

**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**JULY 13, 2011**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Library/Media Center.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chairperson; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Falcetti, Gorman, and Shuhi. Ms. Carr, Mr. Katzin and Mr. Noone were absent.

Also present were: Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Mr. Zaremski; Ms. Longobucco; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Kubisek; the public and the press.

MOTION made by Mr. Gorman and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the consent agenda with the following correction on page 2579 item e should read “sent back to committee”:

- a. Approve the Minutes of Special Meeting June 15, 2011.
- b. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting June 15, 2011
- c. Approve the payment of invoices for 2010-2011 budget as required.
- d. Approve recommendation to hire Gregory Diaz.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC / PTO – none
- b. LHS Student Council – none
- c. Other public comment:
  - Mr. Losee, Borough Warden for Litchfield, shared concerns about the Center School garden proposal.
  - Ms. Brooks commented on the Center School garden proposal.
  - Mr. Main commented on the Center School garden proposal.
  - Ms. Eterly commented on the Center School garden proposal.
  - Mr. Murray commented on a brochure regarding the AP Environmental Improvement Project on composting.
  - Ms. Alexander commented in support of Mr. Dranginis.

d. Correspondence:

- Thank you note from Irma Van Steenburgh.
- Thank you note from Denise Parker.
- Letter from William Dranginis on a personnel matter.
- Letter from Thomas Williams on Center School Garden gift proposal.
- Letters from supporters of Bill Dranginis including: Kasey Luce, Ashlie Dranginis, Jonathan Tarrant, Rev. Robert Tucker, Denise Parker, Stephanie Macchiaroli, David Fox, Alexis Macchiaroli, Sarah Carr, Donald Light, Bob Petricone, and Robert Montgomery.
- Letter of appreciation for Center School Reading Program from Karen Ritzenhoff.

e. Administrators' Reports:

Mr. Zaremski distributed and reviewed the "Procedural Safeguards Notice Required Under IDEA Part B," and clarified statements included under "Attorneys' Fees" on page 27.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler distributed CMT and CAPT scores recently released. Administrators will meet tomorrow to review the findings.

Old Business

Mr. Shuhi reported that the Facilities Committee met and discussed the Center School Garden proposal. He would like to hold off for a while but not to rule it out.

Board members discussed the following: curriculum; use of student volunteers; incorporate High School with Intermediate School and Center School gardens; need to explore more; gift could go to the High School; financial responsibility; explore feasibility for program; Center School garden will help initiate interest in the Intermediate School and High School gardens; have High School students participate in Center School garden; and Board intent was to explore feasibility of project.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to rescind the Motion to accept Center School garden proposal for placement of the Edible Garden at Center School.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Ms. Rosser opposed.

MOTION made by Mr. Gorman and seconded by Ms. Rosser: to grant approval to Litchfield Hills Food Systems to explore the feasibility of the Center School garden project specifically related to funding, maintenance and curriculum links.

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

#### New Business

Mr. O'Connell distributed a copy of "Litchfield Public Schools Teacher Education and Mentoring Program (TEAM)" report, and outlined the progress of the 13 beginning teachers in the district.

Dr. Wheeler distributed and reviewed the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan including "2010-2011 Short Term Objectives: Progress Toward Mastery of Goals" including 2010-2011 goal and progress toward mastery. Long term objectives, short term goals, and reflection on progress were covered.

Dr. Wheeler distributed and reviewed "Litchfield Public Schools Strategic Planning: Action Plan 2011-2015." These will be the Superintendent's goals and the Board's goals for this year and will be reviewed tonight but will be discussed in Committee meetings and revisited at a Board meeting in September to be adopted. Eight objectives were outlined with specific activities for each.

Mr. Buccitelli distributed and reviewed the "Recommended Purchases from 2010-2011 Budget Surplus," with a total of \$252,879 with \$16,975 in furniture/equipment cut due to Board of Finance recommendation; \$55,000 in OCR compliance that the Board prioritized; and \$180,904 in other items.

Board members discussed the following: definition of OPEB; town self-insured status; OCR compliance issues; \$211,123 returned to the town; \$36,000 snow removal from roof to return to the town; possible instructional materials and books needed.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to accept the recommended purchases from 2010-2011 budget surplus as written.

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

Committee Reports

Facilities and Technology - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will meet on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Central Office Conference Room.

Curriculum and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee will meet Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Finance - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee will meet on July 25<sup>th</sup> and at the last joint meeting the budget surplus list was discussed.

Policy - none

Policies:

- a. Policy # 4118.15/4218.15 Family and Medical Leave – no changes noted, return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- b. Policy # 4118.16/4218.16 Policy Regarding Paid Leaves for Primary Caregivers for Children – no changes noted, return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- c. Policy # 4118.21 Academic Freedom – no changes noted, return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- d. Policy # 4118.222/4218.222 Drug Free Workplace – no changes noted, return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- e. Policy # 5141.4/4118.25 Reporting of Child Abuse – no changes noted, return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- f. Policy # 4118.26/4218.26 Smoking Policy – no changes noted, return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- g. Policy # 4118.27/4218.27 Prohibitions on Recommendations for Psychotropic Drugs – no changes noted, return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- h. Policy # 5132 Dress and Grooming – no changes noted, return for second reading at next regular meeting.
- i. Policy # 4117.4 Suspension/Dismissal – recommended for adoption.
- j. Policy # 4118.11/4218.11 Nondiscrimination – recommended for adoption.
- k. Policy # 4118.112/4218.112 Sexual Harassment – recommended for adoption.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Mr. Gorman: to approve the following policies as submitted: Policy # 4117.4 Suspension/Dismissal; # 4118.11/4218.11 Nondiscrimination; # 4118.112/4218.112 Sexual Harassment.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation.

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

Executive Session

Present were Ms. Rosser, Ms. Fabbri, Mr. Shuhi, Mr. Simone and Mr. Falcetti. Mr. Gorman left executive session.

Open session resumed at 9:17 p.m.

No action was taken.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

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

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