberations at the Police Station at 7 p.m.
- March 27 Special Board meeting at 7 p.m. at SHS
- April 9 Special Board meeting at 7 p.m. at SHS
- April 10 Regular Board meeting cancelled

Dr. Riley reported that interviews were held for the high school principal position where out of 19 applicants five were chosen to interview with two groups one with parents and the other with teachers and a guidance counselor. Dr. Riley noted that each group came to a consensus choosing one candidate to move forward to the final interview, final interview will be next week.

**Monthly Report**

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

The Board had questions on the following reports:

- Student Government – improving communications with students and change in school practices

Emily Craig explained which practices that the students want to bring back to the school. Miss Craig reported that the group is discussing better ways of improving communication by use of Twitter.

- Curriculum Report

Nikki Gullickson discussed SEED Handbook and flexibilities and asked that the Board make the following motions in order to comply with the state's deadline.

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Craig Esposito:

**Motion 4:** To approve the clarifications/revisions made by the August 2013 SEED Handbook to the previously approved 2012 SEED Handbook.

All: Aye

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Craig Esposito:

**Motion 5:** To approve the proposed Flexibilities regarding observations and SLO's for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year (as represented in the attached chart).

All: Aye

- Operations Report

Bill King presented a proposal regarding the Annual Bearathon Road Race held on Masons Island.

Faith Leitner asked about arrangements regarding the event.

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

**Motion 6:** To approve the Annual Bearathon Road Race to be held on Memorial Day, May 26, 2014 with the stipulation that primary liability coverage is obtained and arrangements are made with the police and ambulance services for the event.

All: Aye

Bill King reported that the SHS sailing team has asked that the Board take on insurance for the equipment with CIRMA fees of \$75. Bill Gaynor, sailing team coach was present and explained where the boats would be stored. Board came to a consensus and agreed to insure the sailboats.

Deborah Downie had questions in regarding fueling of the buses and the tanks. Faith Leitner had questions about the Food Service vending machines and why they were removed at the SHS. Administration answered the Board's questions.

Dr. Riley reported that he and Bill King will be meeting with Rob Valenti and town staff regarding moving forward with the move of the First Student bus depot to the Valente site.

### Committee Reports

Craig Esposito reported that the Board Finance Committee met early this evening and discussed special ed reimbursements, and freezing of account expenditures. Discussion also focused on 2014-2015 budget and the potential cuts from the BOF.

Terry Stefanski reported and applauded the SEF committee who pulled in \$21,340 dollars at the recent fundraiser with expenditures of \$4,070 giving the committee a net of \$17,270. Mr. Stefanski also noted that the committee discussed the possibility of providing scholarships to students and donating funds to cover expense of AP and SAT testing.

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**Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda**

Sue Jones asked about the vending machines and when they were used during the day and if the water bottles were still available for students. Ms. Jones suggested giving high school students who usually attend the Board meetings an opportunity to be more involved in the monthly meetings sometime during the first hour of each meeting.

**Items for Future Agendas**

- Junior Project for April 9 agenda
- Student Government presentation on the benefit concert for April 9 agenda
- Student recognition item back for April 9 agenda

**Board Comments/Concerns**

There were no comments or concerns at this time.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Terry Stefanski:

**Motion 7: To adjourn at 8:02 p.m.**

**Aye: All**

  
**Deborah Downie, Board Secretary**