

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING August 6, 2014

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:14 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 Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools.

Purpose of Retreat and Overview

Frank Todisco, Chairman reviewed the purpose of the retreat.

Proposed Board Goals/Discussion of Goal Areas

The Board discussed each proposed goal with the following comments/directions:

Communications

The Board noted that the Leadership Team will be developing social media guidelines for staff and students at the August 18 Leadership Team retreat. The BOE Policy Committee will also be developing a social media Board policy at the September Policy Committee meeting.

The Board agreed that the district web page needs updating and suggested the following:

- 1) Communications ad hoc committee to discuss district and site web sites
- 2) District web page to eventually include list of all Facebook and Twitter district contacts/accounts
- 3) Site web sites should have link back to district web site

Instruction

The Board reported that Administration will be reviewing and focusing on the following items:

- 1) SHS, Middle School, and Special Ed programs and will report recommendations to BOE by December.
- 2) Administration to study SHS instructional delivery model, block schedule, course offerings, teaching time, IC/leadership model and other aspects of the high school configuration
- 3) Important to include parents throughout SHS study and to make regular reports to the BOE as to progress
- 4) Middle School focus to be on K-12 Building Committee option of building a new middle school
- 5) Special Ed study to focus on co-teaching model, use of support staff, other program needs

Mission/Vision

The Superintendent will be developing a process to establish a new district vision and mission statement.

Facilities

The Board and Dr. Van Riley discussed the following topics regarding facilities:

- 1) BOE consensus to include the 10-year maintenance report as part of future CIP requests
- 2) Prior to presenting CIP request to BOF each year, the administration should update the 10-year maintenance report
- 3) BOE discussed option of building new middle school as presented in Superintendent's separate report. No formal action was taken, however the Building Committee representative Deborah Downey and Superintendent Dr. Van Riley to bring concept to the Building Committee
- 4) Superintendent to update report and share with Building Committee, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen
- 5) BOE discussed issue of placing portables at West Vine Street School. The BOE decided not to pursue this concept at this time

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Budget

The Board discussed current town budgeting process. The Board requested that the Chair contact the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen to request a joint meeting to discuss budget and other financial issues.

Other

The Board and Dr. Van Riley shared a dialogue on the following items:

- Provide necessary teaching materials to support quality, challenging curriculum
- Request update of BOE committees, members, and meeting dates/times
- Request each of the three standing committees (Finance, Policy, Teaching and Learning) meet monthly except for summer
- Request consideration of Drama Dept. purchasing one of the storage buildings to match the proposed buildings being purchased for athletic equipment storage

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

Motion 1: To adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Aye: All

Deborah Downie, Board Secretary