

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 10, 2013

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Frank Todisco, and Craig Esposito.

Absent: Kevin Bornstein

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

Communications & Recognitions

No communications or recognitions at this time.

Comments from Citizens

No comments at this time.

2013-2014 Calendar

Gail MacDonald explained that the Board previously gave Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent, direction on the 2013-14 calendar. Dr. Riley presented the Board with three calendar options and asked the Board to take action this evening to approve one.

The Board discussed implications of all three options and had questions for administration. Administration answered the Board's questions.

The following motion was made by Frank Todisco and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 1: To approve Option A of the 2013-14 School Calendar as presented.

Gail MacDonald: Yes

Craig Esposito: Yes

Frank Todisco: Yes

Deborah Downie: Yes

Alisa Morrison: Yes

Faith Leitner: No

Motion Passed

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes -- December 13, 2012 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. RFP Policy Manual Rejection
- E. Memorial Day Bearathon Road Race

Gail MacDonald requested Item D be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed during the next item on the agenda.

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

Motion 2: To approve Consent Agenda items A, B, C and E as presented.

Aye: All

Policy Committee Recommendations

Frank Todisco asked that Dr. Riley share his reason for the RFP rejection and his recommendations.

Dr. Riley explained his recommendation for using district administrative staff to update the current Policy Manual through the assistance of CABE services and therefore requested that the RFP Policy Manual be rejected. Dr. Riley explained periodic reviews of the policies will be put into place.

Gail MacDonald made the Board aware of the need for special meetings which will coincide with these periodic review dates.

The following motion was made by Frank Todisco and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 3: To approve the rejection of the RFP Policy Manual.

Aye: All

Board Goals

Gail MacDonald noted the Board has approved their goals but requested Dr. Riley create an outline of action steps and rough timelines to achieve those goals.

The Board discussed the outline presented by Dr. Riley and requested Dr. Riley modify the goals to reflect more Board representation.

Budget Proposal

Dr. Riley distributed copies of the 2013-14 Budget Proposal. Dr. Riley gave an overview of each section, shared his recommendations and compared his budget proposal to previous year's budgets. Dr. Riley thanked administration and staff for their assistance in the budget proposal.

Gail MacDonald went over the schedule for the upcoming Board meetings which will focus on the 2013-14 Budget Proposal. Gail noted there will be a February 7th public forum for comments from citizens and the February 17th Board meeting will be a regular session meeting in which the 2013-14 Budget Proposal will be approved for presentation to the Board of Finance.

The Board thanked all who took part in the preparation of the 2013-14 Budget Proposal. The Board requested information on class sizes and staffing for the next meeting.

Dr. Riley and administration answered the Boards questions on the budget proposal.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent reported about his meeting with the SHS Student Government in which discussion focused on parking issues and other new ideas. Dr. Riley also met with Rob Marseglia, Bill King, and Ed Haberek and Terry Jordan for a tour of WVS building. A tentative Building Committee meeting is set for January 20th.

Monthly Reports

All monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet. Administration answered the Boards questions.

The Board had questions on the timeline of the new School Based Health Center at PMS, curriculum submission deadlines, achievement gaps and Food Service program.

Committee Reports

Gail MacDonald noted that the Board serves on numerous committees and asked the Board to share any new information.

Alisa reported she has been working with Glee McAnanly from the Board of Selectmen office on the upcoming community outreach program and asked that there be representation from both Boards at the first meeting on February 10th meeting. Alisa also gave an update on the Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee and asked the Board for direction on the Board's role in this issue. Gail MacDonald asked that this item be put on the regular February Board meeting.

Faith Leitner reminded all of the SEF Education Celebration on February 23rd at the Mystic Aquarium, invitation to follow electronically. Faith also reported that funds of \$3,000 have been received so far through the annual SEF appeal. Faith noted that funding of \$6,500 was generated through Blue Mondays and was extended to the schools to support the music programs.

Gail MacDonald reported she took part in two events, the Security Symposium and the Legislative Breakfast in which focused on school climate and mental health service. Gail believes that consideration should be made on expanding our safe schools committee.

Approval of New Director of Special Services

Dr. Riley explained that the interview committee is not ready to make a recommendation at this time. There will be final interviews on Monday and will then be able to move two candidates forward to the Board for approval.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones commented and pointed out differences in the music programs between middle schools, had a questions staffing at PMS, funding for PSATs and SATs, budget and Special Ed transportation.

Matthew Peel commented on the 2013-14 Budget Proposal, central office management of funds and recommended that the budget be presented in a different format which would make the budget process easier to follow.

Board Comments/Concerns

No comments/concerns at this time.

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

Motion 4: To enter into Executive Session.

Aye: All

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:01 p.m.

Superintendent Evaluation and Teachers Negotiations – Executive Session

The Board exited Executive Session at 10:15 p.m.

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

Motion 5: To adjourn at 10:16 p.m.

Aye: All


Faith Leitner, Board Secretary