

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 1, 2013

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, 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, Falcetti, Katzin, 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 April 3, 2013 with the following corrections: on page 3123 include "Kruse" after Matthias and "Costa" after Carl; change "Cuglar" to "Kuegler;" on page 3124 change 501c3 to 501(c)3; 3125 add "Mr. Katzin left" before Superintendent's Report d.; last paragraph remove "high" from school administrators; and on page 3126 remove "that are non-district" from the first sentence on the page.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Carr: to move item VI a to II b in the agenda.

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

Old Business

a. 2013-2014 Budget

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Carr: that the Board increase the 2013-2014 BOE adopted budget by \$32,000 to reinstate the LIS World Language position as follows: regular education salaries line increases by \$45,720, decrease unemployment line by \$13,720.

Board members discussed the following: need to support what was in the budget before the cuts; need to support what community wants and needs; lobbying to the Board every year; was in original budget until Board of Finance cut the increase amount from 2.95% to .95%; cuts in technology; cuts in benefits; issues with Board of Finance request for specific line items;

deficit in food service concerns; inappropriate for Board of Finance to tell the Board of Education what to do; public outrage for world language; need for curriculum revision; benefits included in salary; impressed with March presentation to the Curriculum committee by world language coordinator; need to listen to curriculum experts; value of foreign language at an early age; Superintendent oversees curriculum; need to keep programs and strive to improve before being thrown out.

Ms. Carr moved the question and Mr. Bongiorno seconded. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION carried. Ms. Carr, Ms. Rosser, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Katzin, and Mr. Waugh voted in the affirmative. Mr. Shuhi voted in the negative. Ms. Fabbri abstained.

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve 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 none.
PTO – Dr. Wheeler reported – very successful 3rd annual Joanne McCormick family walk/run fundraiser.
- b. LHS Student Council – none
- c. Public Comment
 - Mr. Crowe – commented in support of world language at L.I.S.; commented on food service; commented on postponing Technology plans until resolution is achieved with food services; commented in favor of BYOD for high school.
 - Ms. Tenney – commented in favor of BYOD at L.I.S.; commented on Common Core standards and technology; commented on laptops for Smarter Balance; and commented on 1 to 1.
 - Ms. Morgan – thanked BOE for voting world language in; commented on need to listen to administrators who have education background, expertise and knowledge; commented on technology and food service; commented in favor of surplus money going to library budget.
 - Ms. Julia Carr – commented in favor of reinstating world language program; commented on teacher development in technology use; commented on 1 to 1; commented on possible survey to see how many students have their own technology for use in school.

- Mr. Glander – commented in favor of reinstating world language program at L.I.S.; commented about possible conflict of interest; Robert’s Rules.
- d. Correspondence
 - Thank you notes for flowers for Secretaries’ Day from Jackie Fox, Kathy Johnson, Michele Sonnati, Jan warner, Joanne Murphy and Joanne Bertrand.
- e. Administrators’ Report
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: National Latin Exam – 7 students achieved certificates and blue ribbon accommodations; and 3 students were recognized at COLT Poetry competition.
 - Ms. Murphy reported: Smarter Balanced Pilot testing taking place; CCSS pilot testing next week.
 - Ms. Turner reported: 3rd grade Smarter Balanced Pilot testing; AOK Club character dinner very successful with the students.
 - Mr. Lathrop reported: presentation to Finance, Facilities and Technology Committee regarding energy upgrades; Ryan Logan, Rick Cardini of JK Energy handed out “Consolidated Summary – Litchfield Schools – locations savings” including annual savings, net cost, simple payback in years; pole construction at L.I.S.; upgrades to lighting; financing; shields used for ambient light; CL & P rebate amount; advantage for municipalities; energy conservation funds; need for energy upgrades; input from town; savings for district; no up-front out of pocket expense; parking lot lighting issues; gym at L.H.S.; auditorium lights at L.I.S.; upgrades over summer; and proposals went to town for input.

Board members discussed: overall possible light pollution; LED exterior lights; controllable for neighboring houses; what recourse if want to back out; shield on lights allows for directing light; need for input from CL&P for repairs; meter issues; CL& P software analysis; bulb use adjustments; and need for project manager.

Superintendent’s Report

- a. Recording/Broadcasting of BOE meetings – \$80,000 grant from public utilities company; cover equipment; could possibly broadcast sports games; cable drop at site to be determined; visit from engineer; video production channel; committee included Joanne Moore, Johnny Kassay, John Bongiorno, Mark Landy, Patricia Donovan and Steve Simonin; and have link on district website.
- b. \$3,800 grant awarded to Mr. Markelon and the Envirothon Team, to be used in clearing the meadow and planting wild flowers.
- c. Governor Malloy proclamation making May 8th Nurses Day in appreciation of all the nurses do for our schools.
- d. Monday, May 6th school security forum follow up to be held at 7:00 p.m. in the L.I.S. auditorium.

New Businessa. & b. Out of State Field Trip

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the out of state field trips to Museum of Natural History, NYC, NY and Body Works – Pulse, NYC, NY.

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

c. Request for Admission

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the request for admission – tuition based- for Conor Ryan in the fall 2013.

The administration at the high school is finds this acceptable.

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

d. Healthy Food Certification

Recommendation: That the Board of Education certify and approve that all food items offered for sale to students under the school district's jurisdiction and not exempted from the nutrition standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education meet said standards for the 2013-2014 school year, and exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, such sale is at the location of the event, and such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Background: Litchfield School District has been following the state standards as of July 1, 2008. All food sold to students meet strict guidelines for fat content, sugar content and portion size. The law pertains to all foods and beverages sold on school grounds, with exemptions allowed for after school events. Schools have adjusted to these standards and healthier food options are now available to students.

Each school year the Board is required to recertify with the State Department of Education that all food items sold to students meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standard. The State will compensate certifying districts an additional 10 cents per student meal served in the cafeteria for the school year.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve and certify that all food items offered for sale to students under the school district's jurisdiction, and not exempted from the nutrition standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education on August 1, 2006, will meet said standards for the 2013-1014 school year, and will exclude from certification such food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, such sale is at the location of the event, and such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Board members discussed the following: upcoming changes in food service; healthier foods if outside retailers; memorandum with Ed Connection with timing issues; due June 30th; signed MOA; issues with food quality; need to maintain relationship with Ed Connection; compliance with federal laws; possibly share contract duties with Ed Connection; options include self op, use them as consultants; management only contract, provide management expertise; outsource entire program; input from other schools; need to put out to bid to see what responses are.

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

e. CJR Pool Agreement

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the CJR pool agreement.

MOTION withdrawn by Ms. Carr and second withdrawn by Mr. Shuhi.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the CJR pool agreement for 3 years at \$19,000 per year for the use of the pool for our swim program.

Board members discussed: duration of contract; scheduling concerns; closing down issues; financial analysis feedback; use for practices and some meets.

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 April 11th and discussed the following: Science K-12; Science standards 2116 adopted; CAPT not continued; Specials scheduling efficiencies; input from administrators.

Facilities, Technology and Finance - Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee met and discussed the following: CL&P issues; pool issues; healthy foods; food service; correcting information from town meeting; technology expenses have decreased over the years; input from Capital Committee 5 year build out agreement; cost reductions; management with BYOD; input from administrators for types of devices; build on 7th and 8th grade use; access points needed at L.I.S. for BYOD; need to put tech plan on website; possible flexibility for technology use at L.I.S.; student needs at L.I.S.; and need for wireless.

Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee discussed the following: filtering issues; mobile device management issue; monthly report; broadcasting; energy proposal; tennis courts; BYOD; L.I.S. gate; food service; pool update; feedback on internal maintenance of schools; and School Dude still being used.

Policy - Ms. Carr reported that the committee met and discussed policies that need Board input and will be presented at the next Board meeting including: petition for Board of Ed Special meeting; process involved; state statutes; and school approved trips.

Mr. Waugh reported that Scholarship Committee met this week to interview 25 students; \$260,000 awarded; support for 4 years in college; wonderful thing from this town; thanks to guidance and Mrs. Knox for the organization of the process.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno; to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

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

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