

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Library Media Center.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chair; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock (at 7:20 p.m.); Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick (at 7:10 p.m.); and Mr. Shuhi.

Absent were: Mr. Waugh.

Also present were: Superintendent Turner; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Kubisek; Ms. Murphy; Mr. Ammary; the press and members of the public.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 10, 2016 with the following corrections on page 3532 change “open house” to “Open House” where needed.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to add to the agenda as item III c. warrant dated 9/22/2016.

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: approve the payment of FY 2016-17 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant # 2017-5 dated 9/22/2016 in the amount of \$397,132.86; invoices on Food Service warrant dated 9/21/2016 in the amount of \$65.25; Food Service dated 9/22/2016 in the amount of \$27,750.69.

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

Mr. Pavlick arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications

- a. STPC – none.
- PTO – none.

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- b. LHS Student Council – none.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – none.
- d. Other public comment - none.
- e. Correspondence – none.
- f. Administrators' Report
 - Ms. Murphy reported: Open House September 13th had positive feedback; participating in Immigration Nation again this year; culminates in a trip to Ellis Island; cost covered by Litchfield Education Foundation and thanks to them for their support.
 - Ms. Kubisek reported: Curriculum Night held last Thursday; positive feedback from parents; first Fun Night held this Friday; and goal setting to begin in the next few weeks.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: fire event in gym; thanks to Central Office for support in handling issue; cooperation from students and staff; and September 22nd Open House.
 - Mr. Fiorillo distributed a handout and reported on the following: update on fire; vendor support; cleanup costs; replacement lighting; ceiling issues; moving quickly to make right; scope of lighting issues; retro fit for lights; and replacing whole light.
 - Mr. Ammary distributed a handout and reported: Curriculum Night held on September 20th; great feedback from parents and students; thanks to staff for successful evening; L.C.S. now a Teachers College Affiliate School; staff development dates; have Staff Developer, Lisa Corcoran; SLO focus; support for teachers; timing of classes; reflection and strategies; and thanks to PTO for successful Open House last Friday.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Turner reported on the following: staff development schedule for L.C.S.; bring later to L.I.S. and 7th and 8th grade; exciting to see; having lots of support; CAPSS workshops attendance; professional development opportunities; guest cohort; have mentor; executive leadership support; thank everyone for handling of event on Monday at L.H.S.; and students worked well in handling the drill.

Old Business – none.

Mr. Clock arrived at 7:20 p.m.

New Business

- a. Drug and Alcohol Survey request.

Ms. Garden updated the Board including: what doing now; attended meetings at school to

be more exposed to parents and students; sports' meetings, Open Houses; table at "Under the Lights game;" public announcements made at game; thanks to Mr. Storrs who helped distribute "Project Purple" bracelets; "Safe Gathering Initiative" with 32 families involved; collaborating with Greenwoods Counseling; programs and presentations from Greenwoods; way to get parents involved; survey data; meeting held during summer; beneficial to district; continue to administer survey every other year; could monitor progress or lack of progress; cost of survey; and possible funds from Prevention Council.

Board members discussed: National Recovery Week; input from Woodbury/Bethlehem parent connection; have Facebook page; have similar survey; potential changes; done 2014; possible grant funding; when share survey results; value of survey; and use as step off for programs.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Clock: to have administrators' research possible surveys to present to the Board.

Board members discussed: how present results; how evaluate; vetted by former Superintendent McMullin; reliability issues; being administrators of survey; student population included; possible use of other surveys; Board has options; Board had input in survey; does Board have expertise; internal reliability and validity; accuracy in recording; use of data; input from Prevention Council; professionals in field; McCall Foundation input; solutions for student needs determined from survey; gambling issues; need for follow through; effectiveness of intervention is needed; what actually helps; need to make changes; identify curriculum needs; suicide data needs for students; input from Greenwoods; teacher workshops; successful if help only one student; kids possibly fudge data; if use same survey than have scope for data; should be similar survey; need to research surveys; and curriculum needs.

MOTION withdrawn by Mr. Bongiorno and second withdrawn by Mr. Clock.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to support the Drug and Alcohol Survey request as presented and bring to Curriculum Committee.

Board needs to investigate funding issues.

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

b. Out of State/Overnight Fieldtrip - MA.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the out-of-state Fieldtrip request from the music department to attend Music in the Parks in Agawam, MA as presented.

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

c. Out-of-State/Overnight Fieldtrip – Close Up, Washington, DC.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the out-of-state fieldtrip request from the Social Studies department to attend “Close Up” in Washington, DC as presented.

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

d. Wrestling Program.

Mr. Weaver distributed “Wrestling Tri-op” handout and discussed the following: timing of program in Thomaston; number of students involved; involvement of Holy Cross HS; CIAC issues; home meets held in Thomaston; transportation issues for parents; adhere to LHS athletic handbook; no added costs to budget; can get varsity letter and plaque; costs to students depends on numbers; could be cost later on if take on as Litchfield sport; can be good for under motivated students or highly motivated students; and great individual and team sport.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to support the Wrestling Tri-op as presented.

Board members discussed: adding opportunities for students; and can take away from other programs due to declining student population numbers.

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

Committee Reports

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee will meet Thursday evening.

Facilities and Technology Committee - Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee met and discussed the following: capital projects; auditorium lighting; possible grant from Scherr-Thoss; sound system in auditorium; part of town responsibility since meetings are held there; 5 year capital plan for infrastructure; fix communication wires from L.H.S. to L.I.S.; better connection between the two; phone system; issues from fire event; and input from administrators regarding fire.

Finance Committee - Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee did not meet.

Policy Committee - Ms. Carr reported that the next meeting will be held October 20th.

Policies

- a. New
 - i. Policy # 5145.53 Gender Identity and Expression (Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth) – no changes made. Return at next regular BOE meeting for Second Reading.
 - ii. Policy # 6172 Alternative Education Programs – no changes made. Return at next regular BOE meeting for Second Reading.
- b. First Reading
 - i. Policy # 4118.51/4215.81 Employee Use of Social Media– no changes made. Return at next regular BOE meeting for Second Reading.
 - ii. Policy # 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse– no changes made. Return at next regular BOE meeting for Second Reading.
- c. Second Reading
 - i. Policy # 0400 Achievement Assessment/Needs Identification: Litchfield.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve Policy # 0400 Achievement Assessment /Needs Identification: Litchfield as presented.

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

- ii. Policy # 0600 Monitoring/Reporting.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 0600 Monitoring/Reporting as presented.

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

- iii. Policy # 3523.11 Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones)

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 3523.11 Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones) – New as presented.

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

- d. FYI

i. Regulations # 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to move to Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and possible action.

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

Executive Session

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

Invited to attend were Superintendent Turner and Mr. Fiorillo.

No action was taken.

Returned to public session at 7:57 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to hire Andrew Schacht as Latin Teacher at L.H.S.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to hire Maureen Vint as Library Media Specialist at L.I.S.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Ms. Carr: to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Donald Falcetti, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary