

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING June 12, 2014

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. 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.

Communications & Recognitions

Communications

Alexa Garvey shared that she recently attended the event at the West Vine Street School Sensory Garden and noted that it was a wonderful event.

Terry Stefanski communicated that he attended the Deans Mill School ribbon cutting ceremony for the track, which was dedicated to Sherry Castodio, a PE teacher at Deans Mill School and noted it was great to see the kids having a great time on the track.

Terry Stefanski also reported on the SEF grant awards, which were a total of \$6,712, and shared a letter from the president of SEF.

Frank Todisco had communications regarding the Pawcatuck Middle School debate on why chocolate milk should stay in schools.

Recognitions

Alisa Morrison recognized the graduating class of 2014 and the girl's lacrosse team who will be playing in the state finals.

Faith Leitner recognized the SHS band for their wonderful performance at the Pops Concert and thanked all for attending.

Deborah Downie congratulated the Stonington High School drama department for their 13 nominations at the Halo Awards and Nicholas Robinson who received best supporting actor in "The Curious Savage".

Special Recognitions

Dr. Van Riley recognized and thanked Dr. Stephen Murphy, who will be retiring on June 30, for his many years of service to Stonington Public Schools; Dr. Murphy could not be present.

Frank Todisco recognized Student Government Representative, Emily Craig, for everything she did and being part of the Board. Mr. Todisco wished her best of luck next year and presented her with a small gift from the Board.

Scott Banks presented the Pawcatuck Middle School basketball team, Jenn Bausch, PMS/MMS Assistant Principal, and teacher, Dan Rahl with the 2014 Roger LaFrancois, Sr. Sportsmanship Award.

Lou Pear, CAS Director of Unified Sports, recognized Trevor Fornara, a 6th grade MMS student, for coming in first place in the state for his Unified Sports essay which he read to the audience. Mr. Pear presented Principal Jenn McCurdy with a check for \$500 in the Trevor's honor.

Frank Todisco recognized Ben Logel for the Spirit of Life Award for his participation in the Unified Sports program. Mr. Todisco also recognized Ben Logel and Caitryn Huysman for receiving the One Athlete and One Partner Award.

Marika Heughins and Tina Eisenbeis – LearnZillion

Marika Heughins and Tina Eisenbeis, both teachers at PMS, presented a small clip on LearnZillion. Mrs. Heughins and Mrs. Eisenbeis gave an overview of the program and explained how they will be introducing this to other teachers in the district.

Board Presentations

Allison Van Etten introduced Joann Eaccarino, Associate Director of School Based Health Programs, who spoke on the School Health Base Center located at PMS. Mrs. Eaccarino gave an overview on how this service became available to the district and spoke on the great experience it has been and the increase in utilization of the services through this program at PMS. A handout and brochure were available describing the School Health Base Center.

Allison Van Etten also welcomed and acknowledged the nurses in the district and introduced Gloria Murray-DeBiasi, Health Service Coordinator, for the district. Mrs. Murray-DeBiasi reported on the five major challenges that our nurses face on a daily basis, which are, manage medical conditions, managing student clinic visits due to injury, illness and wellness, completing CT mandated health screening, administration of medication and treatments, and processing the CT mandated immunizations and physical assessments. A handout was available that provided student data in regards to a variety of health issues.

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones inquired about having a link for those who want to register with the School Health Base Center as part of the current school registration process.

Sue Jones recognized and gave kudos to nurse, Gloria Murray-DeBiasi, and noted she is a wonderful nurse and cannot say enough about her and stated that we need to give the nurses every bit of support we can give them.

Ellen Gilbert recognized the nurses and especially MMS nurse, Carol Wollschlager. Mrs. Gilbert also reported that MMS brought back five gold and three platinum medals from the recent choral competition.

Cindy Nadeau commented on the recent Unified Sports Banquet and gave kudos to Tom Bousquet for coordinating the event.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – May 8, 2014 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report

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

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

All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Van Riley welcomed back Mark Friese who has been out on medical leave and asked that he introduce the new assistant principal.

Mark Friese introduced and welcomed Neale Curland to the position of assistant principal for SHS. Mr. Friese added that Mr. Curland brings more than 30 years' experience.

Dr. Van Riley brought back a suggestion on funding recommendation from the Board regarding Mandarin. Dr. Riley reported that he was pleased to say that the district will fully fund the online tuition for any student that wishes to take this course next year at no cost to students.

Elementary Assistant Principal Reconfiguration/Options

Dr. Van Riley explained the reconfiguration proposal and options for the elementary assistant principal position. Dr. Riley explained that he met with the representative for the administrator group and together came up with two options, a .85 FTE, and .90 FTE option. Dr. Riley reported that the district will be saving \$33,000 on magnet school tuition next year due to a decrease in enrollment, which will help pay for this proposal. Dr. Riley asked that the Board move forward with the .90 FTE, 195-day work year assistant principal position at the elementary level.

The Board came to a consensus and agreed to accept the proposal to change the elementary assistant principal position to a .90 FTE position.

Town of Stonington 2014 POCD

Alisa Morrison spoke about the process of the 2014 POCD and reviewed the documents regarding this program.

Facilities Update

Bill King gave an update on the DMS roof project and reported that the ED042 is officially signed and will be submitted next week. If approved, the bid could go out as early as Tuesday.

Dr. Van Riley commented on the WBS assessment and safety concerns. Dr. Riley explained that the assessment went out to bid and hopes to have it completed by August 1.

SEED Update/Impacts

At the Board's request, Nikki Gullickson went over the impact of SEED and shared a copy of the SPS Teacher Evaluation Cycle 2013-2017. Mrs. Gullickson explained the actual time commitment needed to complete the observations. Mrs. Gullickson reported that the state has completed the teacher's component but not the administrator's component. Mrs. Gullickson answered the Board's questions.

The Board had questions regarding:

- Current evaluation process
- Hiring of outside staff and price quote for services
- Cost of program to be presented to BOF for consideration
- State changes to the system

The Board came to an agreement to bring this item back at the July meeting for a possible approval of funds.

Approval of 2014-2015 Budget of \$34,272,784

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

Motion 2: To approve the 2014-2015 Budget of \$34,272,784.

All: Aye

Discussion/Approval of Proposal for West Broad Street School Infrastructure Study

Dr. Van Riley mentioned that the proposal for the WBSS infrastructure study was received, but proposes that it be rejected.

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

Motion 3: Move to reject the proposal for the West Broad Street School Infrastructure Study

All: Aye

Dr. Van Riley explained we will move forward as soon as possible to go out to bid, and look at all our options.

Monthly Report

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

Emily Craig, Student Government representative, introduced Charlie Buxton the 2014-2015 Student Government representative to the Board.

Faith Leitner commented on the Technology Report regarding a tech night being offered in the fall and asked if this was for parents, students, and staff. Jason Jones confirmed that it was.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Faith Leitner reported that the committee discussed funding to make our schools safe, reviewed 2013-2014 year-end budget status, preparation for 2015-2016 budget process, DMS roof, technology, WBSS study, and scheduling of meeting with all three Boards.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones commented on the possibility of building a district elementary school building rather than repairing the existing aged buildings.

Rob Marseglia commented on the possibility of moving Central Office to another location and invited the Board to attend the next Building Committee meeting to discuss this. Mrs. Marseglia added that the Building Committee will be hiring an architect in July. Mr. Marseglia asked the Board for a clear direction on improvements to the elementary schools in town.

Ashley Gillece commented on the West Broad Street School assessment and timeline.

Items for Future Agendas

- A. SBAC/Kindergarten Report
 - Nikki Gullickson to bring information on these items in July
- B. Mission/Vision Process
- C. CIP issue regarding safety

Board Comments/Concerns

Board Retreat

Frank Todisco noted that his goal is to have the retreat the first week in August. Mr. Todisco asked for the Board's opinion regarding this date.

Faith Leitner thanked Deborah Downie for the idea of adding the special recognition to the meeting agenda.

Alisa Morrison reported that the BOS decided not to appoint her as the Board representative on the Building Committee. Mrs. Morrison shared her credentials that support her vast experience in this area, and noted that she was not supportive of this decision.

Emily Craig reminded everyone of the benefit concert on Friday, June 13, at the Stonington High School.

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

Motion 4: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the receipt of recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools concerning teacher termination pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151.

All: Aye

Board entered into executive session at 9:09 p.m.

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 5: To exit Executive Session.

All: Aye

Board exited from Executive Session at 9:13 p.m.

Board Action on Superintendent's Recommendation Regarding Teacher Termination

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

Motion 6: To move that, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the employment of the following employees be officially terminated, effective June 30, 2014, and that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action to them in writing. Krissa Anderson – 0.6 Social Worker – Deans Mill School and Feng Sure – 0.6 Mandarin – Stonington High School.

All: Aye

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

Motion 7: To adjourn at 9:14 p.m.

Aye: All


Deborah Downie, Board Secretary