

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2013

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library/Media Center.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Bongiorno, Falcetti, Katzin, and Shuhi. Mr. Waugh was absent.

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

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting January 9, 2013 with the following correction: on page 3089 under the first motion discussion more information should be included to clarify the personnel who might conduct exit interviews for retirees.

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

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the payment of invoices for 2012-2013 as required.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC – no report
PTO – Ms. Moore reported: 2nd general meeting to be held tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Center School gym.
- b. LHS Student Council – no report.
- c. Other public comment:
 - Ms. Stull - commented on keeping the French program at L.H.S. to enhance student learning and not remove a Kindergarten and first grade teacher in order to keep low enrollment in the classroom.
 - Faith Morgan a sixth grade student commented on keeping the French program in the district.
 - Kevin Tessier - commented on maintaining low enrollment in Kindergarten and 1st grade and keeping French in the curriculum offerings.

- d. Correspondence – none.
- e. Administrators' reports:
 - Mr. Zaremski reported: donation from the Knights of Columbus (\$731) to be used in social services; equipment for Center School; and number of successful PPT meetings.
 - Ms. Murphy reported: Junior Achievement for grades 4, 5 and 6 starts tomorrow; related to curriculum; volunteers from Litchfield Bancorp; and Feb. 6th CT read aloud day.
 - Ms. Turner reported: CT read aloud day on Feb. 6th; Kindergarten registration now taking place; reminders sent home to families; first lockdown held last week; unannounced lockdown will be done differently at Center School than at L.I.S. and L.H.S.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: Interact club collection of school supplies for schools affected by storm Sandy; M.S. student council attended Leadership Council at Wesleyan, chaperoned by Shoshana Armington; peer educators teaching conflict resolution during guidance lesson; random acts of kindness taking place; Minecraft club; lockdown done in all grades; 7th and 8th grade placement for next year; 8th grade parent meeting to begin soon and MS full day, H.S. early dismissal for exams.

Superintendent's Report

- a. Staffing updates: Jamie McDevitt's request for maternity leave and Jennifer Digliani's letter of resignation.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to accept the letter of resignation from Jennifer Digliani, a 6th grade teacher at LIS.

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

- b. Gift from Ray Capello of 24, 7 inch tablets valued at \$4,378. Thank you for his generosity.
- c. Finance Committee meeting last evening: Committee has requested feedback on pool rental fee and a building utilization study.
 - Pool rental fee background Mr. Lathrop distributed handouts, historic swimming pool charges; swim team costs – 2011-2012; and swim team hours – 2011-2012; Board discussed the following: former grants offset the costs; possible use of Shepaug pool; transportation costs increase to travel to Shepaug; need for feedback for budget purposes; swimming compared to other athletics; rental facility; parents pay for football, hockey and lacrosse; crew issues; coop teams not Board's teams; 64 students involved; possibly change schedules to accommodate pool availability; possibly extend to town use; swim activity through community

center; input from athletic director; compare costs to other sports; costs are high because used to have free use of Forman's pool.

- Building utilization: potential tuition from Thomaston High School; need to have conversation with Thomaston Superintendent; other districts being considered; placement issues; Board supports scheduled meeting with Thomaston Consolidation Committee.

Old Business - None

New Business

- a. Smart Board Presentation: Ms. Della Volpe outlined a Smart Board presentation for 7th grade math; HS math; HS social studies; and business; more efficient; more effective learning; webbed links; increase collaboration; quiz tools; student engagement in lessons; and authentic realistic activity.
- b. Request for LOA:

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Sarah McHugh's request for an unpaid leave of absence following her maternity leave and going through the end of this school year.

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 10th and discussed the following: SEED update; LIS schedule; math curriculum update with Ms. O'Neil and Ms. Shuhi; Common Core Standards alignment; K-6 PD; world language update; 4-6 Spanish; discrepancy in hours for credit; Forman Rainforest Project consideration; and personnel needs for budget.

FFT - Mr. Bongiorno reported: met target on having the 7th and 8th grade laptops ready for distribution; discussed technology rotation schedule with Mr. Lathrop; 4 year plan; replacements; wireless readiness; 7th and 8th grade schedule for release; insurance and waiver issues; and vendor issues regarding wireless installation being resolved.

Mr. Shuhi reported: security measures and improvements; building utilization; pool rental issues; financial report from Mr. Lathrop; technology rotation; budget personnel and retirement savings; FTE (-2) \$195,000 savings; and next meeting January 30th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the budget in detail and present to the Board on February 6th.

Policy - Mr. Carr reported that the committee met on January 17th and discussed: Policy #3516 Safety; #3517 Security of Buildings and Grounds; #5131.82 School Publications.

Policies

- a. First Reading – Policy # 3516 Safety – no changes needed. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.
- b. First Reading – Policy # 3517 Security of Buildings and Grounds – one change made. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.
- c. First Reading – Policy # 5131.82 School Publications – changes made. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.
- d. Second Reading – Policy # 4149/4249 Employee Use of the District’s Computer System.
- e. Second Reading – Policy # 5131.4/6177 Technology

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve Policy # 4149/4249 Employee Use of the District’s computer Systems and Policy #5131.4/6177 Technology.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent Mid-Year Review.

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

Executive Session

Present were: Ms. Carr, Ms. Fabbri, Ms. Rosser, Mr. Katzin, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Simone, Mr. Shuhi, Mr. Falcetti, and Dr. Wheeler.

Returned to public session at 8:50 p.m.

No action was taken.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

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

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