

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING May 10, 2012

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Kevin Bornstein, Frank Todisco and Faith Leitner, Secretary, Craig Esposito.

Also present were Leanne Masterjoseph, Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, students and interested citizens.

Gail MacDonald announced that the Board will start with a short executive session to discuss personnel.

Executive Session

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Frank Todisco:

**Motion 1: To enter into executive session for discussion with respect to personnel.
Aye: All**

Leanne Masterjoseph, Superintendent of Schools, waived her 24 hour notice so this session could take place.

The Board exited executive session at 7:21 p.m.

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 2: To regretfully accept the resignation of Leanne Masterjoseph, Superintendent of Schools, after 2 ½ years of exemplary service.

Aye: All

Gail MacDonald noted that it is with deep regret and sadness that she accepts this pending resignation effective June 30, 2012. Gail continued by acknowledging that Leanne Masterjoseph has been a great leader for the district, compassionate and a positive thinker always wanting the best for our students.

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

Motion 3: To form a search committee comprised of the members of the Board of Education.

Aye: All

Gail MacDonald noted that this would be a closed meeting and does not require posting.

Communications & Recognitions

Recognitions:

Gail MacDonald mentioned that an awards ceremony was held earlier for the recipients of "We are Stonington Public Schools" and recognized all who were nominated.

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized the following:

- Thanked all who went out to vote in the May 8th referendum
- Allyson Lubs for receiving the 2012 Distinguished Teacher Award from the National Council of Geographic Education

Recognitions: (continued)

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized the following:

- Valedictorian Alexander Schroeder and Salutatorian Andrew Han
- Joni Moody who received the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Student Community Leader Award
- Students inducted into the National Honor Society and their families
- Andrea Chiaradio who was named ESPN Softball Player of the Week and featured in Sports Illustrated
- Mark Parsons who was named 2012 High School Teacher of the Year for Suffolk Public Schools in Virginia, a Stonington alumni
- All involved in the upcoming Chain Reaction Concert, May 17th
- United Sports and our recent invitation to attend Michael's Cup Celebration extended by Kate Careb

Alisa Morrison recognized the amazing work that the students did with the Kaleidoscope event.

Faith Leitner recognized Mr. McKenzie for dyeing his mustache blue to raise funds for charity: Water Club.

Gail MacDonald recognized the following:

- Thanked all those who got out and voted on Tuesday, this was much appreciated
- All involved in the banquet for Unified Sports which was very inspirational
- Leanne Masterjoseph and all involved in the Stand Up for Youth Campaign, which received recognition from Senator Andrew Maynard and State Representative Diana Urban

Gail MacDonald explained that in an effort to help ease the upcoming challenges facing the Board, she has chosen to add humor to the Board meetings by incorporating an inspirational quote and cartoon into the board packet each month.

Communications:

Gail MacDonald and Deborah Downie received numerous communications advocating for the .5 administrative position at WVS/WBSS.

Gail MacDonald received communications on the following:

- Mystic Middle School dance
- Items on tonight's agenda, such as the Revenue Generation discussion
- The Board retreat that was postponed and will be rescheduled
- Numerous events coming up at the end of the school year
- Budget concerns

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones thanked Leanne Masterjoseph and wished her good luck. Sue commented on community involvement in the Superintendent's interviewing committee.

Jon Nickerson thanked the Superintendent for her passion for students and unparalleled years of service and applauded the Board and the Superintendent for always trying to do what is best for the students.

Matthew Peele commented on the search committee process and asked that the Board keep the community informed on the items being cut from the budget.

Gordon Lord commented on the budget and advocated for the .5 administrative position at WVS/WBS.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – April 16, 2012 (Special)
April 19, 2012 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Inter-Account Transfers

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

Motion 4: To approve the Consent Agenda items A through C as presented.

Aye: All

BOE Budget 2012-2013

Leanne Masterjoseph noted that the Board of Finance has requested a \$300,000 reduction in the budget. Leanne asked that the Board discuss their budget priorities.

Gail MacDonald opened a Board discussion on budget reductions. Board discussed options and asked administration for their input.

Administration answered the Board's questions on budget line items.

The Board asked Bill King if items on the CIP project list could be delayed. Bill King responded that he would contact the Board of Finance for more information.

Gail MacDonald suggested that the Board hold a special meeting on Thursday, May 24th at 7:30 p.m. in the SHS Commons to further discuss the budget.

SHS Presentation: Plans to Collect Exit Interview Data from Graduating Seniors

Allison VanEtten distributed a hand-out to the Board "Gathering Data on the SPS Experience". Allison explained the purpose and how the collection of exit interview data is conducted with the seniors.

The Board asked questions about the plan and looks forward to the results.

State Technology Plan: Second Read

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

Motion 5: To approve the Stonington Public Schools Technology Plan as presented for submission to the State.

Aye: All

BOE Subcommittee & Revenue Generation Discussion

Gail MacDonald commented that quite a few questions have been raised in regards to Revenue Generation and

Alisa Morrison noted that the Planning and Zoning questioned how the revenue from the scoreboards is being used.

Administration explained how the revenue is being handled.

Board Action on 2012-2013 Perkins Grant

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Deborah Downie:

Motion 6: To approve the submission of the Perkins Vocational Education Grant for 2012-2013 in the amount of \$21,832.

Aye: All

Faith Leitner and Deborah Downie thanked Dr. Murphy for his information on the Perkins Grant.

Healthy Foods Certification

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

Motion 7: To approve Stonington's continued participation in the Healthy Foods Program.

Aye: All

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

Motion 8: To approve the exemption from certification food items in Stonington's continued participation in the Healthy Foods Program.

Aye: All

IDEA Grant Submission

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 9: To approve the IDEA Grant submission as presented.

Aye: All

Early Dismissals and Supervision of Young Children

Bill King handed out information to the Board on this topic and further explained steps that have been explored with the Department of Human Services.

Committee Reports

- Special Services Committee – Deborah Downie attended last month's transition meeting where there was an excellent speaker and a number of parents in attendance. Similar meetings are scheduled for the near future.

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- Safe Schools – Deborah Downie attended the meeting and notes that things are moving along well at the high school.
- Data Mining Committee – Craig Esposito reported that this month’s meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.
- SEF Committee – Faith Leitner reported that the committee decided not to meet this month.
- Policy Committee – Kevin Bornstein reported that the committee did not meet, but would meet next month.
- STEM – Kevin Bornstein reported that committee did not meet.
- Athletic Committee – Alisa Morrison reported that committee did not meet.
- Fields Task Force - Alisa Morrison reported that committee did not meet.

Committee Reports (continued)

- Revenue Generation Committee – Frank Todisco reported that they will be on the agenda for the Planning and Zoning Committee to discuss the high school complex.

Gail MacDonald reported that she attended NSB in Boston last month which included many informative workshops and speeches.

Gail also attended the CABE Board of Directors meeting. Gail made the Board aware of a legislative wrap up on May 15th in Hartford for those interested in attending.

Gail MacDonald also reported taking part in a tour of the Marine Science School.

Monthly Reports

All monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet. The Board had no questions at this time on the monthly reports presented and thanked administration for their reports.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Doug Rea spoke of the budget vote and applauded the efforts of the Board. Doug wished Leanne Masterjoseph the best.

George Crouse commented on assistant tennis coach positions and the importance of maintaining funding for these positions.

Maureen Haberek wished Leanne Masterjoseph best of luck. Maureen commented on importance of the addition of the .5 administrator at WVS/WBSS, spoke of the sports and “pay to play”, and class sizes as related to budget cuts.

Julie Holland thanked the Board for all their hard work, supports the addition of the .5 administrator at WVS/WBSS. Julie made note that is sad to see Leanne leave, admires her as a good communicator and very approachable.

Sue Jones commented on the senior survey, gate receipts and budget line items.

Cindy Nadeau suggested keeping class sizes the same and redistricting moving dividing line.

Board Comments/Concerns

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Faith Leitner commented on consolidation of administrative staff with neighboring towns.

Gail MacDonald pointed out the letter from Mary Broderick, NSBA President included in the Board packet.

Gail reminded the Board that the May 5th retreat was cancelled due to too many conflicts and recommended that the regular June meeting be used for discussion on Board goals. Gail will coordinate a guest speaker to attend and the district's attorney. The Board agreed.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Deborah Downie.

Motion 10: To adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Aye: All


Faith Leitner, Board Secretary