

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MARCH 10, 2011

Gail MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Members present were Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, Doug Rea, Secretary, Sam Agnello, Faith Leitner and Kevin Bornstein.

Late Arrival: Alisa Morrison – 8:20 p.m.

Member Absent: Rob Cary

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

SHS Musical Preview of "Carousel"

Students from the Stonington High School Drama Department provided a preview of this year's Production, "Carousel".

Communications & Recognitions

A. "We Are Stonington Public Schools" Awards

Leanne Masterjoseph announced the following award recipients:

- Aliyah Cook – PMS
- Skylah Cook – WV/WB
- Lorraine Szewc – SHS
- Tracie Paride – SHS
- Pat Derouin – SHS
- Sandra LaCombe – SHS
- Lani Laraco-Chance – SHS
- Sharleen Rustici – SHS

- Avalon Health Center: Peter Morris

Hope Hickman

Laura Lynch

Beth Avery

Heather Turner

Pat Smith

- Kelly Matis – Vice President for Education & Public Conservation Programs

Mystic Aquarium

B. Other Recognitions

Sam Agnello recognized the Pawcatuck Middle School Basketball team for a 16 – 0 season

Gail MacDonald recognized Leanne Masterjoseph for the Legislative Breakfast and SEF for their recent event.

Communications:

Gail MacDonald shared the following communications:

- Follow up communications with administrators
- Correspondence with the First Selectman
- Meeting at LEARN on March 22, 2011

Leanne Masterjoseph announced that March 15 is Board of Education Appreciation Month, and presented each Board member with a Stonington baseball cap.

Comments from Citizens

None at this time.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – February 10, 2011 (Special)
- B. Minutes – February 10, 2011 (Regular)
- C. Checks and Bills
- D. Intra-Account Transfers

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

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda items A through D as presented.

Aye: All

Monthly Reports

Student Government:

Mikelia Gillick reported on the following:

- CAPT testing
- Boys Varsity Basketball
- State Championship Indoor Track Meet
- "Poetry Out Loud" Competition
- Spring Musical, "Carousel"
- Class of 2015 Orientation

Financial Report:

Judy Samokar presented the financial report, and answered the Boards questions on reimbursement rates.

Operations:

Bill King presented the operations report and answered the Boards questions on line items regarding advertising.

Curriculum:

Nikki Gullickson presented the curriculum report and the Board had no questions at this time.

Personnel & Enrollment:

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the Personnel and Enrollment report to the Board. There were no questions at this time.

Progress Toward Board Goals

A. Goal I – Student Achievement

a. Pawcatuck Middle in the Spotlight

Dan Agins spoke about how technology is utilized at PMS and how it puts learning into the hands of the students. Mr. Agins also presented student work that demonstrates their technology proficiencies.

b. Proposed World Language Program Evaluation

Nikki Gullickson presented the Board with an outline of the evaluation to be conducted on the World Language Program.

Board members made requests for additional items to be included in the evaluation.

B. Goal II – Strategic Plan

a. Family University

Leanne Masterjoseph extended an invitation to Board members to participate in the event on March 30, 2011.

b. Mystic Middle's Building Level Accountability for Strategic Plan

Stafford Thomas, Greg Keith, and teacher representatives were present to talk about their school's progress and inform the Board of the following:

- Creation of Character Education Program – You Matter Here

c. Parent Academy

Faith Leitner explained the Parent Academy resources she provided including a pamphlet of topics she obtained from other school districts.

C. Goal III Facilities Plan

a. Status of Facility Conversations

Leanne Masterjoseph updated the Board about recent conversations with Paul Sartor and the First Selectman.

BOE Proposed Budget 2011-2012

Leanne Masterjoseph presented Board members with copies of the budget book, which will be presented to the Board of Finance.

2011-2012 School Calendar

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the Board with possible language to be added to the 2011 – 2012 School Calendar.

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

Motion 2: To adopt the calendar as presented with the first sentence only.

Aye: All

Healthy Foods Certification

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

Motion 3: To table the Healthy Food Certification conversation until April.

Aye: All

Retirements 2010 - 2011

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

Motion 4: To accept the following 2011 retirements with regrets and appreciation for their many years of service. To spread across the minutes resolutions commemorating the retirements of Deborah Janes, Pamela Young and Roger Ryley.

Aye: All

Annual Contract Non-Renewal Authorization by the BOE

Leanne Masterjoseph explained the importance of the Board authorizing the Superintendent to make notifications to teachers by April 1, 2011.

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

Motion 5: To authorize and direct the Superintendent of Schools, in her capacity as Chief Executive of the Board of Education, to make and communicate decisions concerning the non-renewal and termination of certified professional staff in the Board's employ and to furnish written notices of non-renewal and termination and, where required, reasons therefore, to affected non-tenured teachers, as provided in provisions of the Connecticut Teacher Tenure Law applicable to non-tenured teachers.

Aye: All

Committee Reports

A. Athletic:

No report at this time

B. Advertising & Promotion:

Kevin Bornstein updated the Board on the approval of a revenue account.

Committee Reports continued...

C. SEF:

Faith Leitner updated the Board on the last SEF meeting and about the grant for technology advancement.

D. Policy:

Doug Rea informed the Board that the meeting was rescheduled to March 24, 2011, and provided a recap of the previous month's meeting.

E. LEARN:

Gail MacDonald informed the Board of the LEARN meeting she attended and how it was a repeat of CABES "Day on the Hill" Mrs. MacDonald also updated the Board on the following:

- Change of the kindergarten age
- Achievement Gap bill

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Comments from citizens focused on thanking SEF for donation money, thanking SHS for the amount of information regarding incoming freshmen, suspensions, and Dan Agins being a wonderful teacher.

Boards Comments/Concerns

Faith Leitner commented that she would like to meet with teachers again, which the Board did at this time last year, and wanted an update on the China trip.

Leanne Masterjoseph informed the Board that there are 21 participants for the China trip, and that everything is set to go.

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

Motion 6: To enter into executive session at 10:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the superintendent's evaluation and invite Leanne Masterjoseph to join the Board.

Aye: All

The Board came out of executive session at 10:57 p.m.

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

Motion 7: To adjourn at 10:58 p.m.

Aye: All

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Rea', written over a horizontal line.

Doug Rea, Board Secretary