

## STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MARCH 11, 2010

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room. Members present were Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, Rob Cary, Faith Leitner, Sam Agnello, Alisa Morrison and Kevin Bornstein.

Member absent: Doug Rea

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

### Communications

Leanne Masterjoseph shared that several community members have called with budget related questions.

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

Email from parents re: budget issues – favoring Mandarin program

Propaganda re: Corn Syrup

Thank you notes from children at WBSS re: Read Across America

State Board Chair Communications: discussion of budget, bottom line and proposal for changes in Special Education law

Communication re: Race To The Top

Communication re: Strategic Planning

PMS principal re: search committee formed

### Recognitions

Rob Cary recognized the following:

- SHS performance of Seussical

Faith Leitner recognized the following:

- Article in the Mystic Press concerning upcoming visit from China
- Newspaper article about Chandler Fowles

Gail MacDonald recognized the following:

- Board members who read to students at WBSS

- Choral teacher, Pam Young for service to Westerly Choir
- Alumni member of SHS, Jackie Fernandez

Leanne Masterjosph recognized the following:

- DMS and SHS supporting relief efforts in Hati
- Scholar athletes Kevin Duignan and Heather Grills
- Fine arts awards Alex Nazzaro and Michelle Amirati
- Mystic Art Center awards to DMS students

#### Comments from Citizens

Pauline Murphy addressed the Board Concerning:

- SHS Climate Survey

Susan Jones addressed the Board on the following:

- Board members' attendance at PTO meetings
- Basket raffles as a possible time to speak with parents

#### Student Government

Michele Melia reported the following on behalf of Amanda Coffey:

- Block 7 jazz band re: competing at Berklee Jazz
- SHS band re: St. Patricks Day Parade
- SHS band re: Exchange concert
- Arts Café Mystic re: scholarship to Chandler Fowles
- Megan McNeil re: qualified for New England Gymnastics Championship
- 2008/09 Girls Varsity Soccer Team re: National Soccer Coaches Association Academic Award
- 8<sup>th</sup> annual "CloseUp! Washington

#### SBIT

No questions or comments at this time.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – February 4, 2010 (Special)
- B. Minutes – February 11, 2010 (Regular)
- C. Minutes – February 26, 2010 (Special)
- D. Checks and Bills
- E. Intra - Account Transfers

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

**Motion 1: To accept the Consent Agenda items A through E as presented**

**Aye: All**  
**Abstained: Sam Agnello**

Financial

- A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy Samokar presented the monthly financial report, and explained each of the following to the Board:

- Line Items
- Negative balances
- Reimbursements
- Special Education costs

Operations

- A. Project Updates

Bill King provided the following information:

- SHS baseball scoreboard
- SHS permits related to scoreboard installation

- MMS field behind the school and reapplying to wetlands commission

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- MMS pilot plan for recycling and possible savings
- DMS Community playground build
- Seatbelts on school buses
- CASBO meeting
- Hartford Courant article about bus inspections
- The safety practices of First Student
- Stonington Clean Energy Block Grant
- Eastern Connecticut State University information requests

### Technology Report

Paul Picard updated the Board on the following:

- Web site re-design including site map revision
- Incorporation of Board members' suggestions
- Target dates for web site committee deliverables

### Curriculum and Instruction

#### A. Stonington Academy

Nikki Gullickson provided the Board with information on the Winter Session 2010 offerings and registration information. Ms. Gullickson extended an invitation to Board of Education members to attend.

#### B. TEAM

Nikki Gullickson provided the Board with information about the change in new teacher support programming known as TEAM and provided the following information:

- TEAM (Teacher Education And Mentoring Program) and how it replaces the BEST program
- 3 year plan is being drafted
- Time lines and training
- Team reflection process

- State draft of common core teaching and evaluations
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## OTHER

Nikkie Gullickson updated the Board on the following:

- Testing schedules and make ups
- Technology curriculum meeting
- Web site forms
- CEU equivalents and credits

### Legal Firm Representation

Rob Cary and Sam Agnello provided information and insight on the firms that submitted proposals for Legal Firm Representation. It was decided by the Board to try and reach out to smaller firms in the area for proposals.

### Legislative Proposals

#### A. Seatbelts on school buses

The Board discussed the following:

- Pilot project
- Service life of school buses
- Capacity on buses
- Installation and enforcement
- Contacting local legislatures to convey the concerns of the Board

#### B. Adult Education

Leanne Masterjoseph updated the Board on the proposed bill concerning Boards of Education and Adult Education.

Dr. Steve Murphy addressed the following:

- The number of students in the Adult Education program

- The diploma program

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The Board discussed the following:

- Adult Education graduation and the positive feed back
- Possible letter to be sent to local representatives

C. Other

Nothing at this time

#### Review of Rental of School Facilities

Bill King reviewed the current fees for rental of the schools' facilities and brought forward proposed increases. Mr. King shared when current rates were put into place and how he calculated the proposed increases. He informed the Board about revenues currently being received and the fees that other schools charge.

The Board of Education requested further review next month.

#### Retirements 2009 - 2010

The Board reviewed the 2009-10 retirements.

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Alisa Morrison

**Motion 2: To accept the following 2010 retirements with regrets and appreciation for their many years of service. To spread across the minutes resolutions commemorating the retirements of Barbara Freiart, Jackie Clachrie, Betty Henry, Lillian DeSimone, Karen E. Chapman, and Heather Kiss**

**AYE: All**

#### Annual Contact Non-Renewal Authorization by the BOE

Leanne explained the need for authorization to carry out Annual Contract Non-Renewal.

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

**Motion 3: To authorize and direct the Superintendent of Schools, in her 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.**

**Aye: All**

Committee Reports

A. Finance

Rob Cary reviewed the budget presentation to the Board of Finance and reported that no action was taken.

B. Retirement Board

No report at this time.

C. Stonington Education Fund

Faith Leitner updated the Board about meetings and discussions concerning the annual appeal and review of by-laws. Ms. Leitner who also attended the Athletic Boosters meeting, informed the Board of the Coach Appreciation night that will be held in May.

D. Cable TV Advisory

Kevin Bornstein discussed Stonington having a channel on Cable TV and the technical and programming items that would need to be in place for this to happen.

E. Policy

Gail MacDonald reported the following on behalf of Doug Rea:

- Athletic Night Presentation on March 16, 2010

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- Policies that need to be addressed: Use of cameras at Board meetings, Adults at school events, advertising revenues, social networking, drugs and alcohol.

At this time Gail MacDonald updated the Board on the LEARN meeting she attended and the items they discussed included: ACES program and social networking benefits and pitfalls in the education system.

F. Stonington Prevention Council

Leanne updated the Board on the following:

- Number of people in attendance at Community Forum totaled 140 ( including students)
- Advertising that was done ahead of time proved beneficial
- Creation of focus groups as next steps

Athletic Committee Meeting

It was at this time that Alisa Morrison updated the Board on tonight's Athletic Committee Meeting and handed out an overview of the presentation by Mark Wallace for a wrestling team.

Superintendent's Report

Leanne Masterjoseph provided updates on the following:

- Personnel – Long Term Substitute – Math – SHS
- Added Teaching Rosters
- Enrollment Report
- Volunteer Appointments

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Rob Carey:

**Motion 4: To approve, with appreciation, the volunteer appointments of John Bolduc, Ed Bockowski, Michelle Galetta, Roger Gwaltney and Alice Soscia as presented**



**Aye: all**

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- China Delegation

Leanne Masterjoseph updated the Board on the visitors coming from China and the events in place for them during the week of April 5 – 9.

- Special Education Audit

Leanne Masterjoseph informed the Board that details of work with Futures Education look encouraging and that information will be brought to the Board of Ed shortly.

- BOE Appreciation

Ms. Masterjoseph presented each Board member with a Stonington Bear sweatshirt and thanked them for all of their efforts on behalf of everyone in Stonington Public Schools.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

No comments

Boards comments/Concerns

Gail MacDonald commented on the following:

- CAFE workshop
- Meetings between the Board of Education and the Board of Selectman

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

**Motion 9: To adjourn at 9:13 p.m.**

**Aye: ALL**

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Gail MacDonald, Board Chairwoman