

## STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 13, 2011

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, Sam Agnello, Rob Cary, Alisa Morison, Faith Leitner and Kevin Bornstein.

Late Arrival: Doug Rea, Secretary – 8:20 p.m.

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

### Recognitions

#### A. “We Are Stonington Public Schools” Awards

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the following with awards:

- Stonington Student All State Honors and ECC Championship Recipients
- Student Government Officers
- Jan Electronics
- First Student
- Sherry Castodio
- Bo Cintron
- Jonah Salsich
- Julie Holland

#### B. Other Recognitions

Faith Leitner recognized the presentation of co-teaching by Terry Jordan and Donna Merritt that was featured on channel 12.

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized attorney Dick O’Connor for his many years of dedicated service to the board.

### Communications

Gail MacDonald shared the following communications:

- Letter from Attorney Dick O’Connor
- Letter from Don Maranell
- Email messages from parents regarding policy deliberations
- Connecticut Association of Boards of Education
- Meeting with the Pawcatuck Fire Marshal
- 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Stonington – Historical Society

Comments from Citizens

Comments from Citizens focused around the Alcohol and Drug Policy, survey results, and communication the Board of Education has provided to the community.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – December 9, 2010 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Intra-Account Transfers

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

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

**Aye: All**

Monthly Reports

Student Government:

Mikelia Gillick addressed the Board on the following:

- House fire of a classmate
- Passing of a SHS student
- Reindeer Games
- Westerly Community Credit Union's Holiday Tournament
- Athletics

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 to the Board. He also presented images of Deans Mill School's natural light sources, and information on the rooms daylight harvesting would be provided to.

Operations continued....

Gail MacDonald updated Board members on the meeting that took place concerning the emergency generator at Pawcatuck Middle School.

Curriculum:

Nikki Gullickson presented the Curriculum Summary Report and requested the Boards' consideration of approval of textbooks for French and Spanish.

Special Services:

Ginny Brown presented the Special Services Report.

Progress Toward Board Goals

A. Goal I – Student Achievement – Proposed HS Math Credit Requirement Change

Nikki Gullickson and Steve Murphy presented the Board with a proposal to change required graduation course credits in order to meet the requirements of Secondary School Reform, and explained what this means for Stonington Public Schools.

Leanne Masterjoseph explained to the Board that this change is in Mathematic requirements for the year 2015, and at this time will cost the Board zero dollars.

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

**Motion 2: To change the graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2015 for mathematics to show an increase from 3 to 4 credits**

**Aye: All**

B. Goal II -- Strategic Plan

BOE Liaison Proposal Discussion:

Gail MacDonald explained why this was on the agenda and the Board discussed ideas, thoughts and assignments.

C. Goal III Facilities Plan

Committee Report:

No report at this time.

Proposed/Revised Policy 5131.6 -- Students; Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco - Revision -- Second Reading

Gail MacDonald read a statement concerning her feelings about the policies on this agenda and how she prepared for tonight's vote.

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

**Motion 3: To adopt revised policy 5131.6 as presented**

**Aye: All**

Proposed Policy - 5131.61 Athletic & Extracurricular Policy Concerning Drug & Alcohol Use by Students -- Second Reading

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

**Motion 4: To adopt revised policy 5131.61 as presented**

The Board discussed this policy and its wording.

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

**Motion 5: Amend motion to add the mandatory review after 1 year.**

**The vote was as follows:**

<b>Kevin Bornstien: Yes</b>	<b>Alisa Morrison: No</b>
<b>Doug Rea: Yes</b>	<b>Faith Leitner: Yes</b>
<b>Gail MacDonald: Yes</b>	<b>Sam Agnello: Yes</b>
<b>Rob Cary: Yes</b>	

**Vote is 6 – 1 Motion passes**

Professional Development for Board Members & NSBA Membership discussion

Gail MacDonald spoke about the benefits of professional development for Board members, and the possible costs involved.

Legal Firm Representation

Rob Cary discussed steps that were taken in regards to legal firm representation and supported recommending Nicholas Grello of Siegel & O'Connor to provide legal representation.

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

**Motion 6: To continue with legal representation from Siegel & O'Connor.**

**Aye: All**

Proposed School Calendar 2011-2012

Leanne Masterjoseph presented and explained two possible calendar options to the Board for their consideration. Mrs. Masterjoseph answered questions and explained the importance of the Board acting on this at tonight's meeting.

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

**Motion 7: To accept option 'A' as the Stonington Public Schools Calendar for 2011 – 2012.**

The Board discussed the two calendars.

**The vote was as follows:**

<b>Kevin Bornstein: Yes</b>	<b>Alisa Morrison: Yes</b>
<b>Doug Rea: Yes</b>	<b>Faith Leitner: No</b>
<b>Gail MacDonald: Yes</b>	<b>Sam Agnello: Yes</b>
<b>Rob Cary: Yes</b>	

**Vote is 6 – 1 Motion passes**

Committee Reports

A. Athletic

No report at this time

B. Advertising & Promotion

No report at this time.

C. SEF

Faith Leitner updated the Board on the upcoming "Chill Out" fundraiser that will take place on Friday, February 11, 2011.

D. Finance

No report at this time.

E. Other

Policy Committee:

Gail MacDonald thanked Alisa Morrison for all of her hours serving on this committee. Mrs. MacDonald explained to board members that Ms. Morrison would not be continuing and requested another member to serve on the committee.

LEARN:

Gail MacDonald updated the Board on the following:

- National School Board Association and the conference in San Francisco
- Grants to pay for Board of Education members to go to conferences
- Presentation from Madison's Assistant Superintendent concerning School Education Reform Act
- Summer School/On-line courses

Presentation of Superintendent's Budget 2011 – 2012

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the Superintendent's Budget for 2011-2012 to the Board:

Mrs. Masterjoseph presented a hard copy of the budget to the Board and explained how it will show a 2.196% increase over last year. She thanked the District Leadership Team and let the attendees of the meeting know that copies of this budget would be available for them at the adjournment of the meeting.

Gail MacDonald explained to attendees about the three budget workshops scheduled over the next three weeks and invited them to attend.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Comments from Citizens focused around all day Kindergarten, Survey Results, Coaches' Petition, and Math Curriculum.

Board Reflection on Progress Towards Goals

Gail MacDonald explained that one of the BOE's Goals is to review and assess progress made on their goals on a quarterly basis.

The Board reviewed and discussed the progress towards their goals.

Boards Comments/Concerns

Faith Leithner commented positively on Leanne Masterjoseph's budget presentation.

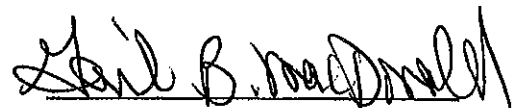
Sam Agnello commented on the Superintendent's evaluation process.

Gail MacDonald commented on "We Are Stonington Public Schools" recognition celebration and CAFE's Legislative Breakfast.

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

**Motion 8: To Adjourn at 9:55 pm**

**Aye: All**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail B. MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Gail MacDonald, Board Chairwoman