

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2010

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room.

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

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

Communications & Recognitions

Faith Leitner updated the Board regarding her attendance at the Korean War Veteran's Ceremony at SHS.

Leanne Masterjoseph shared the following communications she received:

- Communication from the Fire Marshal – re: code violations at Central Office
- Communications from parents on several topics
- Replies to her Blog

Gail MacDonald shared the following communications she received:

- Communication on the CAFE conference and workshop
- Communication about the proposed Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Communication from the Fire Marshal
- Communication about the Washington DC Trip
- Notice from the First Selectman about snow removal ordinance

Recognitions

A. "We Are Stonington Public Schools" Awards

Leanne Masterjoseph presented certificates and pins to the following recipients:

- Joseph Bragaw
- Larry Sullivan
- Tim Smith
- Margo Douglas
- Cathy Pellegrino
- Deborah Pratt
- Sam Agnello

Leanne Masterjoseph explained to the audience that the recognitions tonight were a result of nominations from the community and provided a reminder that this is for any member of the school system.

B. Other Recognitions

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized the following:

- Lawrence Wilson – Martin Luther King Scholarship
- Jennifer Brant – National Merit Commended Student
- Mary Kate Connelly – National Merit Commended Student
- Tim Paquette – Institute of Integrated Nutrition graduate
- Deb Widmer-Reyes – Author of a new book, “TAAP 2: Treadmill for Students with Autism and Apraxia Protocol Providing Opportunities to Learn”

Comments from Citizens

None at this time.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – September 9, 2010 (Regular)
- B. Minutes – September 23, 2010 (Special)
- C. Checks and Bills

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

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

Aye: All

Monthly Reports

Student Government:

Mikeala Gillick informed the Board about the following:

- Homecoming Dance, Football Game and Banners
- 2010 SHS yearbook - 1st place award from the American Scholastic Press Association
- Freshmen Class Elections
- Powderpuff Football Game
- SHS Drama production of the Miracle Worker
- SHS Band
- 3rd Annual College Representative Day
- AP Scholar Awards

Finance:

Judy Samokar addressed the Board on CIP, Budget Worksheets, and asked for direction concerning formulating the upcoming budgets.

Operations:

Bill King updated the Board on CIP requests and the Food Service charges/collections.

Curriculum:

Nikki Gullickson provided updates on the following:

- Technology Data
- Tradebook Adoption
- STEM Review Process
- Web-site Research
- Kindergarten Readiness Fair

Personnel:

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the personnel report to the Board and asked for their support of the volunteer coaches.

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

Motion 2: To approve the volunteer appointment of John Kam III as Soccer Assistant Coach and to approve the volunteer appointments of Bill Gaynor, Beth Robinson and Nicholas Canzellarini as Sailing Assistant Coaches.

Aye: All

Progress Toward Board Goals

A. Goal I – Student Achievement

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

Motion 3: To switch the order of the agenda so that Youth In Our Town goes first and the rest follow.

Aye: All

Youth In Our Town

Gail MacDonald introduced Chief Darren Stewart, Captain Jerry Desmond, and Officer Tim Marley from the Stonington Police Department, as well as Beth Stewart, and Leanne Theodore from Stonington Human Services.

Beth Stewart thanked the Board and Leanne Masterjoseph for inviting her to the meeting and introduced Leanne Theodore as the Administrator for Youth and Family Services. Mrs. Stewart provided information to the Board on the following:

- Analysis of databases
- Social Services and Stonington Residents
- Home Ownership
- Rental Costs
- Youth Homelessness
- Unemployment
- Youth Scholarships
- Energy Assistance, Food Stamps and Husky Healthcare
- Free Summer Breakfast and Lunch Program

Chief Darren Stewart provided information on the following:

- Status of Youth from a Police Perspective
- Opportunities to partner Police and Schools
- DARE Students
- Officer Tim Marley's program on "Sexting" awareness
- Partnership with Human Services
- Juvenile Diversion Board
- Positive Ticket Program
- Prevention Council
- Mini Course for 8th graders

Captain Jerry Desmond provided information on the following:

- New Technology
- Police department and the schools
- Radio/Camera set-up
- Communications with the High School
- Drugs and Dogs in Schools
- "Operation Class Mascot"

Leanne Theodore provided a brief history, and update on the Stonington Prevention Council as well as the Strategic Planning process.

Program Spotlight: OTTERS

Leanne Masterjoseph introduced principal Tim Smith, and teachers Sheila Adams and Noreen Elliot.

Tim Smith thanked Bill King, Ken Donovan and the custodial staff for their work on putting the OTTERS classroom together.

Sheila Adams and Noreen Elliot presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board that provided the following information:

- OTTERS – One community of learners applying Twenty-first century Technology and literacy skill through Exploration of math, science, and Real world problem Solving
- 3 "R's"
- Benefits of a multi-age classroom
- Successful student habits
- Program goals
- Grants for the program
- Tradition Classroom/Looping Classrooms

Student Achievement

Nikki Gullickson presented an overview of the internal assessment protocols to the Board and informed members on the following:

- ADR (Assessment Data Review)
- Language Arts Assessment Calendar
- Banding Sheet
- Mathematics Guide and Data Review
- Data Collection
- Review of Student Data
- Needed Interventions, Standards and Goals
- PSAT, SAT, AP Exams
- College Board Release of PSAT, SAT ACT exams

B. Goal II – Strategic Plan

Building Level Accountability

Leanne Masterjoseph provided information to the Board on each of the following:

- Building-level Accountability Plans
- November 12th Event
- Elementary Poster Contest
- Superintendent First-Friday Coffees
- Professional Development – October 2010

C. Goal III – Facilities Plan

The Board was presented with documents on the recent facility survey, practice field analysis and the status of the Building Committee's recommendation.

Gail MacDonald provided information to board members and reminded them that this is an information item and open to comments and suggestions.

Committee Reports

A. Athletic Committee

Sam Agnello provided an update for Board members on the Athletic meeting and reported that Stonington will have a cheering team this year with 18 students who should be ready for basketball season.

B. Labor Relations Counsel Subcommittee

Rob Cary updated the Board on the advantages of having local labor counsel for negotiations, and how he thinks it is best to proceed.

It was the consensus of the Board for the committee to get together and invite Leanne Masterjoseph to participate in the interviews for legal counsel.

C. Finance Committee

Rob Cary updated the Board about recent Board of Finance meetings.

D. Policy Committee – BOE Input on Proposed Drug and Alcohol Policy

Gail MacDonald provided updates about this policy, and revenues for education.

Alisa Morrison provided updates on the Public Comment Workshop – Wednesday, October 20

E. Stonington Education Fund

Faith Leitner provided information on the winter fundraiser that will be held on February 11, 2011 at the Salt Water Vineyard.

F. LEARN

Leanne Masterjoseph updated the Board on the Legislative Breakfast and Education Cost Sharing Funds.

G. Other

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

William Sternberg asked questions concerning the proposed Drug and Alcohol Policy.

Board Comments/Concerns

Faith Leitner suggested that the Board plan a meeting with administrators, in the same manner as the BOE did with the teachers.

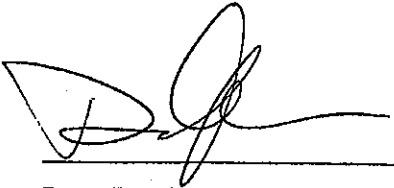
Gail MacDonald commented on the Delegate Assembly and the CABA Annual Conference.

Rob Cary suggested the possibility of board members being assigned to other town boards and organizations and explained how the Board of Education could benefit from setting up these assignments.

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

Motion 4: To adjourn at 9:24 p.m.

Aye: All



Doug Rea, Board Secretary