

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 9, 2010

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting room.

Members present were Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, Sam Agnello, Alisa Morrison, Faith Leitner and Kevin Bornstein.

Member Absent: Rob Cary

Late Arrival: Doug Rea 7:06 p.m.

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

Gail MacDonald requested a brief moment of silence for the accident victims in Griswold, CT, saying that, "Our hearts go out to that community."

Communications

Faith Leitner shared the "Daughters of American Revolution" article that was in The Mystic Press.

Recognitions

A. "We Are Stonington Public Schools" Awards

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the following with awards:

- Annie Kniszeski
- Sarah Cahill – Mystic Seaport Staff
- Barbara Jarnigan – Mystic Seaport Staff
- Caroline Chapman
- Bryan Morrone
- Art Howe
- Mark Friese
- Jennifer Bausch
- Georgia Crowley
- Carla Thompson

At this time Gail MacDonald updated Board members on the snow removal ordinance being drafted which was mentioned at the Board of Selectman's meeting last night.

B. Other Recognitions

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized Eileen Fiore for the article written about her in The Westerly Sun regarding release of her second music CD.

Comments from Citizens

None at this time.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – November 10, 2010 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Intra-Account Transfers

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

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

Aye: All

Monthly Reports

Student Government:

Mikelia Gillick presented the following:

- Thanksgiving Day Game – Bears defeated the Bulldogs 14 – 7
- Stonington High Schools performance of The Miracle Worker
- Upcoming Spring Musical
- Music Honors Society
- Staff vs. Student basketball game – Students defeated the staff 51 – 49
- Winter Sports Update

Financial Report:

Judy Samokar presented the Financial Summary Report. The Board did not have any questions at this time.

Operations:

Bill King presented the Operations Summary Report. The Board did not have any questions at this time.

Curriculum:

Nikki Gullickson presented the Curriculum Summary Report and requested the Trade Book adoption of "The Road" by Cormack McCarthy.

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

Motion 2: To approve the adoption of the following text: "The Road" by Cormack McCarthy for use at Stonington High School.

Aye: All

Nikki Gullickson and Jason Jones answered the Board's questions on the following:

- Technology Report on Lesson Completion
- Grades on Type to Learn
- Issues with Web Version
- Communication with the Networks
- Long term Solutions to Type to Learn issues

Personnel and Enrollment Reports:

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the Personnel and Enrollment Reports to the Board.

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

Motion 3: To approve the volunteer appointment of Rob Wall as Boys Basketball Assistant Coach and the volunteer appointment of Edward and Diane Kolnaski as Girls Basketball Assistant Coaches

Aye: All

Progress Toward Board Goals

A. Goal I -- Student Achievement

Program Spotlight:

Jennifer McCurdy introduced Anne Marie Houle and Kelsey Seddon who presented a slide show on the Career Center.

Program Review:

Nikki Gullickson and committee members; Kevin Bornstein, Mark Friese, Greg Keith, Yolanda Fernandez, and Marge Anderson shared their study of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in Stonington.

The Board held a discussion on STEM and it was the consensus of the Board to continue to support growth of STEM.

B. Goal II -- Strategic Plan

Building Level Accountability:

Administrators invited the Board members to ask questions.

“Clarity and Coherence”:

Leanne Masterjoseph shared this internal newsletter and indicated feedback has been positive.

Board of Education Liaison Proposal:

The Board discussed options, ideas and thoughts regarding this proposal.

Budget Advisement for Superintendent:

Leanne Masterjoseph asked for the Board's guidance on the proposed budget for January 2011. It was the consensus of the Board to adopt the following budget goal.

“To provide programs and services aimed at meeting the goals outlined in the SPS Strategic Plan, while continuing to recognize fiscal responsibility in light of continued economic difficulties throughout the state. “

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

Motion 4: To accept the proposed budget goal as it is written.

Aye: All

C. Goal III Facilities Plan

Electronic Survey Results & Focus Groups:

Leanne Masterjoseph summarized findings of school-based focus groups.

The State of Stonington's School Facilities:

Ken Donovan provided a presentation on:

- Infrastructure Analysis
- Component, Expectancy and Age left in each building in the district
- Major Concerns
- Facility Goals
- Building Statistics

Bill King presented the CIP.

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

Motion 5: To accept the CIP as presented.

Board members discussed motion 5 and different options in regards to the CIP.

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

Motion 6: Amendment to Motion number 5: To bring Sound Dampening Panels in Café at Deans Mill School in an "E" category to a "D" category and to change the Practice Field Irrigation, Grading and Seeding from a "D" category to a "C" category

The vote was as follows:

Kevin Bornstien: No	Alisa Morrison: Yes
Doug Rea: No	Faith Leitner: Yes
Gail MacDonald: No	Sam Agnello: Yes

The Vote is Tied

The Motion Fails

Discussion continued on the CIP.

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

Motion 7: To approve the CIP as is.

Aye: All

Update on WVSS/WBSS Consolidation, K – 4

Terry Jordan and Alicia Dawe provided an update on the progress made towards the consolidation at West Vine/West Broad.

Proposed/Revised Policy 5131.6 – Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco – 1st Reading and Proposed Policy 5131.61 – 1st Reading

Doug Rea updated the Board on the last Policy meeting, the survey, and community input.

Gail MacDonald provided information on how the survey was sent to residents, how many responded, and the results of the survey. Mrs. MacDonald further updated Board members on CAFE's positive comments on this proposed policy, the suggestions they had, and if it is adopted they want to use it as a model.

At this time Gail MacDonald recognized that the 10:00 p.m. meeting curfew had been reached. She asked the Board for their preferences on adjourning now and having a special session or to extend the meeting.

The following motion was made by Doug Rea and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

Motion 8: To continue the meeting until we are complete.

Aye: All

Committee Reports

A. Policy

This was already discussed.

B. Athletic

Sam Agnello informed the Board that the committee did not meet this month.

C. Advertising and Promotion

Leanne Masterjoseph provided updates to the Board on the new developments in revenue generation to be shared next month.

D. SEF

Faith Leitner provided the following updates:

Stonington Education Fund celebration scheduled for February 11, 2011 at the Stonington Meadows.

E. Finance

No report at this time.

F. Other

Gail MacDonald provided the following information:

- CAFE Conference Summary
- CAFE committees with Board member representation
- Priority Funding
- Professional Development for Board Members
- The book, Schools Can't do it Alone

Comments from Citizens

Comments from Citizens focused around the Alcohol and Drug Policy, the budget, consolidation of facilities and the SEF dinner dance.

Board Comments and Concerns

Sam Agnello commented on the document draft.

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

Motion 9: To Adjourn at 10:26 pm

Aye: All



Doug Rea, Board Secretary