

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING August 22, 2013

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Deborah Downie, Frank Todisco and Craig Esposito.

Late Arrival: Alisa Morrison – 6:40 p.m.

Absent: Kevin Bornstein

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

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments at this time.

Bill King Appointment to Town Retirement Board

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

Motion 1: To approve the appointment of Bill King to the Town Retirement Board.

All: Aye

Board Handbook – Second Read

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

Motion 2: To approve the Board Handbook as presented.

All: Aye

Policy 5141 – Student Health Services – First Read

The Board discussed the need for a second read on this policy and a decision was made to approve the policy as a first read.

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

Motion 3: To approve Policy 5141 – Student Health Services as presented.

All: Aye

SEED Presentation/Discussion

Gail MacDonald and Frank Todisco gave their view of the program. The Board and Student Government representative along with Administration had a dialogue, question and answer session regarding their concerns and challenges in the implementation of the SEED program.

The Board agreed to continue periodic discussions with administration on the SEED program throughout the implementation process and use of the program..

The Board also discussed the need to make the community aware of this teacher and administration evaluation program and process.

CMT Scores

Gail MacDonald reminded all that an in-depth discussion on this topic usually takes place during either the regular or special meeting in September, but asked that a brief overview be presented to the Board prior to the meeting.

Nikki Gullickson reported the turnaround of scores was extremely quick this year. Mrs. Gullickson gave a small glimpse of some the results in some of the grades. Mrs. Gullickson noted that the State has applied for a waiver from the Federal Government in regards to the options of tests that may be administered. Mrs. Gullickson will keep the Board up to date on the status of this waiver. Mrs. Gullickson will also provide the Board with the test results for their review prior to the next meeting.

Board of Education Goals

Gail MacDonald explained the goals in place are from 2012-13 which were the main focus at the Board's recent retreat. Mrs. MacDonald asked if the Board would like to continue with these same goals for the new school year.

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

Motion 4: To approve the Board of Education Goals as specified.

All: Aye

Board Committee Structure

Gail MacDonald reviewed the list of the various new and existing committees and acknowledged that there are various individuals who are interested in taking part in them. Mrs. MacDonald will work with Dr. Riley to finalize the list of committee members.

Requests to Board of Finance

Dr. Riley explained that administration is always looking for ways to improve its financial situation and reviewed the items listed below as some potential items that he suggests be presented to the Board of Finance. Dr. Riley asked for the Board's permission to move forward and present these items to the BOF.

1. Modify current MOU to allow certain budgeted funds to be used in case of emergencies
2. Request that out-of-district tuition be transferred directly to district account to cover costs of tuition paying student(s)
3. Medicaid Billing, Van explains that there are items that our staff is doing that you can keep a log on and get money back from this

The Board requested a list of all potential items for discussion from administration for the next meeting.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

None at this time.

Board Comments/Concerns

Frank Todisco requested an item be added to the Board agenda monthly regarding student spotlight so the Board and community can highlight student projects and celebrate their accomplishments.

Alisa Morrison noted that the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new high school field will be on September 11 at 6:00 p.m., all are invited. Mrs. Morrison also mentioned the first official game will be girls' varsity field hockey.

Faith Leitner commented she toured the Deans Mill School building and was so impressed with how the teachers were coming in and preparing their classrooms for opening day. Mrs. Leitner stated they look fantastic and "Pristine and Park-Like" and staff should take pride in their buildings.

Dr. Van Riley acknowledged the custodian and maintenance staff for doing a very good job getting our buildings ready for opening day. Dr. Riley feels the pride is growing and things will get better and better.

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

Motion 5: To adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Aye: All


Faith Leitner, Board Secretary