

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 19, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Library/Media Center.

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

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

**Approve Minutes**

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of regular meeting March 5, 2014 with the following correction: on page 3233 under correspondence “Lego Club” should be “Leo Club.”

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 on Accounts Payable warrant dated 3/20/14 in the amount of \$149,268.76.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the payment of invoices on Food Services warrant dated 3/19/2014 in the amount of \$281.

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

**Public Comment and Correspondence**

- a. STPC – Ms. Fabbri reported: next meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> kicking off spring activities and members are welcome.
- b. PTO – Ms. Stone reported: parent academy tomorrow night (preK – 6<sup>th</sup>); book swap still going; March 24<sup>th</sup> Mother-Son event at L.I.S.; and April 5<sup>th</sup> the Road Race in memory of Joanne McCormick.
- c. LHS Student Council – none.
- d. Other public comment:
  - Ms. Dobos commented in opposition to Common Core Standards.

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- e. Other public comment (continued)
  - Mr. Sandrib commented on Smarter Balance testing and colleges that do not put SAT scores as part of their admission requirements.
- f. Correspondence
  - A copy of the annual report from CIRMA.
  - Email from Kevin Tieman from the Prevention Council in favor of using Police dogs in school.
- g. Administrators' Reports
  - Ms. Turner reported: Kindergarten parents' workshop to the held; 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3; well attended in January and February.
  - Ms. Della Volpe reported: NAHS induction ceremony held last Thursday; L.H.S. took several medals during the Colt World Language Poetry contest; Talent in Town very successful thanks to Mr. Porri and Mr. Perkins; Jazz band to perform at Infinity Hall this weekend; college A Cappella group to perform at L.H.S.; Teacher Spelling Bee on Friday with proceeds to go to "Hole in the Wall" charity and Mr. Litchfield money will be donated to the same charity.
  - Mr. Zaremski reported: Knights of Columbus donation of \$1,000 has been received; having in-service in-house; in Feb. Laurie Piwonski, Physical Therapist did a workshop on motor development; Laurie Behmke, Special Education teacher did a workshop on practical strategies; 2 workshops by OT Lisa Martin on sensory integration; in January special education paras and teachers watched the video on "Fat City Workshop" that addresses Learning Disabilities and using the \$1,000 for swings in gym, scooters, bikes, big books, etc.

**New Business**

- a. Update on Close out of Building Projects – Peg Perusse – tabled to next BoE meeting.
- b. Recommendation for hire.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and second by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Kelly Boianghu for the position of School counselor for grades 7, 8 and 9.

Board members discussed: possible need for male person to meet the needs of the male students who make up 50% of the population; and recommendations from previous school.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Carr abstained.

**Superintendent's Report**

- a. Common Core State Standard status: public hearing held in Hartford last week; question of whether to roll out or not; Litchfield worked on for past 3 years; and unclear of what will happen to the bill to place a moratorium on implementation of the standards.
- a. Proposed Regional Calendar: PA 1347 guidelines for RESC area; implementation required in 2015-2016, request to legislation for extension to 2016-2017; and Education Connection Proposed Regional Calendar 2014-2015 reviewed.

**Superintendent's Report**

Board members discussed: transportation savings; input from State Legislature; question real savings in transportation; PD days are on Fridays; early release still scheduled for Litchfield.

## b. Tuition Students

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve Pierce Cordeau to attend 6<sup>th</sup> grade in September and Preston Cordeau to attend 4<sup>th</sup> grade in September as tuition students.

Board members discussed: where tuition money goes – general fund; possible use for school expenses; status of grades and fitting new students; and possible shadowing for some students in the fall.

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

**Old Business**

- a. School Security and Safety Plan Committee update: Mr. Bongiorno reported: capital approval; phone system and monitors; items go out to bid if passed; walkie talkie issues; district issued cell phones and tablets; need to upgrade phone system in each building; funding dependent on Capital committee; shades and tinting; maintenance operating system; LIS Café, HS entrance, office and café; shading at CS needed; potential energy savings and savings for cooling.
- b. 2014-2015 Budget: discussion not needed since the Board of Finance accepted the BoE's budget.

Profiles of Student Life Survey: Board members discussed: Board voted to use survey; didn't rescind; need to move forward; need alternate survey; possible dogs in school; need to make effort to limit problems; dropped ball by survey people; need to find ways to gather data; can't fix problem without data; 20% didn't want survey but 80% did; possibly get another grant; need to be forward thinking; concerned about dogs; not preventative nature; Prevention Council focuses on dogs in school; need to focus on total health of students; physical and sexual abuse issues; social worker issues; mental health issues; need data to move forward; need to know students to be more effective; issues with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade; need for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to be included; not just schools' problem but community; need to start from home and the whole family; input from administrators; input from Prevention Council; need to have discussion before approve dogs; need to keep drugs out of school; need for deterrent; need for things; and input from police.

**Committee Reports**

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel: Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met last Thursday and discussed: LHS course of study; freshmen next year – 80 students; 67 seniors will graduated; AP physics to be offered; AP Psych; ropes course certification course; AP French 5; business courses; desk top publishing; digital marketing; AP scores; 33% take AP classes, 25.7% scored 3 or better; Math program issues; Stepping Stones; in Fairfield; have tablets; My Math; K-5 one unit piloted so far; on line; tutorials; video help; on line games; aligned with 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Glencoe program; PD offered; 5 year license; \$61,000; need to have pilot go on possibly into fall; setting aside funds; need more info; technology contingent; tablets and laptops needed for math; planned in budget; need to wait for State decision on CC before moving forward; need for PD; Math K-12; e-books; web based on line; can update and grow with it; and need to pay every 5 years.

Facilities and Technology: Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee met and discussed the following; security upgrades; baseball field project and the need to secure quotes; Dell Venues laptops are having a higher than expected failure rate due to battery charging problems, these are being handled for free by the manufacturer by unit replacement; network filtering issues; state has new vendor; age dependent filtering is being implemented in district; there have been issues with sound system in L.I.S. auditorium; and request from Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for a 1 page letter explaining how curriculum uses technology.

Ed Connection: Mr. Waugh reported that the Steering Council met and discussed common calendar for the district.

Policy: Ms. Carr reported the committee will meet tomorrow night and begin discussing Health Policies.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

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

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