

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 14, 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, Faith Leitner and Alisa Morrison.

Late Arrival: Kevin Bornstein – 7:08 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.

PMS Musical Preview of “Beauty & the Beast, Jr.”

Students from the Pawcatuck Middle School musical, “Beauty & the Beast, Jr.” provided a preview of this year’s production.

Communications & Recognitions

A. “We Are Stonington Public Schools” Awards

Leanne Masterjoseph announced the “We Are Stonington Public School” award recipients, and invited Board members to the reception that will be held on May 12, 2011.

B. Other Recognitions

Fatih Leitner recognized the article in the Mystic Press about the record-breaking season for indoor track.

Gail MacDonald recognized Family University.

Sam Agnello recognized the boy’s basketball team for a 20-win season and their receipt of the Eastern Connecticut District of Basketball Officials’ Award for Sportsmanship.

Communications:

Leanne Masterjoseph shared the following communications:

- National Honor Society invitations
- Parent communication praising the preschool
- Communications from parents concerning World Language

Gail MacDonald shared the following communications:

- Communications concerning World Language
- Communication about the DMS Enrichment Program
- Communication on Social Networking Policy

Comments from Citizens

Comments from citizens focused on World Language and Technology.

Consent Agenda

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

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

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda items as presented

Aye: All

Monthly Reports

Student Government:

Mikelia Gillick reported the following to the Board:

- Visit to SHS by the Class of 2015
- Student Government's Star Week
- Governor's Scholars
- Poet Laureate
- Spring Musical
- Career Day

Financial Report:

Judy Samokar presented the financial report, and answered the Boards questions on projected bottom line numbers.

Operations:

Bill King presented the operations report and the Board did not have any questions at this time.

Curriculum:

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the curriculum report and answered the Board's questions on goals.

Special Services:

Ginny Brown presented the Special Service's report, and the Board did not have any questions at this time.

Personnel & Enrollment:

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

Transportation Contract

Bill King provided the Board with a proposed contract extension with the First Student Transportation Company, and explained about potential savings and benefits.

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

Motion 2: To authorize Bill King to modify the existing contract thereby extending the current contract.

Aye: All

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

Motion 3: To move the Budget Discussion up to the current position on the Agneda

Aye: All

Leanne Masterjoseph provided the Board with a list of the Superintendent's recommended reductions and explained the following to the Board:

- Low Impact Reductions
- Moderate Impact Reductions
- Direct Student Impact

Mrs. Masterjoseph further explained that this list of recommended reductions would have the least amount of impact to students and classrooms.

The Board discussed the Superintendent's list and administrators were on hand to answer their questions.

Progress Toward Board Goals

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

Motion 4: To move World Language Spotlight up before WV WB Literacy Spotlight

Aye: All

A. Goal I – Student Achievement

b. World Language Spotlight

Lea Kennedy introduced Stonington High School students who spoke to the Board in both English and Spanish about the language program and the advantages that learning another language can have.

a. West Vine West Broad Literacy Spotlight

Staff from West Vine/West Broad were on hand to provide an update on their instructional improvement plan and provided information to the Board on the following:

- Teaching Fluency
- Accomplishments
- Student Assessment
- Instruction & Parent Involvement
- Small group/targeted instruction
- Progress Monitoring
- Reading Assessments and Comprehension
- Strategies/Interventions
- Strengths/Needs/Goals
- Student Goal Setting
- Teacher Training/Staff Meetings

B. Goal II – Strategic Plan

a. Building Level Accountability

Tim Smith and staff from PMS provided the following information to the Board:

- Collaboration between students and staff
- Core Values -- “PAWS”
- Expected Behaviors
- Goggle Docs and on-line interaction with students

C. Goal III Facilities Plan

a. K – 4 Educational Specifications Discussion

Leanne Masterjoseph provided an update on the elementary admin team’s look at K-4 Ed Specs and the submitting of specs for consideration.

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

Motion 5: To move item number 11, Healthy Foods Certification, up to the current place on the Agenda

Aye: All

Healthy Foods Certification

Tim Paquette explained the Healthy Food Certification process, and requested the Board’s approval.

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

Motion 6: To approve Stonington’s continued participation in the Healthy Food Program

Aye: All

Policies

- A. Proposed Policy – 5145.122 Use of Dogs to Search School Property – 1st Read
- B. Proposed Revised Policy & Regulations – 5111 – Admission & Placement – 1st Read
- C. Proposed Revised Policy – 5112 = Ages of Attendance – 1st Read

Doug Rea explained that the committee is bringing A, B, and C forward as first reads, and that no action is required

- D. Proposed Revised Policy – 5113 – Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal – 1st Read

Doug Rea explained the additional legislation for this policy, that it is a first read, and that no action is required.

- E. Proposed Revised Policy – 5113.1 – Work Permits – 1st Read

Doug Rea explained that this is a first read and no action is required.

- F. Proposed Revised Policy – 5114.12 – Student Handbooks – 1st Read

Doug Rea explained that the Policy Committee was provided with new wording recommended by CABE and that no action is required at this time.

- G. Policy Review – 5113.14 – Senior Privileges

Doug Rea explained that no action is needed.

- H. Policy Review – 5117 – Student Attendance Areas

- I. Policy Review – 5118 – Nonresident Attendance

Board members discussed Policy Review – 5117 – and – 5118.

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

Motion 7: To update policy 5117, Student Attendance Areas, to April 2011

Aye: All

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

Motion 8: To update policy 5118, Nonresident Attendance, with new date of April 2011

Aye: All

Committee Reports

Athletic:

Sam Agnello provided Board members with a booklet of Fall/Winter sport recaps, and also provided updates on boy's basketball and the Hall of Fame Committee.

Advertising & Promotion:

Kevin Bornstein provided updates on score board advertising as well as seat purchases, armrest plaques, website space and offers of assistance from advertisers.

Bill King provided information on first, second and third year expected revenues and answered the Boards questions on the advertising spots.

Leanne Masterjoseph explained to Board members that they will be provided with a list in order to approve advertisers.

LEARN:

Gail MacDonald provided the following updates from this morning's meeting:

- Lighthouse Project Presentation
- Professional Development
- Kindergarten Age Bill
- Magnet School Registration

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Comments from Citizens focused on where to find Stonington's Policies, Special Education Budget, arm rests for the auditorium, parking permits, and questions about the possibility of teacher cuts.

Boards Comments/Concerns

Gail MacDonald commented on the number of activities that will be taking place and when she will be on vacation.

Sam Agnello stated he will be attending the National Honor Society and Adult Education events.

Kevin Bornstein commented on a Social Networking Policy.

Doug Rea commented on the Town's public hearing and getting the word out to the community in order to let them know what is going on.

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

Motion 9: To adjourn at 9:54 pm

Aye: All

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Rea', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial 'D'.

Doug Rea, Board Secretary