

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MAY 13, 2010

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Commons at Stonington High School. 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

Gail MacDonald shared the following communications she received:

- Documents from strategic planning project
- Communications re: Thanks and congratulations from numerous people on the passage of the budget, including the Chairman of the Board of Finance
- Communication from parent re: Gleams Survey
- Communication from parent Liz Hall re: Keeping the Mandarin language program

Leanne Masterjoseph stated that she also received communications from numerous people concerning the successful passing of the budget.

Recognitions

Faith Leitner recognized Emily Burgess for tennis and Anne Marie Houle for the Mother/Daughter Banquet.

Alisa Morrison applauded Mystic Middle School's concert.

Kevin Bornstein recognized 8th grader Emily Green for her letter to the editor.

Sam Agnello recognized the boys' and girls' track teams for their successful year and also recognized SHS Principal, Dr. Murphy and Jennifer Norcross for their work on the Athletic Hall of Fame induction.

Gail MacDonald recognized the National Honor Society Induction Banquet, members of the PMS Principal Search Committee and introduced the new principal at PMS, Mr. Tim Smith.

Comments from Citizens

MMS Principal, Stafford Thomas, recognized the Unified Sports Teams at MMS and PMS.

Ellen Zeskey spoke to the Board about her support for the Mandarin program.

Student Government

Amanda Coffey reported the following to the Board:

- SHS Softball Team and the money raised
- National Honor Society inducted 39 new members
- SHS Jazz Band performance at the Waterford Jazz Festival
- SHS Band and Chorus preparation for the Pops concert
- AP Literature's Kaleidoscope evening
- Junior class Bear-a-thon on Memorial day
- Student Government executive board elections

CABE Leadership Awards

Leanne Masterjoseph introduced Jeffery Moore and his parents, Thomas and Cynthia Moore, to the Board. Mrs. Masterjoseph spoke of Jeffery's achievements, including his representation of Stonington to the sister school in China and his work with special education students. Mrs. Masterjoseph informed the Board he will be attending the University of Connecticut.

Leanne Masterjoseph introduced Molly Rathbun and her parents, George and Terri Rathbun, to the Board. Mrs. Masterjoseph spoke of Molly's achievements, academic record and state awards received as a musician. Mrs. Masterjoseph informed the Board that Molly has also been accepted at the University of Connecticut.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – April 8, 2010 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills

C. Intra – Account Transfers

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

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda items A through C as presented.

Aye: All

D. Submission of IDEA Grant

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Faith Leitner:

Motion 2: To approve submission of the IDEA Grant in the amount of \$517,011.00 for 2010 – 2011.

Aye: All

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

Motion 3: To move agenda item 11 to current position.

Aye: All

Report from First Selectman

Mr. Ed Habereck, Stonington's First Selectman reported the following to the Board:

- Passing of the Budget
- Highway Department and the work being done as a result of the flood
- Paving of Spellman Park
- Work at Donahue Park
- Mystic street lighting
- L & M moving in next to Stop and Shop
- Finance and taxes re: online payments and use of charge cards

Report from First Selectman continued...

- Solid Waste Department
- Single stream recycling and offered thanks to the schools for their recycling efforts
- Human Services' Summer Registration
- Summer Food Service Program
- Hiring of summer staff
- Economic Growth: efficient budget, road improvements and drainage
- Reports of damage from the flood using 211
- Economic development work at the next Town Hall meeting

Mr. Haberek thanked the education administration for the great relationships that they have built and the collaboration on the Daylight Harvesting Project. He also stated that it has been a pleasure to work with Leanne Masterjoseph, Bill King and Ken Donovan.

E. Submission of Carl D. Perkins Grant

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

Motion 4: To add the Carl D. Perkins grant to the agenda and to approve submission in the amount of \$20,631.00 for the fiscal year 2010-2011.

Aye: All

Finance

A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy Samokar presented the monthly financial report and updated the Board on special education tuition and transportation.

B. Deferred Maintenance/Purchase

Bill King presented a list of possible deferred purchases to the Board for their review and explained that the list has been prioritized by administration.

Judy Samokar explained the list to the Board and how it was developed.

Operations

A. Project Updates

Bill King provided the following updates for the Board:

- SHS baseball scoreboard
- Recycling and the pilot plan at MMS
- DMS new playground equipment purchased by the PTO
- Clean Energy Block Grant
- Purchasing ordinances

Mr. King recognized Dan Lilly and Stonington Steel for their support of the SHS baseball scoreboard and for their donation of time, labor and materials equal to \$6,534.00.

Contracts

Bill King informed the Board of bargaining units with recently ratified contracts. Mr. King presented the contracts to the Board for their approval.

A. Custodial/Maintenance Contract 2010 – 2013

The following motions were made by Sam Agenllo and seconded by Faith Leitner:

Motion 5: To approve the Custodial/Maintenance Contract 2010 – 2013 as presented.

Aye: All

B. Nurses Contract 2010 -2013

Motion 6: To approve the Nurse's Contract 2010 -2013 as presented.

Aye: All

C. Paraprofessional Contract 2010 -2013

Motion 7: To approve the Paraprofessionals Contract 2010 – 2013 as presented.

Aye: All

Technology Report

Dr. Paul Picard presented the proto-type of the new Stonington Public Schools' website.

Curriculum and Instruction Update

A. Team Coordinating Committee

Nikki Gullickson provided updates to the Board about the draft that is in development for the June 1, 2010 deadline.

B. Annual Teacher Evaluation Report

Nikkie Gullickson reviewed the status of the Teacher Evaluation in the district and presented a summary memo to the Board.

Review of Rental of School Facilities

The Board discussed the fees for the rental of school facilities and Bill King answered questions concerning the proposed increase. The Board agreed that this would be put on the June 2010 regular meeting agenda.

Policies

A. Review Revised Policy 1120 – Community Relations – 2nd Reading

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Faith Leitner:

Motion 8: To approve the revised Policy 1120 – Community Relations.

Aye: All

B. Review Recommended Policy 1252 – Adult Presence at Student Events – 2nd Reading

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

Motion 9: To adopt recommended Policy 1252 – Adult Presence at Student Events

Aye: All

Budget Discussion

The Board discussed the following:

- Passing of the Budget
- Reductions that would need to be made
- Teacher Pay Scales

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

Motion 10: To accept the hiring target from MA Step 4 to MA Step 2.

No action was taken at this time and the Board continued discussion on the following:

- Mandarin Language Program

Kevin Bornstein asked to pull his last motion off the table and Rob Cary agreed.

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

Motion 11: For a period of no less than 4 years, unless the superintendent finds a problem that warrants the attention of the Board of Education, the Board will table the discussion of the World Language Program.

The Vote was as follows:

Kevin Bornstein:	Yes	Rob Cary:	No
Sam Agnello:	Yes	Faith Leitner:	No
Gail MacDonald:	Yes	Alissa Morrison:	No
Doug Rea:	No		

The Motion Failed.

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

Motion 12: To accept the budget reduction and to accept the hiring target from MA Step 4 to MA Step 2.

Aye: All

BOE Recognition

Gail MacDonald asked that this be put on the Agenda for the month of June 2010.

Committee Reports

A. Finance
No Report

B. Retirement Board
No Report

- C. Stonington Education Fund
Faith Leitner informed the Board about the Annual Appeal letter from Stonington Education Fund and about fundraising in the fall.
- D. Cable TV Advisory
No Report
- E. Policy
Doug Rea informed the Board about the May 12th, 2010 Policy Committee meeting and the presentation from Fran Carino.
- F. Stonington Prevention Council
No Report
- G. Athletic
Allisa Morrison informed the Board about the discussions concerning proposed new sports.

Gail MacDonald discussed her attendance at the LEARN Board meeting and informed the Board on the following:

- National School Board Conference
- The half million dollar grant that was jointly applied for between the states of Connecticut, Ohio and Iowa

Superintendent's Report

Leanne Masterjoseph provided updates on the following:

- Resignation of 0.5 Math Support teacher at PMS
- Resignation of 0.4 Interdisciplinary Coordinator/0.6 English teacher at SHS
- Enrollment Report
- Strategic planning
- New PMS principal, Mr. Tim Smith
- Important Dates
- Special Education Audit
- Race to the Top

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

Motion 13: **To approve the superintendent to sign the memorandum for the Race to the Top.**

Aye: **All**

Mrs. Masterjoseph continued her report to the Board on the following:

- School Tours
- Student trip to Greece being changed to Paris/London.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Ellen Knizeski paraphrased a letter to the Board from Liz Hall regarding her support of the Mandarin Language Program.

Sue Jones addressed the Board on the following:

- Support of the Mandarin Language Program
- Technology website
- Teacher pay scales

Boards comments/Concerns

Gail MacDonald commented on the following:

- CAFE Workshop
- Superintendent Evaluation Process
- Legal Representation

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

Motion 14 : **To adjourn at 9: 50 p.m.**

Aye: **All**



Doug Rea, Board Secretary