

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2012

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Frank Todisco, Kevin Bornstein and Craig Esposito.

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

Gail MacDonald thanked all for attending and noted that adjustments have been made to the agenda to improve the flow of the meetings.

MMS Band Recognition

Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent, and the Board recognized the MMS band and Director, James Hilbie, for their recent outstanding performance at the CABA/CAPSS Convention and presented them with a Resolution.

Middle School Student Success Plans Presentation

Middle School Principals, Jenn McCurdy and Tim Smith, Dean of Students, Tom Bousquet, and MMS teacher, Jennifer Bausch, presented a PowerPoint presentation and an update on the Student Success Plan to the Board. An overview was distributed to the Board on preparing our schools for 21st century learning. Both schools have been implementing this plan currently state mandated.

The Board thanked the group for the presentation and had questions on the distributed overview.

Tim Smith and Jenn McCurdy answered the Board's questions.

Jennifer Bausch Siemens STEM Institute Fellowship

Jennifer Bausch, MMS teacher, spoke on the Siemens STEM Institute Fellowship (Science Technology Engineering Math) Academy and gave a presentation on her experience and work with students at MMS.

Communications & Recognitions

Communications:

Gail MacDonald mentioned that the annual Legislative Breakfast is January 10, at Montville High School.

Recognitions:

Deborah Downie congratulated MMS and SHS on their band concerts.

Gail MacDonald recognized Virginia Brown, Director of Special Services, for her long tenure and noted that she will be leaving Stonington Public Schools to pursue another opportunity.

Gail MacDonald recognized the Board members for receiving the CABA recognition award.

Dr. Van Riley recognized the following “We Are Stonington Public Schools” recognition recipients for December:

Thomas Bousquet – Dean of Students - PMS/MMS
Ella Ainscough – Teacher – PMS
Linda Whelan – Teacher – PMS
Gabrielle LaChance – Teacher MMS
Laura Degree – Tutor – MMS
Muggie MacDonald – Paraprofessional – MMS
Melissa Lestinsky – Paraprofessional & Parent
Randy Lestinsky – Parent
Lily Careb – Student – Mystic Middle School

Comments from Citizens

Cindy Nadeau commented on the excellent chorus concerts that recently took place at MMS and PMS.

2012-13 School Calendar Direction

Dr. Riley spoke on the recommendations to the 2012-13 calendar regarding snow/weather makeup days and asked the Board for direction on this matter.

The Board recommended that a formal motion be made on the changes to the calendar.

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

Motion 1: To approve the 2012-2013 School Calendar as suggested with the added snow/weather makeup days in the following order: June 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27. If more than these nine days are required, the Board may then consider using days currently planned for spring break.

Aye: All

2013-14 School Calendar Approval

Dr. Riley reviewed his suggestions for the 2013-14 School Calendar with the Board.

The Board asked how the suggested calendar compared to the regional calendar. Both the Board and Dr. Riley agreed to re-visit the 2013-14 School Calendar at the January Board meeting.

Board Liaison to Other Local Boards

The Board discussed the idea of having a BOS and BOF liaison to the BOE which would take part in future Board meetings. The Board discussed the idea of having more joint meetings in the future. The Board also suggested that a joint meeting would be beneficial during the current budget season.

Gail MacDonald shared a proposal received by the town Boards suggesting a joint quarterly or monthly meeting with all the Boards and committees in town to share main business.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – November 8, 2012 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. CO Classified Staff/HS Executive Secretary Contract Ratification
- D. Resolution to Name Signers for Accounts at Washington Trust
- E. Summary of CT General Statute 7-322b – volunteers serving in municipality where employed.

The following motion was made by Frank Todisco and seconded by Craig Esposito:

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

Aye: All

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent, commented on the following:

- SPS's exceptional music and band students.
- Blue Monday donations and offering these funds to the music teachers to support programs.
- PTO and Booster parents meeting in which wonderful suggestions were discussed and suggested group meet more often.

Gail MacDonald asked for a full report on State Dept of Ed budget impact on schools and performance indexes.

Dr. Riley shared with the Board information on the State Dept of Ed budget impact on schools and will continue to keep the Board updated as more information is available.

Budget Direction and Discussion

Dr. Riley recognized administration's efforts on the budget preparation. Dr. Riley discussed ways to reprioritize so that budget funds are better utilized. Dr. Riley spoke on his recommendations and proposal of budget preparation and presentation and gave the Board suggestions on ways to reallocate funds.

Dr. Riley noted that he will provide budget options to the Board at the January budget meeting.

Board asked administration questions relating to the budget suggestions particularly in relationship to full day Kindergarten and what implications this would have on the budget.

Gail MacDonald asked about the budget formula for the sites, class sizes and targets.

Dr. Riley explained how this formula was derived and will have more detail in the next Board meeting on the Board's budget questions.

Frank Todisco asked that administration supply the Board with more data on Summer Academy and School Moves at the next Board meeting.

2013-2014 CIP Approval

Administration provided the Board with the 2013-14 CIP and answered the Board's questions.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Frank Todisco:

Motion 3: To approve the 2013-2014 CIP as presented.

Aye: All

Monthly Reports

All monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet.

The Board had no questions on these reports.

Nikki Gullickson presented the book "Red Scarf Girl" by Ji-Li Jang for a second read and approval.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 4: To approve the adoption of the text "Red Scarf Girl" by Ji-Li Jang.

Aye: All

Out of District Placement Student Report

Dr. Riley and Virginia Brown, Director of Special Services, presented to the Board a summary of current outplaced students and supporting data.

Board had no questions.

Committee Reports

Faith reported that SEF will have its annual fund raiser on February 23rd at the Mystic Aquarium.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones applauded Dr. Riley on the itemized budget suggestions and asked that the January budget presentations be available to the public through the district's website.

Board Comments/Concerns

Gail MacDonald reminded the Board of the Board meeting schedule for budget presentation in January.

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

Motion 5: To adjourn at 9:11 p.m.

Aye: All


Faith Leitner, Board Secretary