

## STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 12, 2010

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:06 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

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

- Communication on CT Race to Top
- Communication from CABA about the liaison program and the CABA/CAPPS convention
- Various forms of communication concerning the Land Swap
- Note from Andy Maynard
- Note from Alisha Dawe thanking the Board for the appointment to Elementary Program Facilitator
- Letter from CABA thanking the Board for their renewed membership

### Recognitions

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized, and welcomed the new Dean of Students in attendance, Greg Keith.

Gail MacDonald recognized Alisha Dawe as the new Elementary Program Facilitator. She also recognized Sue Jones, along with her two daughters, for weeding the garden at Pawcatuck Middle School.

### Comments from Citizens

William Sternberg and Lynn Conway addressed the Board about the proposed Drug and Alcohol Policy.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – July 8, 2010 (Joint)
- B. Minutes – July 8, 2010 (Special)
- C. Minutes – July 8, 2010 (Regular)
- D. Minutes – July 22, 2010 (Special)
- E. Minutes – July 29, 2010 (Special)
- F. 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 F as presented.**

**Aye: All**

Finance & Operation Updates

A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy Samokar presented the Board with a summary of the monthly financial report.

B. Operations Report

Bill King presented the Board with a summary of the monthly operations report and answered the Board's questions concerning food program accounts on the web-site, CL&P, bus routes, field work, and shop equipment.

C. Therapists Contract 2010 – 2013

The Board was presented with a tentative Therapists contract.

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

**Motion 2: To approve the 2010-2013 Therapists Contract as presented.**

The Board discussed this and amended the motion as follows:

**Motion 3: To approve contingent upon the third signature the 2010 – 2013 Stonington Public Schools Therapists Contract as presented.**

**Aye: All**

Curriculum and Instruction Updates

A. State Testing Summary

Nikki Gullickson presented the Board with a summary document of the 2010 CMT scores, and explained noted improvements, decreased scores, percentages by grade level, and subject. Mrs. Gullickson informed the Board that she will formally present Stonington's performance on these tests at a Special Board meeting in September.

The Board discussed Mrs. Gullickson's presentation, and talked about what kinds of information they would like to see in September, to include what is being done to help the children that are at the bottom of the scale, and where the gaps are.

B. Technology Program Evaluation

Nikki Gullickson reviewed Technology Education Curriculum for Grades 3-8, and explained what the findings meant for Stonington.

Leanne Masterjoseph informed the Board about areas needing improvement and answered the Boards questions regarding the use and teaching of technology.

Administrators were on hand to answer the Board's questions on how technology is implemented in the schools and where they are focusing their attention.

Gail MacDonald asked for updates on a regular basis in order for the Board to stay up to date on how technology curriculum is moving forward.

C. August Professional Development

Nikki Gullickson discussed plans for the August professional development and presented the Board with a flyer outlining the dates and events.

Gail MacDonald called Board members attention to the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the premier of the video "We are Stonington Public Schools."

Leanne Masterjoseph informed the Board that they will be presenting awards to teachers that have been with Stonington Public Schools 25 years or more.

Special Education Audit

Ginny Brown updated the Board on the outcome of Stonington's Special Education audit. Mrs. Brown provided information on what the audit looked for, how it was designed, and how it was commissioned.

Leanne Masterjoseph informed the Board that the audit has given Stonington a wealth of information and thanked the Board for the opportunity to participate.

Policies

A. Summary Documents for Policies 5131.6 and 5131.61

Gail MacDonald explained the Executive Summary of Current and Proposed Policies that Leanne Masterjoseph designed to possibly distribute to the community.

B. Policy and Regulations 5131.6 – Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

C. Proposed New Policy 5131.61 – Athletic and Extracurricular Policy Concerning Drug and Alcohol Use by Students – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

D. Proposed New/Replacement Policy 1325 – Community Relations; Advertising In Our Schools – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

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

**Motion 4: To approve New/Replacement Policy 1325 – Community Relations: Advertising in Our Schools as presented.**

The Board discussed and reviewed this motion and it was the consensus of the Board to amend the motion.

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

**Motion 5: To approve Replacement Policy 1325 – Community Relations Advertising in Our Schools as presented and subject to development of Regulations for its implementation.**

**Aye: All**

Request for Field Trip Approval

Ann-Marie Houle has proposed a field trip for Stonington High School Softball Team to Florida in April 2011, and requested the Board's approval.

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

**Motion 6: To approve request for SHS Softball Team student trip to Florida next April as presented.**

**Aye: All**

The Board discussed requests for Field Trip approval and options that were available to them for such approval.

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

**Motion 7: We authorize the Superintendent to review documents for overnight trips and to give notice on those approved and those the Board should vote on.**

**Aye: All**

Review of Kindergarten Enrollment

Leanne Masterjoseph updated the Board on the status of kindergarten enrollment figures for Deans Mill School and West Vine/West Broad Street School. Mrs. Masterjoseph made recommendations to the Board for staffing, and provided information from the schools concerning staffing numbers, current enrollment numbers and projections.

Committee Reports

A. Athletic Committee

Sam Agnello stated there was nothing new to report at this time and that the next meeting will be held on September 9.

B. Other

Faith Leitner informed the Board on the end of the Stonington Education Foundation's Blue Mondays.

Gail MacDonald informed the Board that there was no formal Finance meeting, but she talked with the study and assessment consultants.

Rob Cary and Sam Agnello provided updates on how they are proceeding with the attorney search.

Superintendent's Report

A. Personnel

Leanne Masterjoseph updated the Board on new hires and resignations for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

B. Filled and Unfilled Vacancies

Leanne Masterjoseph shared information concerning filled and unfilled vacancies for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

C. Regional Calendar

Leanne Masterjoseph shared information with the Board concerning meetings about a regional calendar for the 2011 – 2012 school year.

Bill King provided information to the Board concerning how out of district school closings compare to Stonington, and the transportation costs involved.

D. Important August Dates

Leanne Masterjoseph provided reminders on important dates during the month of August.

E. Other

None at this time.

Board Goals

The Board discussed the development of goals for the coming school year and agreed that this would be on the Agenda for the Special Board Meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

None at this time.

Boards Comments/Concerns

Rob Cary commented on CMT scores, Technology Program, and the good work that is being done by the Board, Superintendent and Administrators.

Gail MacDonald asked the Board about sending a letter to The New London Day and The Westerly Sun. The Board discussed the letter and it was the consensus that a letter go forward to The New London Day and The Westerly Sun.

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

**Motion 8: To adjourn at 9:42 p.m.**

**Aye: All**

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