

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING APRIL 11, 2013

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:08 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, Joni Moody, Student Government, members of the staff, students and interested citizens.

Communications & Recognitions

Recognitions

Frank Todisco applauded the Pawcatuck Middle School Drama Club for their great performance of Willie Wonka, Jr. under the direction of Dr. Lori Liguori and Robin Aubin. Mr. Todisco also recognized Julie Holland for her work with the Sensory Garden at West Vine Street School.

Dr. Van Riley recognized the following "We Are Stonington Public Schools" recognition recipients for April:

Eric Gimple – Student -SHS
Anne Miller – SPS Parent
Dr. Lori Liguori – Staff - PMS
Rob Marseglia – SPS Parent

Dr. Van Riley noted that March was Board appreciation month, and presented each Board member with a thank you card and book created by the kindergarten classrooms.

Gail MacDonald congratulated teacher Mandy Kulpik, who was honored with the *The Owen Vail Scholarship Award*. Ms. Kulpik will be attending workshops and conferences this summer on the approach to reading.

Gail MacDonald recognized Judith Samokar, Finance Manager, for all her hard work. Ms. Samokar will be retiring at the end of the 2012-13 school year. Mrs. MacDonald also recognized the only Connecticut native on the ladies Husky basketball team, one of our own, Heather Buck.

Student Government Junior Project – Discussion/Approval

Joni Moody introduced students Katie Brandon, John Dong, and Emily Craig who presented the Junior project *Senior Prom*. This event will be held on the afternoon of May 19 at the Stonington High School Commons. The Junior class hopes to make this an annual event.

The Board applauded and supported the project. Faith Leitner showed her support for the idea and suggested that transportation be coordinated through places such as StoneRidge. Bill King volunteered to coordinate transportation with First Student

Comments from citizens

Cindy Nadeau commented on "We Are SPS" recipient Eric Gimple and noted that he will be receiving the Eagle Scout badge in June for his shed project. Mrs. Nadeau expressed her concern for better communication to parents in regards to changes in security procedures at Pawcatuck Middle School and believes that an email should have been sent to parents to this effect. Mrs. Nadeau also commented on event scheduling conflicts, and requested that such conflicts be avoided in the future, so that parents do not need to choose which to attend.

Dr. Van Riley explained that a regional calendar will be available in the future which will eliminate conflicts such as these.

Kim Connett spoke of the importance of getting the community out to vote and feels the community should be aware and understand the impact that the budget has on the community. Ms. Connett is willing to help get the word out about the vote and to get more community members to register to vote.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes - March 14, 2013 (Special)
March 14, 2013 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Textbook Adoption: Magruder's American Government 2013-First Read
- E. SEED Approval
- F. Healthy Food Certification Statement (ED099)
- G. SHS – Quebec Field Trip

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

Motion 1: To approve Consent Agenda items A through F as presented.

Aye: All

Faith Leitner had questions regarding the Quebec field trip with regards to which students are eligible to attend. Administration noted that any student may attend.

The following motion was made by Frank Todisco and seconded by Deborah Downie:

Motion 2: To approve item G on the Consent Agenda.

Aye: All

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Van Riley gave a report on the following items:

- 1. May 9 Board of Ed Agenda preview
- 2. Middle School
 - Technology
 - "Challenge" Program
 - Task Force
- 3. Preschool Program locations for the fall
- 4. Business Office reorganization as a result of the retirement of the Finance Manager
- 5. Reception May 9, at 6:00 p.m. for Retirees and "We Are SPS" Recipients
- 6. Microphone Update - calibrations were done
- 7. Field Use/Field Fees - will be bringing back to BOE for proposal
- 8. Code Red Drills - how we communicate these drills was discussed
- 9. Health Clinic Update - clinic will be moving forward so not to lose the funds
- 10. Long-term care and disability program – option for all employees with no cost to the Board

Dr. Van Riley distributed a list of school events to the Board members and invited them to attend the various events. He also distributed the current "Anticipated Vacancy Posting" and noted that posting early would bring in good candidates. Dr. Van Riley mentioned the upcoming Mystic Chamber breakfast on May 22 at the Stonington High School Commons. Dr. Van Riley had available for the community a handout with times and locations for the upcoming budget vote.

Gail MacDonald asked the Board to add an item to the agenda.

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

Motion 3: To add the agenda item regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between the Stonington Board of Education and the Stonington School Administrators' and Supervisors' Association.

Aye: All

Stonington Board of Education Regular Meeting, April 11, 2013 – Page 3

Gail MacDonald noted that the MOU being approved is in regards to administrators' vacation days.

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Faith Leitner:

Motion 4: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Stonington Board of Education and the Stonington School Administrators' and Supervisors' Association.

Aye: All

Budget Discussion and Direction

Dr. Van Riley presented the following list of recommendations for the \$150,000 budget cut: (hardcopy available/distributed)

- Advance purchases with current balances
- Renegotiate First Student Transportation contract
- Additional retirees and resignations
- Reconfiguration of departments
- Overtime and substitutes

The Board had questions on the recommended items. Dr. Van Riley assured them that the \$150,000 budget cut will be covered using the proposed suggested items.

The Board discussed ways to communicate the need for the community to vote.

Gail MacDonald asked Joni Moody, Student Government representative, for her assistance in spreading the word to classmates about the vote and encouraging them to register to vote.

Board Retreat Discussion

The Board discussed a date and time of the Board retreat. Dr. Van Riley will be posting an agenda for the retreat, once a location has been decided upon.

Board members discussed the need for a moderator. The Board will determine the need once an agenda is established.

Stonington Public Schools Facebook Page

Alisa Morrison believes that this is another mechanism to connect the school and community. The Board discussed the pros and cons of having a Facebook page and noted this would be an item on the next Policy Committee's agenda. Alisa Morrison will be contacting area school districts to get their input on this issue.

Monthly Reports

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

Frank Todisco inquired on the status of the softball scoreboard. Bill King reported that panels were received this week and will follow up further on status of completion.

Kevin Bornstein had questions on the Professional/Technical Service report in regards to special education fees. Judy Samokar noted where these fees could be found on the report.

Faith Leitner asked administration when testing results for CMT and CAPT would be available. Administration noted that a preview of the results would be available to staff mid-July.

Gail MacDonald asked Joni Moody to share classmate feedback regarding the upcoming graduation ceremony. Ms. Moody noted that the Seniors are excited because it is something different and are grateful that they were given the opportunity to have the ceremony at the Coast Guard Academy.

Gail MacDonald had questions on the transfer of monies for the security item that will be presented to the BOF. Bill King stated that he will represent the Board at the BOF meeting on Tuesday, April 16, and will present this request to the BOF.

Gail MacDonald thanked Allison Van Etten for her work with the United Way. Mrs. Van Etten stated that this is a great resource and will continue to communicate with them.

Committee Reports

Deborah Downie noted that she recently attended a Safe School Committee meeting and asked if a District Committee would be meeting in the future.

Faith Leitner asked that as Board members attend various committees to send out quick follow up email to Board members so that the Board may stay updated on current issues.

Alisa Morrison reported on the POCD document and its data on historical enrollment, CO relocation, and new building renovation.

Alisa Morrison noted that May 1 would be the ground breaking for the new field at the high school.

Gail MacDonald reported that the CABA's regional meeting is scheduled for June.

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

Motion 5: To add the POCD item to the agenda.

Aye: All

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

Motion 6: To accept the report submitted by Alisa Morrison and to forward it to the POCD committee as the BOE contribution to the POCD.

Aye: All

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

No comments at this time.

Items for Future Agendas

None at this time.

Board Comments/Concerns

No comments at this time.

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

Motion 7: To adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Aye: All


Faith Leitner, Board Secretary