

DRAFT

3547

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2016

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 2, 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; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick; and Mr. Shuhi.

Also present were: Superintendent Turner; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Haggard; 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 Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2016 as submitted with the following corrections on page 3544 capitalize “town” where needed.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to eliminate from the agenda item VII. b. and add to Executive Session item X c. a discussion of new Board member position.

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 # 2017-8 dated 10/20/2016 in the amount of \$194,496.93; Food Service warrant dated 10/20/2016 in the amount of \$23,458.10; Accounts Payable warrant #2017-9 dated 11/3/2016 in the amount of \$8,497.47; warrant # 2017-10 dated 11/3/2016 in the amount of \$89,747.66.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications

- a. STPC – none.

- PTO – Ms. Stone and Dana Moore reported: October 28th Fall Fest fundraiser raised \$3,300; thanks to teacher volunteers and organizers; Dec 3rd daughter dance at Bantam Firehouse; Dec. 2nd crafts night.
- b. LHS Student Council – Melissa Brodeur reported on the High School Student Council activities.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – Ms. Fabbri reported that the council met and is planning activities for the year.
- d. Other public comment.
- Kathleen Reidy reported on LEF and outlined its impact on student needs since 2004; 10 Board members; rebranding process; new logo in process with art student; how to donate; Minds in Motion; TAG workshops; relationship with LPS; input from teachers; feedback sought; on line grant application; and new fundraiser on April 6th.
 - Patty Laure commented in support of Lynn Stone for Board of Ed position vacancy.
 - Dana Moore commented in support of Lynn Stone for Board of Ed position vacancy.
 - Rachel Reiter commented in support of Lynn Stone for Board of Ed position vacancy.
 - Diane Wilson commented in support of Lynn Stone for Board of Ed position vacancy.
 - Olivia Cappelina and her brother commented in support of their mother, Jennie Lupo for Board of Ed position vacancy.
 - Karmen Couret commented in support of Lynn Stone for Board of Ed position vacancy.
- e. Correspondence.
- Letter from LIS staff to First Selectmen requesting reconsidering moving Kevin Brennan to high school.
 - Letter from Jim Fox resigning as Head Custodian for LPS and his concerns regarding management of custodial/maintenance department and miscommunication between Dept. of Public Works and LPS.
- f. Administrators' Report
- Ms. Haggard distributed handout and reported: Special Ed position still available; IEP compliance and reporting underway; data cleaning process; parent forum regarding Cyber Safety – Nov. 14th; continued collaboration with Greenwoods and Litchfield Prevention Council; and district wide PD and social and emotional learning initiatives.
 - Ms. Murphy reported: mock election held; registration held; I D cards made; votes made on ballot; and results of vote through popular vote and electoral vote.
 - Ms. Kubisek reported: participation in Red Ribbon Week; Oct. 24 – 28; against drugs; pledge taken; cards filled; posters made; natural high videos seen; October 28th Friday Fun Night; donations for fun night; and input from Mr. Weaver.

- Ms. Della Volpe reported: China Cultural Exchange 2017 has 20 applicants and 20 deposits; 8th graders and parents to see Wamogo and OWT school presentations; and HS will have a tour for 8th graders and parents to see programs offered at LHS.
- Mr. Fiorillo reported: food service survey and results; focus for survey; need to increase participation; 52% positive, 40% no opinion; 8% negative; include soups and salad; research being done for Board of Finance after meeting on Sept. 12th; Facilities and Technology update on capital projects issues; IT department updates; include department coordinator; IT follow up with survey; AFSME negotiations Nov. 29th; Capital Committee meeting Nov. 4th; budget process starts Dec. 1st; Finance Committee focus on transportation and out of school placement; State meeting attended with Superintendent Turner; and what is coming down the pike.
- Mr. Ammary reported: Oct. 19th Teachers' College visit with return on Nov. 8th; Nov. 7th information session for standards-based report card; and Nov. 10th assembly.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Turner reported on the following: meeting with district coordinators; goals for departments; visions stated; how to implement; vertical teaming; coordinators monitor department goals; provide accountability; meeting with administrators regarding goals; School Improvement Plans this year; will be aligned; presented to Curriculum, Planning and Personnel; Principals' meeting calibration observations; worked in teams of two; and dedicated to make it work.

Old Business – none.

New Business

a. **BOE Member Replacement Nomination.**

Posted on website; packets presented; Ms. Lupo has conflict with Conferences; timing; statutes; and State statute has control.

- Molly Worden showed interest in the Board vacancy and reviewed the following: from Northfield; have Kindergartener and first grader; former teacher; stay at home now; great interest in education; invitation to get involved; and great interest especially in curriculum.
- Nancy McGhee Lennon showed interest in the Board vacancy and reviewed the following: teacher for 23 years; in Bristol Central HS presently; teach science; 3 daughters in LPS; good fit for me; can see if true fit after the year and depth of experience is important.
- Lynn Stone showed interest in the Board vacancy and reviewed the following: only position not held so far in Litchfield; served on Facilities Committee; worked to have a voice on the Committee; attended Board of Education meetings regularly;

support teachers; am a professional; advocate for parents to attend meetings; this is next step; 1 year term; and thanks for your support.

- b. Smarter Balance/SAT Scores – tabled.
- c. Unpaid Leave of Absence Request.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the unpaid leave request of Ashley LaBonte to remain home through the 2016-2017 school year and return at the beginning of next school year.

Board members discussed: not necessarily what is best for students; subs not the same as teachers; need to have certified staff to replace teacher; will shadow before teacher leaves; nice to reward valued employees; want teacher to return with ready mind; and leave until September.

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

- d. 2017-2018 School Calendar

Board members discussed the two alternative calendars presented.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the calendar labeled “draft two” as presented.

Board members discussed the following: waiting for Region 6; put out by the RESC; need to have Yum Kippur and Rosh Hashanah on calendar for teacher information; and teacher requested need to have PD day before school starts.

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

- e. 2012 Custodial MOU.

Mr. Fiorillo distributed a two page outline “Examples of why the 2012 Custodial MOU is not working:”

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to terminate the MOU.

MOTION withdrawn by Ms. Carr and seconded withdrawn by Ms. Fabbri.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to authorize the Litchfield Superintendent of Schools (“Superintendent”) to provide notice to the Town of Litchfield (“Town”) that the Litchfield Board of Education (“Board”) has determined that, after good faith efforts, there has not been a satisfactory resolution to the ongoing quality of performance issues with regard to the care and maintenance of the school buildings provided by Town

employees under the ongoing 2012 *Memorandum of Understanding for the Transfer of School Custodial Functions from the Litchfield Board of Education to the Town of Litchfield* (“MOU”), which were addressed to the Town on June 16, 2016. The Superintendent is further authorized by the Board to indicate to the Town that the Board is terminating the MOU effective July 1, 2017, or at such earlier date as is agreed to by the Town and the Superintendent, with such attendant transfers that are required by the MOU.

Board members discussed: ramifications if we do this; some Board members originally in favor of contract; custodial responsibilities are an issue; met with Selectmen and practically thrown out; being ignored by Town; review MOU; need guidelines; list of examples; huge drain on communications; no one intervened; treated as tenant and not as a customer; disrespectful as a customer; status of maintenance being questioned as good; letters sent regarding custodians; disturbing attitude; custodians not consulted about possible move; custodians are part of the school family; important to have positive experience with custodians especially in elementary grades; issues with building cleanliness; boilers and roof issues; some better now than in the past; Town does have better gauge to do jobs better; need to notify Town with letter; letter sent already; need to get town on board; need to get strong message to Town; met in August; discussed issues; no effort to modify MOU; very clear not in Town’s best interest to modify; spoke daily to get changes made; June 16th started discussion; no interest in doing this; 2003 Maintenance of facility; window replacement issues; heating issues; specific to custodian staff; never put ticket system in; buildings need to be taken care of properly; wedge between two systems; if go forward, then have to take care of buildings without town support; condition of buildings; 2012 Custodian agreement; 2003 Building Maintenance agreement; have figures; indoor maintenance issues; 180 day wait; operations budget; in kind services; net zero impact; 15 custodians; cleaning services; responsible for supplies and equipment; need to take care to make sure Town continues their responsibility as listed in 2003 Maintenance of Facility agreement; safety for students priority; tuition money usage; 4 year history before and after; \$1,100,000.00; issues with facilities manager; artificially lowers what town says owe; budget issues; real savings; timing and vendor issues; and budget goes to school again.

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

Committee Reports

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel – none

Facilities and Technology Committee - Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee met and discussed the following: 5 year plan for technology equipment; wireless issues; capital items; issues with auditorium and do sound system first.

Finance Committee - none.

Policy - none.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to move to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss Personnel, Collective Bargaining, and Board vacancy.

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 Tuner and Mr. Fiorillo.

Returned to public session at 8:50 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to recommend the candidate as LIS Library media Specialist.

MOTION failed. David Pavlick voted in the affirmative. Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Simone voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to accept the contract with the Litchfield Administrators' Association.

MOTION carried. Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick and Mr. Simone voted in the affirmative. Mr. Shuhi abstained.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to appoint Jennine Lupo to the Board of Education.

MOTION failed. Ms. Carr and Mr. Shuhi voted in the affirmative. Ms. Fabbri; Mr. Bongiorno; Mr. Clock; Mr. Falcetti; Mr. Pavlick and Mr. Simone voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to appoint Lynn Stone to the Board of Education.

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

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, November 2, 2016

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donald R. Falcetti, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary