

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 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, Sam Agnello, Alisa Morison and Kevin Bornstein.

Member absent: Faith Leitner

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

Communications & Recognitions

Gail MacDonald thanked Leanne Masterjoseph for the work she did on reconfiguring the new BOE agenda.

Rob Cary shared an editorial from The Westerly Sun in which the Stonington Board of Education was given a "thumbs-up" for their goals.

Gail MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized the large number of students that were present.

Mrs. MacDonald shared the following communications she received:

- Communication from the Office of the Secretary of State
- Invitation to attend a workshop in Cromwell
- Annual letter from the Pawmystonian Yearbook
- Letter from CABB
- Email from First Selectman's office

Leanne Masterjoseph spoke about Career Incentive Committee's support for the BOE recognition and pledge of assistance with advertising and pins.

Leanne Masterjoseph welcomed Mikaela Gillick as the new Student Government Representative.

Comments from Citizens

None at this time.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – August 12, 2010 (Special)
- B. Minutes – August 12, 2010 (Regular)
- C. Minutes – August 26, 2010 (Special)
- D. Checks and Bills

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

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

Aye: All

Monthly Reports

Student Government:

Mikeala Gillick shared information on the following:

- Opening day
- Freshmen elections
- Q Block/X Block
- Band performances during home football games, and the Columbus Day Parade.
- Sports practices
- Tryouts for drama
- Homecoming (Sunday, October 9, 2010)

Finance, Operations, Personnel and Enrollment Reports

Judy Samokar presented a summary report for finance and answered the Board's questions concerning the ED Job Program, ED111 grant system, and about a Retirement Board meeting.

Bill King presented a summary report for operations and answered the Board's questions concerning the recent meeting with CL&P.

Finance, Operations, Personnel and Enrollment Reports continued...

Leanne Masterjoseph presented a summary report for personnel and requested the volunteer appointment of Steven Burnside as an Assistant Football Coach.

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

Motion 2: To accept the volunteer appointment of Steven Burnside as the Stonington High School Assistant Football Coach

Aye: All

Leanne Masterjoseph, Doug Hammel and Terry Jordan shared information concerning kindergarten class sizes at Deans Mill and West Vine Street schools.

The Board discussed the following:

- Current enrollment numbers
- Information provided to them by Mrs. Masterjoseph, Mr. Hammel, and Mrs. Jordan
- Keeping enrollment numbers in the classroom under 20
- Addition of classes and the problems that could be faced with scheduling, buses, disruption to families and students
- Feedback from parents and teachers

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

Motion 3: Add one section of Kindergarten back to both Deans Mill and West Vine Street School.

The vote was as follows:

Doug Rea	Yes	Rob Cary	No
Sam Agnello	Yes	Kevin Bornstein	No
Alisa Morrison	Yes	Gail MacDonald	No

Motion Fails

The Board agreed to revisit this at their September 23rd meeting.

Progress Toward Board Goals

A. Goal I – Student Achievement

- Curriculum and Special Services Update

Nikki Gullickson shared information concerning status of “Type To Learn” program.

Ginny Brown shared the following:

- Futures Report and how it will be presented to Staff
- Inclusive education – additional supports at PMS to bring back out placed students
- Co-Teaching – offer of book or visits to school
- Exiting Students Report
- Maximum age for students clarified as 21

Jennifer McCurdy, Tim Smith and Stafford Thomas presented documents concerning the most recent status of Secondary School Reform:

- GLEAMS Survey Report

GLEAMS committee members; Deidra Toole, Kara Erickson, Lori Liguori and Tim Flanagan presented the GLEAMS Survey Report to the Board.

- BOE Building Liaisons

Gail MacDonald stated that this was discussed between the Board members through email, and if there were no questions they would move on. There were no questions.

B. Goal II – Strategic Plan

- Superintendent’s Implementation Update

Leanne Masterjoseph presented a timeline of action steps related to the Strategic Plan.

- Recommended Program Review

Nikki Gullickson shared plans for program review of STEMS that will take place in the fall and about the task force that will be forming in which she welcomed Board members participation.

- Community Integration – BOE/Town Collaboration MOU

The Board was provided with a copy of a draft BOE/Town Collaboration MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

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

Motion 4: To authorize Gail MacDonald to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Aye: All

C. Goal III – Facilities Plan

- Initial Conversations & Correspondence Draft

Gail MacDonald informed the Board about a survey that people who use the schools will be asked to participate in and about asking the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen to be part of a Town/School facility study.

Committee Reports

Athletic Committee

Sam Agnello updated the Board on the following information:

- Bryan Morone's report on concussions
- Cheerleading coach vacancy
- Sport participation rates, costs, fundraising, and the proposals Bryan Morone will bring forward
- Stolen chase boat
- Ken Donovan's report of all vacant land
- Donation of land for recreation purposes

Rob Cary updated the Board on meetings he attended, the advantages of having labor council for negotiations.

Gail MacDonald informed the Board that LEARN has resumed their monthly meetings and asked for Board members to consider attending some of the meetings.

Gail MacDonald reminded Board members of the Policy Committee meeting that will take place on September 23, 2010, and that she would like feedback regarding the Drug and Alcohol policy.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

None at this time.

Board Comments/Concerns

Gail MacDonald thanked Jason Jones and Paul Picard for Stonington's new web-site, and how much it has improved. Mrs. MacDonald also informed the Board that she is working on the Board of Education blog.

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Doug Rea:

Motion 5: To adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

Aye: All

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Rea', is written over a horizontal line.

Doug Rea, Board Secretary