

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2012

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 15, 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, 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.

Dr. Wheeler introduced Ms. Susan Budris who is in the UConn Executive Leadership Program and will participate in a yearlong internship with Dr. Wheeler acting as her mentor.

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of Regular meeting July 18, 2012 with the following correction on page 3048 change "Mr. Rosser" to "Ms. Rosser".

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the minutes of special meeting July 30, 2012 with the following correction on page 3052: the last sentence needs a period.

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

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve payment of invoices for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 budget as required.

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

Out of State Field Trip

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the out of state field trip to Barrington Stage, Pittsfield, MA on October 19, 2012.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions. Mr. Katzin arrived at 7:25 p.m. and did not participate in vote.

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC/PTP – none
- b. LHS Student Council- none
- c. Public comment –
 - Ms. Carr commented on an article in Litchfield BZ about the Board of Selectmen letting Tony Crowe go which is not in good faith; the Board was led to believe that no employee would lose their position in the first year; Mr. Crowe has always worked in the district's and the town's best interest; Board is taking a back seat and needs to support people who support the Board.
- d. Correspondence – Thank you note from Ms. Longobucco for the beautiful pewter bowl marking her retirement.
- e. Administrators' Reports
 - Ms. Murphy reported on L.I.S. - August 28th scavenger hunt for 4th graders and productive summer and ready for school.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported on L.H.S. - new student orientation last week of August; homeroom assignments to go out the last week of summer; and bus runs are available at the superintendent's office.
 - Ms. Turner reported on C.S. - Kindergarten orientation on August 28th; Open House on Wednesday for students and parents; and welcome back letter info.

All administrators reported that the curriculum work done over the summer went very well and units are now being written to align with Common Core standards.

Superintendent's Report

- a. Back-to-School Activities and Schedules- (handout) New Teacher Orientation August 27th and 28th; Convocation Agenda August 29th; Professional Development August 30th and 31st; including *Make Just One Change* overview; Wellspring program on behavior support (grant funded); goal setting activities; and Education Connection orientation to CT's *System for Educator Evaluation and Development* pilot program.
- b. Recommendation to Hire - Steven Winston Spanish teacher replacing Patricia Smaldone.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to approve Steven Winston as Spanish teacher.

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

- c. Attorney Fred Dorsey has moved to practice with Kainen, Escalera and McHale but will still be retained by the Board.
- d. SEED: CT's System for Educator Evaluation and Development pilot update - (handout) reviewed new CT Framework for Teaching and documents describing the SEED model that is aligned directly with recent legislation addressing teacher and principal evaluation and professional growth, district is collaborating with Region 6 in the pilot of the state model, district will receive equivalent of \$15,000 in professional development and other support from the SDE by taking part in the pilot, initial training will begin August 16 with Education Connection consultants, Litchfield's core committee for this pilot: Kristen Della Volpe, Jennifer Murphy, Sherri Turner, Gary Zaremski, Lynn Scozzafava (LEA); Dean Birdsall (LHS); Mark Obolewicz (LIS); Alisa Patasuis (CS); Michele Mongeau (Special Education) and Lisa Heuschkel (Student Services).

Board members discussed the following: provide baseline for evaluations; and peer input important.

- e. District and School Performance Indicators – baseline data: (handout) reviewed changes brought by CT's NCLB waiver application, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) replaced by new accountability measures: District Performance Indicator (DPI) and School Performance Indicators (SPI), review of how these data are calculated and benefit to districts, use of SPI and DPI in new SEED evaluation program, Litchfield baseline scores are good, Dr. Wheeler will provide more specific information during next Curriculum, Program and Personnel meeting.

Board members discussed: needs for support for gifted and talented students; staying challenged and engaged; maintain support services; and ELL credit from state.

New Business

School Lunch Program – Jay Hubelbank and Christine Wallace – food service program goals; current initiatives; improve quality of program; Ed Connection runs program and serves as district food service authority; changes since November; state and federal guidelines; congressionally authorized changes extended another year; wellness; healthy foods; nutritional needs; input from PTO and STPC; student tastings; classroom teachers' involvement; use of local growers; craft recipes; student needs as consumers; focus groups; use of surveys; portion size; present at Open House events; and communication with families.

Board members discussed the following: feed-back from students who want variety of choices; food more appealing to students; rotating entrée choice; share info with Ed Connection; survey students for feedback; taste testing at high school; salad bar issues; time constraints; input from student council members; national nutrition policies; regulation requirements; how to raise standards; vegetarian choices; need to meet dietary needs; need to meet food standards for free and reduced lunch students; funding for free and reduced lunch and benefits of nutrition; and menus need to be approved by the government.

- a. Maintenance Transfer - Mr. Lathrop presented an additional warrant needed to facilitate transfer of maintenance and custodial functions to the town.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve additional payment of invoices for 2012-13 budget as required related to maintenance.

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

Mr. Lathrop presented: response to request of records; transfer accounts payable; transfer of payroll and expenses; town successor employer; September 1st transfer all records; town first payroll September 6th; August 25th last payroll for Board; unemployment compensation; medical; worker's compensation; and meeting with affected employees.

- b. FY 2011-2012 – Mr. Lathrop outlined Litchfield Public Schools, Historical Comparison, Year End Position – Estimated as of 8/8/2012 (\$374,651 total town benefit) – possible minor changes; and finalizing by September 1st.

Committee Reports - None

Policy

MOTION made by Mr. Waugh and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the following policies: #5111 Ages of Attendance; #5113 Attendance and Excuses and regulations; and #5113.2 Truancy.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to move to Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss and possible action concerning Superintendent's evaluation. Dr. Wheeler was invited to attend.

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Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, August 15, 2012

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

Executive Session

Present were: All the above Board members and Dr. Wheeler.

Open session resumed at 9:46 p.m.

No Action was taken.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

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

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