

## **STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 11, 2010**

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room.

Members present were Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, Doug Rea, Secretary, Rob Cary, Faith Leitner, Sam Agnello and Kevin Bornstein.

Member absent: Alisa Morrison

Also present were Leanne Masterjoseph, Superintendent of Schools, Michele Melia, Recording Secretary, Amanda Coffey, Student Representative, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

### **Communications**

Faith Leitner updated the Board on the following communication she received:

- Email from Steven Gilbert re: Technology education being eliminated and his concerns about Library books
- Letter from Lori Gerodino re: recyclable bags for purchase

Gail MacDonald updated the Board on the following communications she received:

- Packet of info from CAFE re: Contract settlements
- Email from a parent re: AP Chemistry
- Communication from Sue Jones re: Class sizes
- Communication from Rachel Limberakis re: Filming meetings
- Communication from Mark Wallace re: Meeting Minutes
- Communication from Board Chairmen's throughout the state re: Seatbelts on school busses
- Letter from Lori Taylor re: Music programs at PMS and MMS
- An FOI informational workshop attended by Faith Leitner and self

### **Recognitions**

Faith Leitner recognized Leanne Masterjoseph for the article written about her in the Mystic Times.

Gail MacDonald recognized the following:

- The staff of the Brown and White newspaper and advisor Stephanie Cozzolino
- Leanne Masterjoseph and all of the administrators for the work put into getting the budget information to the Board

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized the following:

- The Westerly Credit Union for the check given to Stonington High School in the amount of \$2800.00 from money generated by their 26<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Basketball Tournament
- Amanda Coffey for her receipt of the 2010-2011 Comcast
- The SHS Student Government for donating 20% of its treasury to relief efforts in Haiti
- The presentation of an award from Comcast for Outstanding Show of the year

#### Comments from Citizens

Susan Jones addressed the Board on the following:

- Enrollment numbers and the development of the budget

#### Student Government

Amanda Coffey reported on the following:

- Stonington High School's Law and Government Forum
- Washington DC trip in March
- Caroline Gosselin scoring her thousandth point in Girls Basketball
- Seven Stonington High School Students who were selected to participate in the All State Music Festival
- The SHS Music Department's Coffeehouse
- Events the Jazz Band will participate in
- Stonington High School's response for those affected by the earthquake in Haiti

#### Drama Production – Seussical

The SHS Drama Director, Erin Stanley, thanked the Board of Education, Leanne Masterjoseph and Steve Murphy for their support. Mrs. Stanley provided information on the high school's production of "Seussical" in which over 100 students are involved. Members of the cast were present and provided a sneak preview to the production, that will take place on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in the High School Auditorium.

SBIT

No questions or comments at this time

Approval of Minutes

- A. Minutes – January 7, 2010 (Special) – 6:19 pm

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Faith Leitner

**Motion 1: To approve the minutes of the 6:19 p.m. Special Meeting of January 7, 2010**

**Aye: All**

- B. Minutes – January 7, 2010 (Special) – 7:08 pm

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Rob Cary

**Motion 2: To approve the minutes of the 7:08 p.m. Special Meeting of January 7, 2010**

**Aye: All**

- C. Minutes – January 14, 2010 (Special)

The following motion was made by Doug Rae and seconded by Kevin Bornstein

**Motion 3: To approve, as presented, the Special Meeting minutes of January 14, 2010**

**Aye: All**

- D. Minutes – January 21, 2010 (Special)

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Faith Leitner

**Motion 4: To accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 21, 2010**

**Aye: All**

- E. Minutes – January 28, 2010 (Regular)

The following motion was made by Doug Rea and seconded by Rob Cary

**Motion 5: To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 28, 2010**

**Aye: All**

Consent Agenda

- A. Checks and Bills
- B. Intra-Account Transfers
- C. Kiducation

Sam Agnello requested that the Checks and Bills be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Rob Cary

**Motion 6: To approve the consent agenda Intra-Account Transfers as presented**

**Aye: All**

Leanne Masterjoseph answered the Board's question in regards to the checks and bills line items.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Kevin Bornstein

**Motion 7: To approve monthly summary checks and bills**

**Aye: All**

**Motion 8: To accept, with thanks, the check from Community Crusade for Children in the amount of \$43.50.**

**Aye: All**

Financial

A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy Samokar presented the monthly financial report, and updated the Board on Special Education transportation costs.

Operations

A. Project Updates

Leanne Masterjoseph read notes provided by Bill King on the following projects:

- Building Committee and the baseball scoreboard
- Emergency lighting
- CIP projects
- WBSS ceiling abatement
- Stonington Clean Energy Grant Force
- Fuel bids 2010-2011
- Fuel Purchases
- SHS tray washing room and the overheating

At this time Archie Swindell had not arrived and Beth Stewart asked the Board if they might be moved on the agenda. The Board accepted this request and they moved onto the next item.

Gleams Study Group – Local School Climate Survey

Tim Flanagan represented GLEAMS study group, and introduced Deidra Toole and Lori Liguori who accompanied him for the night's presentation, which included the following:

- GLEAMS = Gay and Lesbian Education Awareness Mission in Stonington
- Monthly meetings and topics discussed
- The national survey by GLISTEN and the questions asked
- Reasons to give the GLEAMS survey
- Information collected and how it is used

- Potential administration to high school Health classes
- School climate and how this affects students

Leanne Masterjoseph encouraged the Board to notify parents prior to the survey's administration if they choose to approve it.

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Sam Agnello

**Motion 8: To authorize the GLEAMS survey to be done in SHS Health classes with parental notification and an opt out option**

**Aye: All**

The Board recognized Mr. Archie Swindell's arrival and it was determined that the Youth Survey would be next.

#### 2009 Youth Survey – Executive Summary

A representative from the Southeastern Regional Action Council, Archie Swindell, presented the Board with an executive summary of findings from the 2009 Youth Survey. Mr. Swindell reported to the Board on the following:

- The use of Survey Monkey allowing the students to take the survey on-line
- The tracking of national attitudes and substances
- How the survey is downloaded and analyzed for the report
- Stonington statistics
- Error bars were small in the 2 – 5% range
- Questions the survey asked
- Other towns that participated
- Follow up studies

Leanne Masterjoseph informed the Board of a Community Forum for presentation of the results to be held on Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the SHS Auditorium. Middle and High School parents will be urged to attend with their children.

Legal Firm Representation

A. Proposals

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the names of the legal firms responding to the Request for Information. Ms. Masterjoseph informed the board that Stonington's current firm was included in the five that responded:

- Berchem, Moses & Devlin
- Kainen, Escalera & McHale
- Siegel, O'Connor, O'Donnell & Beck
- Shipman & Goodwin
- Sullivan, Schoen, Campana & Connon

It was decided that Rob Cary and Sam Agnello would review the information and report to the Board on their findings next month

Budget Discussion

The Board discussed consensus of a percentage increase that was agreed upon as 1.37%.

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Sam Agnello

**Motion 9: To approve Superintendent's budget with a 1.37% increase with the understanding that we may, or may not, move line items around as needed, or not needed**

**Aye: All**

The Board continued their discussion on the following:

- Conference costs
- Tutor salaries
- Public utilities
- Staffing
- Enrollment reports
- The number of teachers projected for PMS and MMS

- Elementary Facilitator position
- Lead Teacher and what their role/responsibilities would be
- A meeting with teachers
- Description of Dean of Students
- Assistant Principal responsibilities
- Getting out and answering the community's questions
- Presentation to the Board of Finance on March 10<sup>th</sup>

### School Based Email Addresses

The Board discussed their interest in having stoningtonschools.org email addresses and it was the consensus of the Board that it would be a good idea as it would make it easier for the community to contact them.

### Committee Membership

The Board discussed a schedule for representation at LEARN meetings. The Superintendent's office will notify the Board one week prior to LEARN Board meetings to be sure they are represented.

### Committee Reports

#### A. Finance

Rob Cary provided updates on his meeting with Gail MacDonald and the cancellation of the meeting last week with the Board of Finance. Mr. Cary also reported that the response from the Board of Finance has been positive about the budget that they adopted.

#### B Retirement Board

No report at this time

#### C Stonington Education Fund

Faith Leitner provided updates on Kathy Murphy's leave of absence, and that Paul Sartor will fill the position until Kathy's return. Ms. Leitner also reported on possible fundraisers for next fall.

D. Cable TV Advisory

Kevin Bornstein reported that no meeting took place last month and informed the Board about the need for a letter of appointment for the Cable TV Advisory.

E. Policy

Doug Rea reported on the following:

- Alcohol and Drug Policy and updates from CABE
- The next meeting taking place on March 18

Sam Agnello updated the Board about the possibility of a speaker attending the March 10, 2010 Spring Sports Night.

F. Stonington Prevention Council

No report at this time

Superintendent's Report

Leanne Masterjoseph provided updates on the following:

- Personnel
- Added Teaching
- Enrollment Report
- Resignations
- China Delegation
- March 9<sup>th</sup> Youth Survey Forum

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Rob Cary

**Motion 8: To approve, with regrets, the resignation of Manuel MacDonald, Boys Head Tennis coach, Michaela Lamb, Boys Assistant coach and Joe Ciriello, Girls Assistant Tennis coach as presented.**

**Aye: All**

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Sam Agnello

**Motion 9: To amend the motion and send a letter of thanks from the Board.**

**Aye: All**

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Susan Jones addressed the Board on the following:

- September enrollments

Bruce Yarnell addressed the Board on the following:

- On-line documents

Rachel Odell addressed the Board on the following:

- Coverages for WBSS and WVSS
- Presentation to the Board of Finance on March 10
- School e-mail addresses for the Board

Celena Drury addressed the Board on the following:

- Sample schedule and Principal for DMS
- Staffing

Boards comments/Concerns

Kevin Bornstein commented on the following:

- The email message that was sent to Faith Leitner
- The Board of Education Blog

Faith Leitner commented on the following:

- World Language
- Technology Education
- Rental of School Facilities

Sam Agnello commented on the following:

- The Board of Finance and the Spring Sports Night meeting times

Gail MacDonald commented on the following:

- The CMT meeting that was held in the fall with the principals, and the desire for meetings on a variety of topics in the future
- CABE and the training and workshops that they hold

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Rob Cary

**Motion 9: To adjourn at 9:32 p.m.**

**Aye: ALL**