

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2014

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Media Center.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Clock, Falcetti, Shuhi and Waugh.

Absent was: Mr. Bongiorno.

Also present were: Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Zaremski; Mr. Lathrop; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Turner; Ms. Kubisek; and members of the public.

Dr. Wheeler stated: personnel matter involving Ms. Della Volpe; agreement made to return to work; plan to address with school and community; suspended for 10 days unpaid; counselling to be completed; plans to address the students in the classroom; life decisions made; and per advice of counsel this is the extent of statements to be made.

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the minutes of regular meeting January 8, 2014 as submitted.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the payment of invoices on Accounts Payable warrant dated 1/23/2014 in the amount of \$191,259.78.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Mr. Simone abstained.

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC – none.
PTO – none.
- b. LHS – student council – none.
- c. Other Public Comment

- Mr. Sandrib commented on student life survey; 1-to-1 laptop program fees; and regionalization.
 - Ms. Lubo commented in support of survey; Principal incident; and regionalization.
 - Ms. Sobek commented on Principal's behavior; examples for youth lacking; and possible replacement needed.
 - Ms. Schildgen commented on drugs and moral issues at L.H.S.; leadership ability of the Principal; and ability to guide youngsters.
 - Mr. Sobek commented on 1-to-1 computer program security issues; options to keep computers until problem solved and protection can be offered.
 - Ms. Scozzafava commented on validity of own device at school like a cell phone along with the computers that are being offered; use of phone by students in classrooms; message being sent if phones are prohibited.
 - Mr. Wagner commented on non-support of survey and possibly staff and faculty take the survey too.
 - Ms. Andrulis commented on supporting the computer program in 7th and 8th grade; and questioned the opt-out process for not doing the survey.
- d. Correspondence
- A letter from Mr. and Mrs. Lupo regarding the personnel matter with Ms. Della Volpe.
 - A letter from Ms. Rockness regarding the personnel matter with Ms. Della Volpe.
 - A letter from Mr. Pellegrino regarding the personnel matter with Ms. Della Volpe.
- e. Administrator's Reports
- Ms. Turner reported: Kindergarten meetings being held for information gathering and projected numbers from the local preschools.

Superintendent's Report

- a. Thanks for the following donations:
- \$5,100 donated for a classroom set of tablets by Ray Cappella.
 - Percussion equipment for L.I.S. stage donated by David Patchell of East Coast Sheet Metal valued at \$1,500.
- b. Presentation of Superintendent's Proposed Budget 2014-2015 - available on the school web site.

Dr. Wheeler presented a power point including: 2014-2015 Budget Proposal; \$16,617,997.00 total proposed, \$759,542 in new dollars, 4.79% proposed percentage increase; priorities; class size impact K, 2nd, and 4th; areas of significant savings; areas of greatest increase; enrollment longitudinal data, January 1, 2014: 989; FTEs; reductions; restructuring; additions; replacements; tuitions; other areas of note; 2014-2015 proposed budget pie chart; and next steps, present to Board for adoption Feb. 19th or March 5th; Board

of Finance review March 17; Town budget Hearing April 23rd; and Annual town Budget Meeting May 7th.

Dr. Wheeler acknowledged that the increase is high; she will collaborate with the Board during the next six weeks to finalize her proposal.

Board members discussed: small budget increases over the past several years; budget book is also online; principal recommendations; hiring mental health professional; 2% in salary increase; retirement issues; 3 positions to be taken out; special services needed; insurance needs; need to get insurance bids every 3 to 4 years; meeting with benefits' specialist on Feb. 4th; self-insure now; stop gap portion of insurance; laptop insurance fees; tuition fees; regionalization committee already formed and homeland security recommendations and costs.

New Business

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the out of state field trip to Ellis Island as presented.

Ms. Murphy reported: 5th grade inter district, diversity program; Immigration Nation; 5 field trips; and other schools involved.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Committee Reports

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met on January 9th and discussed: Health curriculum for grades K – 12; AP Psychology course; alternative courses; AP courses for next year; and Spanish teacher certification in place.

Policy – the committee met on January 16th.

Policies

- a. First Reading - Policy #4118.51/4218.51 Employee Use of Social Media – revisions made. Return to BOE for second reading at next regular meeting.
- b. First Reading - Policy # 5131 Bring Your Own Device and 1-To-1 Computing – revisions made. Return to BOE for second reading at next regular meeting.
- c. First Reading - Policy # 5131.4/6177 Technology – policy reviewed. Return to BOE for second reading at next regular meeting.

- d. Rescind – Policy # 5131.81 Use of Beepers-Paging Devices/Cellular Telephones – tabled until Facilities and Technology Committee Chair can review.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Executive Session

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Clock, Falcetti, Shuhi and Waugh.

Dr. Wheeler was invited to attend.

Open session resumed at 8:30 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Carr: to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

MOTION carried. All voters were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Falcetti, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording secretary