

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING JULY 8, 2010

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 updated the Board on the following communications she received

- Thank you notes and emails from parents thanking the district's staff for a successful school year
- Communication with voting representatives concerning school calendar and election day

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

- Hartford Courant article on the National Academic Standards for Connecticut students

Recognitions

Sam Agnello recognized two athletes, Megan Chapman and Brian Bolduc, for their achievements this year, and for qualifying for Junior Olympics.

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized Stonington High School's graduation ceremony and thanked Jennifer McCurdy, Steve Murphy and everyone that made this possible. Mrs. Masterjoseph also recognized those in attendance in new positions; Jason Jones, new Technology Director, Ginny Brown, new Director of Special Services, Tim Smith, new Principal of Pawcatuck Middle School, and Terry Jordan, principal of West Vine – West Broad Street Schools.

Comments from Citizens

No comments at this time.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – June 10, 2010 (Regular)
- B. Minutes – June 17, 2010 (Special)

C. Checks and Bills

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

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

Aye: All

Finance & Operations Report

A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy Samokar presented the Board with a summary of the monthly financial report and answered the Board's questions regarding ARRA.

B. Operations Report

Bill King presented the Board with a summary of the monthly operations report and answered the Board's questions concerning DMS Daylight Harvesting project and the foodservice balances.

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

Motion 2: To approve the 2010-2013 Foodservice Workers' Contract as presented

Aye: All

Committee Reports

A. Finance

Rob Cary stated that he had no report at this time

Gail MacDonald spoke about a recent meeting of the collaboration task force and those that were in attendance, which included consultants Jeff Smith and Linda Svitski. Mrs. MacDonald also informed the Board about the nature of the work the consultants would be doing.

B. LEARN Board

Gail MacDonald stated that the LEARN Board does not meet during the summer.

C. Athletic Committee

Sam Agnello shared that the primary focus at tonight's meeting was field usage and a report put together by Ken Donovan. Mr. Agnello and the Board agreed that this is something that when finalized should be available.

Gail MacDonald recognized the following committees that were not on the agenda:

Stonington Prevention Council

Gail MacDonald said she attended with Leanne Masterjoseph and that the meeting was about how to respond to the survey on substance abuse problems.

Cable TV

Kevin stated that he had no report because the Cable TV meeting times and dates conflict with Board of Education meetings. Mr. Bornstein suggested that the Board consider the possibility of placing this committee into the hands of a member of the general public, parent or student representative. It was the consensus of the Board that Jennifer McCurdy to try to find a representative before the beginning of the school year. One that, preferably, has been involved with the communication at the high school.

Stonington Education Fund

Faith Leitner shared that two successful Blue Mondays have occurred. Ms. Leitner also informed the board that there are six more concerts and welcomed everyone to attend.

Policies

A. Review of Revised Policy and Regulations 5131.6, Alcohol and Tobacco – 1st Reading

Doug Rea explained what the Policy Committee has been trying to accomplish, and their overall concerns. This was a first reading and therefore the Board took no action on this.

B. Proposed New Policy 5131.61 – Athletic and Extracurricular Policy Concerning Drug and Alcohol Use by Students – 1st Reading

Gail MacDonald and Doug Rea shared how this proposed policy was modeled, and the importance of having all of the Board members input on this.

This was a first reading and therefore the Board took no action on this.

Members of the Board have asked for coach and club adviser input to be gathered as soon as possible.

C. Proposed New/Replacement Policy 1325 – Community Relations; Advertising in Our Schools – 1st Reading

Doug Rea explained how this policy came to be written and what the Policy Committee's goals were for this policy. This was a first reading and therefore the Board took no action at this time.

Legal Firm

Rob Cary and Sam Agnello discussed the responses that were received as a result of the call for proposals and pricing information. Mr. Cary mentioned Michael Satti who recently came to his attention, and how meeting with him for discussion about labor negotiations would be the next step.

It was the consensus of the Board that Rob Cary and Sam Agnello talk to Mr. Satti and have this on next month's agenda.

Land Swap

Gail MacDonald informed the Board that the Land Swap was approved at the last Town meeting and that petitions passed are forcing a referendum to be held on August tenth.

Alisa Morrison announced she would recuse herself on this topic as she has represented the Putnams.

The Board agreed to seek an independent legal opinion concerning this.

Proposed Resolution – CABE

Gail MacDonald presented Board members with a drafted proposed resolution for possible submission to CABE.

Consensus of the Board was that it be sent with minor revisions.

BOE Recognition Program

Gail MacDonald reviewed a plan for Board recognition of student, staff and community contribution to the success of Stonington Public Schools. The Board discussed the recognition program and it was the consensus of the Board to move forward with this.

Curriculum and Instruction

A. Proposed Curriculum – French 1A & 1B 2nd Reading

Nikki Gullickson presented the proposed curriculum additions of French 1A and 1B to the Board at the June 10th meeting and because this is a second reading, requested action tonight to accept the proposals.

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

Motion 3: To approve the proposed French 1A and 1B Curriculum as presented for Grades 7 – 12 at Stonington High School

Aye: All

B. Summer School 2010

Nikki Gullickson and Ginny Brown presented the Board with a summary of the 2010 Summer School Program for Regular and Special Education. Ms. Gullickson explained how the program developed.

Administrative Reorganization – WVSS/WBSS

Terry Jordan spoke to the Board about steps taken to prepare for the administrative consolidation of West Vine and West Broad Street Schools to include the following:

- Combined PTO and the election of a new officers
- New bank accounts
- Ice Cream Social plan
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- Combined newsletter
- SBIT and parent involvement
- Visits with staff and classrooms
- Phone systems better linking the two schools
- Vertical team meetings
- Fruit and water program
- Ideas for program enhancement

Leanne Masterjoseph and Sam Agnello recognized Ms. Jordan's proactive efforts. When asked if she felt additional supports would be necessary at the start of the year, Mrs. Jordan indicated this would not be needed.

Superintendent's Report

A. Retirements

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the Board with the retirement of Sadie DeVore and asked the board for a motion.

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

Motion 4: To accept the retirement of Sadie DeVore with regrets and appreciation for her many years of service.

Aye: All

B. Personnel

Leanne Masterjoseph shared information concerning the new hires for the 2010 – 2011 school year, and the resignation of a Library Media Specialist.

C. Strategic Plan

Leanne Masterjoseph reminded the Board of a summer meeting to discuss community roll out of the Strategic Plan to be held on August 16th at 7:00 pm in the Stonington High School library media center.

D. Other

None at this time

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

None at this time.

Boards comments/Concerns

Gail MacDonald reminded the Board of the CAFE workshop on July 22 and to bring ideas, and suggested goals. She mentioned use of the Strategic Plan document as a foundation for this discussion.

Kevin asked about the National Standards and Nikki Gullickson was able to provide information to him on the common core.

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

Motion 5: To enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the interviews for Dean of Students and Elementary Program Facilitator at 9:05 p.m. and invite Leanne to attend

Aye: ALL

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

Motion 6: To return to open session at 9:55 pm

Aye: All

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

Motion 7: To offer the position of Elementary Program Facilitator to Alicia Dawe

Aye: All

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

Motion 8: To offer the position of Middle School Dean of Students to Greg Keith

Aye: All

Abstained: Kevin Bornstein

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

Motion 9: To adjourn at 10:04 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Doug Rea, Board Secretary