

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING NOVEMBER 10, 2010

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Commons at Stonington High School. Members present were Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, Rob Cary, Sam Agnello, Alisa Morison, Faith Leitner and Kevin Bornstein.

Late Arrival: Doug Rea, Secretary at 7:20 pm

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

Fall Drama Preview – The Miracle Worker

The cast of “The Miracle Worker” presented a preview to their upcoming show. Show dates are as follows:

Friday, November 19, 2010 – 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 20, 2010 – 7:00 pm

Sunday, November 21, 2010 – 2:00 pm

Communications

Gail MacDonald shared the following communications she received:

- Letter from the Fire Marshal, Kevin Burns
- Communication with the Board of Selectmen
- Communication with a bargaining unit
- Communication about the Fall Feast for Veterans

Faith Leitner commented on a photo that was in The Westerly Sun newspaper on October 29, 2010, in which members of Mystic Middle School formed a human pink ribbon for breast cancer awareness.

Recognitions

A. “We Are Stonington Public Schools” Awards

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the following with awards:

- John Wostrel
- Colin Krzyzaniak
- Tyler Grills
- Zackery Burdick
- Timothy Kniffen
- Angelo Miceli (Pawcatuck Lions Club) & Kniffen Award recipient
- Patricia May
- Tim Paquette

“We Are Stonington Public Schools” Awards continued...

- Kathy St. Rock
- Pamela Young
- Abbey Gibney

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

Motion 1: To move Education & The Legislature up on the Agenda to the next position.

Aye: All

Education & The Legislature – Visit from Elected Officials

Senator Maynard spoke to the Board on the status of legislation and how it could impact schools. He further addressed the Board on the following:

- Incoming Administration
- Children and Education
- Funding, Increases and Cuts that may be forth coming
- Federal monies
- Race to the Top funding

Recognitions (continued)

B. Other Recognitions

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized the following:

- Stonington Education Fund on their vote to distribute nearly \$19,000 to support music programming and mini-grants
- Stonington Board of Education for the “Honorable Mentions” received from CAFE for companion blogging and “We Are Stonington Schools”: the movie
- Jim Hilbie and the Mystic Middle School students for participating in “Modeling for Band” DVD

Comments from Citizens

Betty Pacelle spoke to the Board about the reinstatement of the Library Media Specialist, requested this reinstatement at West Vine Street School, and for funds to be made available for library supplies.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – October 14, 2010 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Intra-Account Transfers

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

Motion 2: To approve the Consent Agenda as A – C as presented.

Aye: All

Monthly Reports

Student Government:

Mikelia Gillick addressed the Board on the following:

- The Fall Feast for Veterans
- National Honor Society Fundraiser for Breast Cancer
- SHS Band
- The Miracle Worker
- Sports Team News

Financial Report:

Judy Samokar presented the Financial Summary Report, answered the Boards questions about policies, and when they need to be in place.

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

Motion 3: To approve Policy number 3280.1a, Policies for Management and Reporting of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Funds.

Aye: All

Monthly Reports continued....

Operations:

Bill King presented the operations report and answered the Board's questions on line items, requirements, and generator backup.

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

Motion 4: To switch the agenda lineup and put Technology Spotlight next and move onto Program Spotlight.

Aye: All

Progress Toward Board Goals

A. Goal I – Student Achievement

Technology Spotlight -

Deans Mill School teacher, Jonah Salsich, along with students Margo, Sam and Alison presented their classroom blog.

Program Spotlight -

Mystic Middle School Principal, Stafford Thomas, along with Joanne Lindeborg, Suzanne Holder, Alex Holder, and Tom Bousquet presented their Unified Sports program.

Monthly Reports continued....

Curriculum Report:

Nikki Gullickson presented the book "Nineteen Minutes" by Jodi Picoult and requested the Board adopt the text "Nineteen Minutes".

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 5: To approve the adoption of the following text: "Nineteen Minutes" by Jodi Picoult

Aye: All

Personnel:

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the Personnel Report to the Board.

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

Motion 6: To approve the volunteer appointment of Kevin Dipollino as Boys Basketball Assistant Coach, Jerry Desmond and Shelby Joslin Buck as Gymnastics Assistant Coaches, Jennifer Adriano and Adam Phaiah as Unified Basketball Coaches.

Aye: All

BOE Calendar 2011

The following motion was made by Doug Rea and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 7: To approve the 2011 Board of Education Meeting Calendar for 2011 with changes to location on February 3, 2011 to SHS Commons.

Aye: All

Progress Towards Board Goals continued ...

Fieldtrip approval:

Leanne Masterjoseph submitted a request to travel with high school students after the school year ends to China, and explained to the Board that the proposed trip would support the study of Mandarin. Mrs. Masterjoseph further explained to the Board that no school funds would be used for this trip.

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

Motion 8: To approve the China fieldtrip as presented

Aye: All

B. Goal II – Strategic Plan

Building Level Accountability:

Administrators from each school building were on hand to answer the Board's questions.

We Are SPS! Poster Contest:

Leanne Masterjoseph presented a sample of 18 poster contest entries received from each of the elementary schools.

Superintendent's Breakfast and First Friday Coffee:

Leanne Masterjoseph provided updates to the Board on number of people in attendance along with topics of discussion.

C. Goal III Facilities Plan

Gail MacDonald updated the Board on the meeting that was held recently, and reviewed input of the survey.

Committee Reports

A. Athletic Committee

Sam Agnello provided information on the recent meeting in which Bryan Morrone gave a spring update and injuries report.

Alisa Morrison provided information on field conditions.

Dr. Murphy addressed the Board about the value of the Athletic Trainer.

B. Labor Relations Counsel Subcommittee

Rob Cary provided information on an interview that was held with both Leanne Masterjoseph and Sam Agnello in attendance.

C. Policy Committee

Doug Rea provided information on the last meeting being centered on the Drug and Alcohol Policy.

Gail MacDonald provided updates on a teleconference with CABA concerning aspects of the policy and continued discussions that will take place with staff.

D. Advertising and Promotion Subcommittee

Kevin Bornstein provided updates for the Board concerning clubs, fundraising efforts, and where possible revenues could be focused.

E. SEF

Faith Leitner provided updates about \$16,000 that was used for music in which items such as tutoring sessions, saxes, guitar racks, wireless headsets, and electric keyboards with stands were purchased.

F. Finance Board

Nothing to report at this time.

G. Other

The Board discussed thoughts and ideas on how board liaisons could work and the inclusion of different Boards.

Comments from Citizens

None at this time.

Board Comments and Concerns

Alisa Morrison commented on the Brown and White Newspaper article about the athletes and physical education.

Faith Leitner commented on the elections at school, the Kindergarten Fair, LA and Math Nights.

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

Motion 9: To adjourn at 9:45 pm

Aye: All



Doug Rea, Board Secretary