

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING APRIL 8, 2010

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room.

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

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

Communications

Leanne Masterjoseph shared that she continues to receive questions from the community about the budget.

Gail MacDonald shared the following communications she received:

- Parents re: Support of the budget
- Bill King re: First Student Safety Record
- Board of Selectmen re: May meetings
- Senator Andy Maynard and Representative Diane Urban re: ECS funding
- Kelly Middle School re: Meeting about regional resources for school districts

Recognitions

Faith Leitner recognized the Bear Essentials article about students who received CAFE achievement and outstanding leadership awards.

Gail MacDonald recognized the following:

- Lori Hartnett and MMS for the Random Acts of Kindness program
- PMS, WBSS, WVSS successful Basket Bonanzas
- Strategic Planning participants
- Step-by-Step program at PMS
- Faith Leitner's representation to the China Delegation at WVSS

Faith Leitner stated it was a pleasure to work with the China Delegation, and that the amount of work that Leanne Masterjoseph put into it made it a great success.

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized the following:

- Everyone that took part in the China Delegation. She stated this was a real community effort and many showed their support. Special thanks to Terry Jordan & Ginny Brown.
- Pam Young and the DMS concert at the high school
- High School Math Team
- Deidre Toole and Mystic Aquarium for their work with the TLC program
- WBSS for their efforts in raising money for Haiti
- Tad Spencer for participation in Honor Band
- Representatives for the Close-Up to Washington trip

Comments from Citizens

Ellen Zeskey spoke to the Board about her support of the Mandarin program at the High School.

Student Government

Jeff Moore reported the following to the Board on behalf of Amanda Coffey:

- National Honor Society's support of the local community and Haiti
- All-State basketball player Caroline Gosselin
- Spring concert held by the chorus department
- Band concert at Ledyard High School
- Grade eight visit to the high school
- Close-Up visit to Washington
- AP Literature classes up-in-coming performance at the annual Kaleidoscope Music and Poetry Night

SBIT

No questions or comments at this time.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – March 11, 2010 (Regular)
- B. Minutes – March 16, 2010 (Special)

- C. Checks and Bills
- D. Intra -Account Transfers

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

Motion 1: To add the minutes from the BOE Special Meeting of April 7, 2010 to the Consent Agenda.

Aye: All

- E. Minutes – April 7, 2010 (Special)

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

Motion 2: To approve Consent Agenda items A through E as presented.

Aye: All

Finance

- A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy Samokar presented the monthly financial report, and explained the year to date expenditures and excess cost amounts received.

Operations

- A. Project Updates

With Bill King out of town there was no report at this time.

Greece Field Trip

Tina Eisenbeis provided information to the Board regarding a student trip to Greece during the summer of 2011 and requested approval for the trip. Leanne Masterjoseph explained to the Board the procedure for the Board to approve and endorse this trip.

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

Motion 3: To approve the student trip to Greece during the summer of 2011 as presented.

Aye: All

Food Services

A. Healthy Food Recertification

Tim Paquette provided information to the Board regarding participation and recertification in the Healthy Food Program.

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

Motion 4: To approve Stonington's continued participation in the Healthy Food Program.

Aye: All

B. Free and Reduced Lunch Program

Tim Paquette provided information to the Board regarding the increase in eligible students for Free and Reduced Lunch Program, and that paid meals are down 8 – 10%. Mr. Paquette updated the Board about the replacement of computer software and expressed ideas for programs that could be run throughout the district.

Technology Report

Paul Picard updated the Board on the contract for web hosting and discussions that were held with the web designer. Dr. Picard also requested that the Board contact him with their thoughts, ideas, and information that they would like to see included on the district website.

Curriculum and Instruction

Nikki Gullickson provided the Board with an update on Curriculum and Instruction including the following information:

- 82 boxes were picked up for the end of CAPT and CMT testing
- Team Coordinating Committee and the three year plan
- Technology Program Evaluation results will be ready for July
- Math and Language Arts Teacher Leaders reviewing programming

Legal Firm Representation

Rob Cary informed the Board that he and Sam Agnello are in agreement about the firms they would like to recommend for interviews, but would like to get through the budget season before moving forward. The Board all agreed that this will be brought forward in July.

Legislative Updates

A. Graduation Rates

Leanne Masterjoseph explained an article that was published in The Hartford Courant about Connecticut's graduation rates, and summarized new information concerning the calculations of rates, Stonington's percentages, drop-out rates and the inability to track students when they move.

B. CCJEF vs. Rell

Leanne Masterjoseph explained to the Board about this recent court decision, how it reads, what it means for Stonington Public Schools and how it is a huge victory for students in Connecticut.

Review of Rental of School Facilities

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello

Motion 5: To Table the Review of Rental of School Facilities.

The motion was not seconded and no action was taken

The Board discussed the Review of Rental of School Facilities and Kevin Bornstein recommended that they ask Bill King to provide a list of recommendations. It was decided and all Board members agreed that this would be put on the May 2010 agenda.

Policies

A. Review Revised Policy 1120 – Community Relations – 1st Reading

Gail Macdonald explained briefly to new Board members that the first reading is for comments and that they are not usually moved on.

Leanne Masterjoseph explained to the Board why this revised policy was brought forward.

B. Review Recommended Policy 1252 – Adult Presence at Student Events – 1st Reading

Doug Rea explained how this is a totally new policy, and that this is an attempt to provide direction and assistance to the people that are running an event as it will give them structure and rules.

Leanne Masterjoseph explained that this is specific to student-only events like dances and not for events where adults would be expected to be in attendance like graduation.

Gail MacDonald stated that this was brought forward at her request because of the community's communication to her that people were attending events and that they don't appear to have any reason to be there.

Budget Discussion

The Board discussed the following:

- Listening session with the teachers and staff and the questions they presented to the Board
- The money the Board of Finance wanted the Board of Education to reduce from the BOE budget
- Hiring targets
- Mandarin at the high school
- Reorganization of Administrators
- Late buses
- Technology

BOE Recognition

Leanne Masterjoseph provided various ideas for the Board to review so they could indicate a more formal recognition program.

Personnel 2009 – 2010

A. Retirements

Jane Giulini Principal PMS Effective June 30, 2010

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Alisa Morrison

Motion 6: To accept the retirement of Jane Giulini with regrets and appreciation for her 11 years of service

Aye: All

B. Resignations

Paul Picard Technology Director District Effective June 30, 2010

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

Motion 7: To accept the resignation of Paul Picard, Technology Director, with regrets and appreciation for his service to Stonington Public Schools effective June 30, 2010.

Aye: All

Committee Reports

A. Finance

Rob Cary spoke about the budget money that was cut and stated that there was no meeting last night.

B. Retirement Board

No report at this time.

C. Stonington Education Fund

Faith Leitner updated the Board on the following:

- Annual appeal
- Paul Sartor taking over this past week
- Recruiting
- Athletic Boosters need a Treasurer for next year

D. Cable TV Advisory

Kevin Bornstein stated that there was no meeting this month and that meetings are held every other month.

E. Policy

Doug Rea updated the Board about the cancellation of the last meeting and that it was rescheduled to May 12. Mr. Rea spoke about the committee's plan to meet with Fran Carino and the Stonington Police Chief about the freedom of information between the police department and the schools.

Gail MacDonald stated that they will also be talking about cyber bullying.

F. Stonington Prevention Council

There was no meeting this past month.

G. Athletic

Sam Agnello stated that there was no report at this time.

Superintendent's Report

Leanne Masterjoseph provided updates on the following:

- Added Teaching Rosters
- Enrollment Report
- Volunteer Appointments

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Alisa Morrison

Motion 8: To approve, with appreciation, the volunteer appointments of Angela Vargas and Charles "Marty" Balchunis as presented

Aye: All

- China Visit

Leanne Masterjoseph provided information to the Board regarding the visitors from China and how it was a very short visit because of their Visas. Mrs. Masterjoseph informed the Board that the biggest impact for the visitors was Stonington's concern for individual children and the sense of family that Stonington has created.

Ginny Brown provided the Board with details on the events that took place, the exchange of gifts, the signing ceremony, and how it will be broadcast on Comcast in May.

Faith Leitner added that Mrs. Brown and Terry Jordan made the visitors feel welcome and how all of the children were singing and had flowers for them.

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

Motion 9: To direct the superintendent to write an article to The Westerly Sun and to The New London Day within the next week to ten days for publication about the China Visit.

Aye: All

- Strategic Planning

Leanne Masterjoseph informed the Board about the events that took place, and that we are waiting for a culmination report from our facilitators.

- Other

Leanne Masterjoseph informed the Board about the following:

- Combined SBIT meeting that will be held on May 21, 2010
- Superintendent's Advisory Council that was rescheduled due to flooding conditions
- PMS Principal Search Committee Meeting
- Public invitation to tour any of Stonington's six schools

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

There were no comments at this time.

Boards Comments/Concerns

Doug Rea commented that he would like to have an Alert Now message put out so that the school community will know about the Comcast broadcast of the China visit.

Gail MacDonald provided the following reminders:

- Board of Finance meeting at 7:00 p.m. on April 19, 2010, located at SHS and the Special meeting that follows
- CABE workshop at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2010

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Doug Rea

Motion 10: To adjourn at 9:16 p.m.

Aye: All



Doug Rea, Board Secretary