

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room. Members present were Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, Doug Rea, Secretary, Sam Agnello, Alisa Morrison, Faith Leitner and Kevin Bornstein.

Member Absent: Rob Cary

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

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

Motion 1: To move Goal 1 up on the agenda before Communications and Recognitions.

Aye: All

A. Goal I – Student Achievement

- DMS Rock Block

Doug Hammel and staff from Deans Mill School provided a presentation on “Rock Block”. Student representatives were present and sang.

Communications & Recognitions

A. “We Are Stonington Public Schools” Awards

Leanne Masterjoseph informed the Board that Greg Keith and Paula Solar were this month’s recipients, and they would be invited to a social event with the Board in the spring.

B. Other Recognitions

Faith Leitner recognized Paula Solar and the article in the Mystic River Press about her 300 wins as a basketball coach for Stonington Public Schools.

Gail MacDonald recognized the following:

- Administrators and Faculty for preparing budget information for the Board.
- The editorial in The Day about our Community Classroom.
- Our new web-site and everyone that has worked on it.

Communications:

Gail MacDonald shared the following communications:

- CABE – Day on the Hill and Board member’s Professional Development
- Invitation from West Broad Street School to attend 4th grade events
- Email from Paul Sartor
- Hartford Courant – Advanced Placement data in CT
- Legislative Breakfast – Monday, February 14th

Comments from Citizens

Comments from Citizens focused on the World Language program and kindergarten class sizes.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Intra-Account Transfers

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

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

Aye: All

Monthly Reports

Student Government:

Mikelia Gillick addressed the Board on the following:

- Midterm Exams
- Stonington Chorus
- Indoor Track Team
- Scholar Athlete Awards
- SHS National Honor Society

Financial Report:

Judy Samokar presented the Financial summary report and answered the Board's questions on purchasing and excess costs.

Operations:

Bill King presented the Operations summary report and updated the Board on the following:

- Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen joint meeting
- Sprinkler System at PMS
- 5K Run – Bear-a-thon

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

Motion 3: To approve the Class of 2011's, 3rd Annual Bear-a-thon Road Race to be held on Memorial Day, May 30, 2011 with the stipulation that primary liability coverage is obtained and arrangements are made with the police and ambulance services for the event.

The Board discussed this motion and Mikeala Gillick provided information to the Board on how the profits would be donated.

Aye: All

Curriculum:

Nikki Gullickson presented the Curriculum summary report, updated the Board on Language Arts/Math Family Night, and requested the adoption of textbooks.

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

Motion 4: To approve adoption of textbooks for the World Language Program

Aye: All

Special Services:

Ginny Brown presented the Special Service Report and provided information on the following:

- Futures Report
- CMT readiness
- MIST application software
- Staffing & Programming

Personnel:

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the Personnel and Enrollment reports to the Board. The Board did not have any questions at this time.

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

Motion 5: To move School Calendar up on the Agenda.

Aye: All

School Calendar 2010 – 2011

Leanne Masterjoseph presented data to the Board and recommended that they make no change to the current school calendar.

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

Motion 6: To move on superintendent's recommendation to stay the course with the current school calendar with an end date of June 22.

The Board discussed this motion and it was decided that a motion was not needed.

Sam Agnello withdrew the motion.

It was the consensus of the Board that they would stay with the current school calendar and end school on June 22.

Progress Toward Board Goals

B. Goal II – Strategic Plan
Building Reports

Dr. Steve Murphy and representatives from Stonington High School updated the Board on the following:

- Community Collaboration
- Stonington Historical Society Speakers Bureau
- English and Journalism publications
- Lords Hill Studio partnership
- North East Karate
- Environmental Science Classes – organic cooking
- Job Shadowing/Internships
- Course design for the future

C. Goal III Facilities Plan
Committee Report

Leanne Masterjoseph updated the Board on her recent discussions with Paul Sartor and rationale for revisiting the work of the K-12 Building Committee.

School Choice Funding

Gail MacDonald explained why she asked for this item to be put on the agenda, and the Board discussed their views, ideas and opinions.

Budget Preparation 2011 - 2012

The Board discussed the following with Administrators on hand to answer questions:

- Kindergarten Class Size
- Preschool Teachers/Paras Budget Recommendations
- World Language Program -- amendment plan and status of Mandarin
- College Requirements for World Languages

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

Motion 7: To discontinue offering Mandarin at the middle school and phase out Mandarin at the high school level and provide the opportunity for high school students currently in the program to continue the mandarin program to meet the two year minimum graduation requirement or so long as they choose.

Board members discussed this motion and Leanne Masterjoseph provided information for the Board's consideration.

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

Motion 8: Amendment to Motion number 7: To discontinue offering Mandarin at the middle school and phase out mandarin at the high school level and provide the opportunity for high school students currently in the program to continue the Mandarin instruction as long as they are enrolled in Stonington Schools

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 – Motion Fails

Committee Reports

A. Athletic

No report at this time

B. Advertising & Promotion

Bill King provided updates to the Board on Side Effects Inc., fundraising projects, and web site advertising.

C. SEF

Faith Leitner spoke about available tickets for “Chill Out”.

D. Finance

No report at this time.

E. Other

LEARN:

Gail MacDonald updated the Board on the following:

- Presentation from North Stonington
- Marine Science High School
- Health Insurance

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Comments from Citizens focused on the PMS sprinkler system, Mandarin Chinese, and Preschool accessibility.

Boards Comments/Concerns

Faith Leithner commented on calls to other schools.

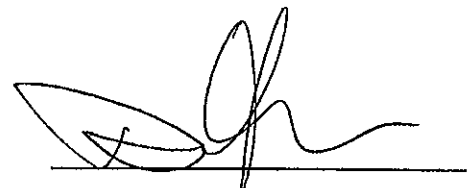
Sam Agnello commented on the Superintendent Evaluation draft.

Gail MacDonald commented on the possibility of trying to go paperless at meetings.

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

Motion 9: To adjourn at 9:58 pm

Aye: All



Doug Rea, Board Secretary