

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 21, 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, Sam Agnello, Rob Cary, Faith Leitner, Kevin Bornstein and Alisa Morrison.

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

Comments from Citizens

Jennifer Herbst addressed the Board on the following:

- Support of the Superintendent's budget for 2010 – 2011
- The need for a Library Media Specialist at the elementary level

Debbie Smith addressed the Board on the following:

- Support for advanced classes at the high school

Gail MacDonald let the audience know that Senator Andrew Maynard and Representative Diane Urban would be in attendance tonight and that when they arrived they would be called upon to speak.

Friends of Stonington Crew

Gail MacDonald explained the possible agreement that came forth at last week's meeting between Stonington Public Schools and Friends of Stonington Crew and it was held back until all members of the Board could review it.

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

Motion 1: To approve the Agreement between Friends of Stonington Crew and the Board of Education as presented.

Aye: all

2010-2011 Budget Discussion

Gail MacDonald started the discussion by asking the Board's opinion on a two-hour time limit for the budget discussion. It was agreed upon by members of the Board and they further discussed the process'.

Gail MacDonald shared the following communications concerning the 2010 – 2011 budget:

- Email re: world Language
- Email from Mr. Bessette about the Mystic Middle School Fields
- Email from Julie Holland thanking us for putting out the "Community Members Guide to the Budget Process"
- Email conversation between Ms. MacDonald, Glenn Frishman and Marianna Stevens re: revenue from gate receipts
- The 90-90-90 study
- Communication with Leanne Masterjoseph about the budget book, class size and the differences between Pawcatuck Middle School and Mystic Middle School

The Board discussed the following:

- Budget book
- Staffing proposal and class size
- Student supports
- Athletic enrollment
- World Language enrollment
- Activity fees and pay for play
- Family and Science Consumer Program

At this time, Gail MacDonald introduced Senator Andrew Maynard and Representative Diane Urban.

Senator Maynard discussed the following:

- Stimulus Money
- Municipal Aide
- Mandates for In School Suspension

- Graduation requirements
- Seat belts for busses

Representative Diane Urban discussed the following:

- The number of children falling into poverty
- The Deficit
- ECS funding
- 2011 – 2012 Budget and what can be expected
- Accountability
- Subcommittees
- Upper income job loss and how this has affected tax revenue
- Special Education

Gail MacDonald and Leanne Masterjoseph thanked both Senator Maynard and Representative Urban for attending tonight's meeting. Ms. Masterjoseph thanked them for the continued support they show to the children throughout the district and how much it is appreciated.

The Budget discussion continued:

- Reorganization of Administrators
- Early Retirement incentive
- Library ideas and goals
- Family and Consumer Science
- Preschool at the high school
- Three Rivers credits for students
- Line by Line items
- Revenue
- Student Support Services
- Proposed Staffing Levels

Comments from Citizens as related to tonight's Agenda

Susan Jones addressed the Board on the following:

- Class size projections and how they work

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

Motion 2: To adjourn at 9:06 p.m.

Aye: All

Doug Rea, Board Secretary