

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING September 27, 2012

The Special Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room.

Members present were Gail B. MacDonald, Chairwoman, Faith Leitner, Secretary, Kevin Bornstein, Frank Todisco, and Craig Esposito.

Absent: Deborah Downie and Alisa Morrison.

Also present were Ana deOliveira, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, students and interested citizens.

Response to State Testing Presentations

Nikki Gullickson gave a presentation on Connecticut's New Accountability System and the district performance targets for 2012-2013. Nikki discussed shifts in performance targets moving to 88% index, Connecticut's New Indicators, performance indices, school classification and how data is calculated.

Nikki explained District Response to State Testing in alignment with district goals and action plans for 2012-2013 and its relation to curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development. Nikki and teachers throughout the district are working in conjunction with other districts on writing assessments.

Nikki also presented the Stonington District Action Plans for 2012-2013 school year which include plans for curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development. Nikki gave an overview on the new Google Docs which gives teachers and staff access to view and comment on curriculum.

Board & Administrative Dialogue

Gail MacDonald asked administration for periodic updates on student assessment scores. Gail believes this would give the Board a better understanding of the classroom needs throughout the district and, therefore, help in budget making decisions.

Principal Terry Jordan explained that assessments are standardized and are done three times a year. Administration agreed to forward this information to the Board.

The Board had questions on:

- District's responsibility and how proficiency is measured for students who move in and out of district
- number of days students are tested
- performance scores for students with disabilities
- how can we close the existing gap
- what grades are certain subject tests given
- Connecticut State Targets in regards to graduation targets as it applies to Stonington's graduation targets
- what steps are being taken to close the gap between how we are teaching now and the new way of teaching
- curriculum roll-out program for parents
- science curriculum
- how the State plan and district's current plan compare
- Common Core

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Board & Administrative Dialogue(continued)

Dr. Murphy reported that eight students did not meet graduation in 2012.

Ruth Rose spoke of how the district is getting to common assessments, developing protocols, bringing students to goal and looking at individual needs.

Nikki Gullickson noted that we are aware of the shifts in teaching methods per the Common Core standards and we are working to implement them across the district.

Virginia Brown commented on the need for an additional Special Ed teacher to work with the Special Ed population on specific needs, to enable growth of these students.

Jenn McCurdy stated the need for numeracy supports still exists; having this would assist students with testing.

Comments from Citizens

Cindy Nadeau asked if there are two separate standards for regular and special education students.

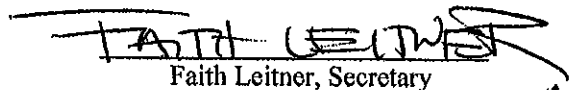
Sue Jones asked if there is anything in place for those students who are at an advanced level in middle school to bump them up a grade.

Sue Jones spoke on the need for math supports, Spanish tutorials, curriculum and the need to reach out to parents on these issues. Sue gave kudos to Dr. Murphy and his staff at SHS for a fabulous back to school night.

The following motion was made by Frank Todisco and seconded by Faith Leitner

Motion 1: To adjourn at 9:34 p.m.

Aye: All


Faith Leitner, Secretary