

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING July 10, 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, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Communications & Recognitions

Communications

No communications at this time.

Recognitions

Faith Leitner recognized the graduating Class of 2014, the class advisor for a great job in organizing the ceremony, and for the wonderful speeches during the graduation.

Comments from Citizens

No comments from citizens at this time.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – June 4, 2014 (Special)
June 12, 2014 (Regular)
June 26, 2014 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report

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

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

All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Van Riley asked that Alicia Dawe, WVSS/WBSS Principal, introduce the new WVSS/WBSS Assistant Principal.

Alicia Dawe introduced Ms. Kathryn Irvine as the new Assistant Principal and added that she is honored to have her onboard. Ms. Irvine thanked the administration and the Board for her appointment, noting that she is an alumni and a Stonington Bear, and very excited to start her new job.

Approval of State Approved Teacher Evaluation and Growth Plan

- A. Educator Evaluation and Development 2014 SEED Handbook
- B. Administrative Evaluation and Development 2014 SEED Handbook
- C. Summary of Changes

Nikki Gullickson spoke briefly on the Teacher Evaluation and Growth Plan and gave an update on the status of implementation while noting that Board approval is needed on this issue.

Board had no further questions.

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

Motion 2: To approve the 2014 Stonington Educator Evaluation and Growth Plan as described in the state approved 2014 Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Handbooks.

All: Aye

Request to Board of Finance – Unfunded Mandate

Dr. Van Riley asked the Board for direction to move forward with the request for these funds to the Board of Finance and secondly, to move forward with the hiring of an additional middle school assistant principal. Dr. Van Riley shared his thoughts on the need of this additional position due to the need for safety and so there will be full administrative coverage at each of the middle schools.

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

Motion 3: To direct the Superintendent to prepare a summary report and request \$125,000 in funding from the Board of Finance for the SEED unfunded mandate.

All: Aye

The Board and administration discussed types of supporting information that would be helpful to provide to the BOF when asking for the additional funds. The Board and administration discussed alternative options if funding from the BOF was not established.

Request to Board of Finance for CIP Facilities and Safety Funding

Dr. Van Riley spoke on the approved CIP items, and which were going to be brought back to the BOF for consideration. Dr. Riley presented and reviewed the two CIP request options with the Board.

Frank Todisco noted that he has been in contact with John O'Brien and he is aware of the request.

Deborah Downie asked if these items would be addressed immediately now that we are looking into building a new school. Frank Todisco said, yes they would be addressed immediately before the new building is completed.

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

Motion 4: To direct the Superintendent to prepare a summary report and request \$1,691,967 from the Board of Finance for CIP Facilities and Safety Funding.

All: Aye

K-12 Building Committee Option(s)

Dr. Van Riley asked the Board to consider the following options along with the option of expanding and upgrading the elementary schools. Dr. Riley explained each of his suggested options:

- 1) Build one new state-of-the-art middle school (5-8 or 6-8), relocate elementary schools to current middle school facilities, and update current middle school facilities to accommodate elementary schools.
- 2) Build a new central office building as part of the new construction

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Dr. Van Riley stated that if we built a new middle school we would have four properties for the town to use or sell and have funds to help with other costs. Dr. Van Riley asked the Board to consider this option and for their direction.

Frank Todisco noted that the K-12 Building Committee has discussed these ideas at their meetings but not yet with the Board.

Deborah Downie, Board representative on the Building Committee, added that all options need to be looked at for financial reasons. Ms. Downie added that logistically the district could go from seven to four buildings, which would save on utilities, but the architect would first need to look at all options.

The Board came to a consensus and agreed with Dr. Riley's suggested options. These will be discussed at the upcoming joint meeting with the Building Committee on July 15.

Approval of DMS Roof Bid Award

Terry Stefanski commented on the bid amount for Allied Roof Company, noting that the bid came in at \$100,000 less than other bids and that he is comfortable with the decision as long as references be checked on this vendor prior to hiring them.

Dr. Riley noted that this company was recommended by the architect and will check with him on the references.

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

Motion 5: To accept the bid from Allied Roof Company for the Deans Mill School roof project in the amount of \$792,000.

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

Motion 6: To amend the previous motion to accept the bid from Allied Roof Company for the Deans Mill School roof project in the amount of \$792,000 contingent upon the Superintendent verifying that references for this project have been checked.

All: Aye

Facilities Update

Dr. Van Riley reviewed the cost for the repairs to the West Broad Street School structural and safety needs. Dr. Riley will contact the BOF and do a bid waiver to get this project going.

Frank Todisco mentioned he spoke to John O'Brien and shared the findings and urgency to move forward with this.

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

Motion 7: To move forward with repairs for the West Broad Street School roof as recommended by the engineering report to be paid from district funds with reimbursement requested from the Board of Finance to a maximum of \$120,000.

All: Aye

Dr. Van Riley reported that a meeting was scheduled with Valenti tomorrow for the relocation of the transportation facility but will be rescheduled due to Bill King being out of town.

Board Policy Review Project

Dr. Van Riley explained administration has been reviewing the BOE policies and comparing them to the CAFE Policy Manual. Dr. Riley asked the Board how they wish to review the policies. Frank Todisco asked that a binder of all policies be created for the quarterly meeting in October for the Board's review.

Kindergarten Assessment Update

Nikki Gullickson spoke on the assessment updates for Kindergarten and gave an overview of the assessment data and the differences from last school year to this year. Mrs. Gullickson noted kindergarteners have exceeded their goals and are into a first grade goal level. Mrs. Gullickson is very excited about the results and how this will impact students learning as they go to first and second grade.

The Board asked if the Wonders reading program had a part in this change. Mrs. Gullickson reported that it was coupled with more kindergarten hours and the Wonders reading program. The Board requested that this information be tracked for the future school years.

Monthly Report

All monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet. The Board had no questions.

Committee Reports

Craig Esposito reported that the Finance Committee discussed the same items currently on this Board agenda. Mr. Esposito added that no budgetary issues were discussed, but a look at new ways to generate revenue were discussed.

Alisa Morrison reported that Thursday there will be a meeting to discuss implementation of fees for field use.

Deborah Downie stated that the Building Committee will be getting information from Bill King on classroom counts.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Cindy Nadeau talked about one combined middle school option and busing issues.

Sue Jones asked about the location of Tuesday's joint meeting. Mrs. Jones suggested using the empty buildings for a charter magnet school if the district decides to have one middle school.

Items for Future Agendas

B. Mission/Vision Process

Frank Todisco stated that the Mission/Vision process will be part of the August 7 Board agenda.

Board Comments/Concerns

Frank Todisco spoke on the Mystic Middle School principal search, process, and timeline.

Faith Leitner requested a list of the back to school events so that the Board can have representation at each of these school events.

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The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

Motion 8: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Assistant Superintendent's 2014-2017 Contract.

All: Aye

Board entered into Executive Session at 8:31 p.m.

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

Motion 9: To exit Executive Session.

All: Aye

Board exited from Executive Session at 8:33 p.m.

Approval of Assistant Superintendent's 2014-2017 Contract

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

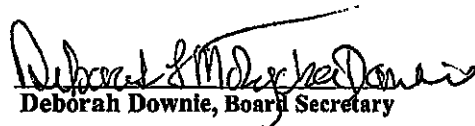
Motion 10: To approve the Assistant Superintendent's 2014-2017 Contract as presented.

All: Aye

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

Motion 11: To adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Aye: All


Deborah Downie, Board Secretary