

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2012

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Library Media Center.

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

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

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of October 3, 2012 as written.

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 – Ms. Fabbri reported: Yankee Candle pickup on Friday; next meeting October 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the library; fundraiser – recycled prom clothing; and planning for Minute to Win It has been put on hold.
PTO – Ms. Moore reported: Fall Family dinner, October 26th, 5:30 p.m. at Center School, costumes optional; Board members welcome.
- b. Student Council- Dr. Wheeler reported on the Student Council activities at the high school.
- c. Public Comment – none.
- d. Correspondence – none.
- e. Administrators' Reports –
 - Ms. Murphy reported- Fire Prevention Day today; teacher repelling off building as demonstration; thank you to Fire volunteers; 5th grade Science visit to High School, and Mr. Fowler's class to dissect sheep's eye.

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- Ms. Turner reported – Fire Prevention Day yesterday; refreshments served to the firefighters; Mr. Mongeau participated in uniform; parent conferences were well attended; and extended instructional time in school day by switching bus pick up time with L.I.S.
- Ms. Della Volpe reported – Berkshire League Music festival completed; Envirothon training in progress; students attending genetic update symposium with Mr. Conklin; accounting workshop at UCONN; LOTF field trip on Friday; PSAT here on Saturday; Hispanic Heritage on Monday; Mr. Kassay’s Photo Design class to work on 3 dimensional pictures of the Green next week on Monday; Peter Perkins will host a workshop performance of “Crescendo” from Baroque Polish Polychoral Sacred Works.

Superintendent’s Report

- a. Annual Goals handout: DPI based on CAPT and CMTs; restructuring budget presentation; positive communication from televised Board meetings on Cablevision.

Board members discussed: developing curriculum; flipping curriculum; collaboration with Region 6; calendar for budget process; plans after Strategic Plan is completed; and staffing part of budget process.

- b. School Climate Survey: required under legislative mandate; conduct every 2 years; one for parents, students and faculty in grades 3, 6, and 9; play role in teacher evaluation process; done end of October; aggregate data; and sample question.

Board members discussed: under question addressing reasons for being treated unfairly add “no reason at all;” anonymous survey; sample copied from State; social media issues; harassment issues; contact information or resources available listed at end of survey.

- c. PEGPETIA application grant: \$124,508.27 for video equipment; storage; content and production.
- d. LEF fundraiser gift card available; LEA has donated \$110,000 to our schools over the years.

New Business

Mr. O’Connell presented student achievement data: 2011-12 Test Results: CMT, CAPT, SAT, AP; Math and Reading Vertical Scale Growth Grade - 3 to 4; Vertical Scale Growth - Grade 3 to 5; Vertical Scale Growth – Grade 4 to 6; Vertical Scale Growth- Grade 5 to 7; Vertical Scale Growth – Grade 6 to 8; Class of 2014 Current Juniors chart; Instruction Adjustments at Center; Instruction Adjustments to Language Arts at LIS; Instructional Adjustment to Elementary Math; Instructional Adjustments to Science at LIS; Instructional

Adjustments to Math at LHS; Instructional Adjustments to Language Arts at LHS; SAT Comparisons for the Class of 2012; Mean Senior SAT I Scores by Class; 2012 Advanced Placement Results at LHS; Celebrations; and Continuing Our Work, Student, Teacher, Content.

Board members discussed: less opportunity for growth at level 5, the advanced level; indicators for improvement; need to look at individual students; patterns observed; focus area - look at strands not mastered; need to look at instructional weaknesses; common planning time used; coordinate curriculum issues with common core; remedial students' needs; teachers formulate professional goals based on data; part of a much bigger picture; start points in 3rd grade; no writing data in vertical scale; CMT and CAPT tests very different; vertical scales take into account standards going up; can't look at CAPT in isolation; scores for boys vs. girls; benefit for students in elementary grades; need for PD for teachers; importance of music and art in student success; specials times for K -1 vs. 3 and 4; strong impact on scores on editing and revising; math lab for M.S.; smarter balance goals; new curriculum needs to reflect Common Core; SAT participants high; good results for AP classes; grammar needs; and need to target teaching.

Dr. Wheeler introduced Kim Culkin as an intern to the Superintendent.

Committee Reports

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met and discussed the following: update on Safe School climates thanks to Ms. Kubisek; alumni survey update; Naviance Career Cruising; curriculum map; honor roll criteria and need for Board input.

Board members discussed; meaningless if over half the students make the honor roll; need to reflect true effort and achievement; need to raise the bar; need to be exceptional to make honor roll; 3 levels now; grading practices and honor roll; service component needed; weighing grades; recognizing students that work hard to get good grades and request to put on agenda for next meeting.

Finance - Mr. Shuhi reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday the 22nd.

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee met and discussed capital requests; lap tops; policy for 1 on 1 technology; and when students will get laptops.

Mr. Lathrop reported: Capital Project request due Nov. 5th; Finance Committee and Principal input; shared services; technology as part of capital; needs for smart boards; training for use of smart boards; and 2 million dollars for capital.

Policies - Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet tomorrow night to discuss One to One Technology. Bring Your Own Device will be discussed at the following meeting.

Policies

- a. Second Reading – Policy # 5121 Examination/Grading/Rating

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 5121 Examination/Grading/Rating.

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

- b. Second Reading – Policy # 5123 Retention

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 5123 Retention.

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

- c. Second Reading – Policy # 5124 Reporting to Parents

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 5124 Reporting to Parents.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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

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