

**DRAFT**

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**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 6, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 6, 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; and members of the public and the press.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to add to the agenda as VII b. a personnel matter.

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

**Approve Minutes**

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the minutes of regular meeting February 20, 2013 as submitted.

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 2012-2013 as required.

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

**Public Comment and Correspondence**

- a. STPC – no report  
PTO – Ms. Moore reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Joanne McCormick Road Race will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at LIS with Plumb Hill Track used for walkers.
- b. LHS student council – no report.
- c. Other public comment:
  - Ms. Carr commented: LHS swim team, t-shirts; L.S.D. (Litchfield Swimming and Diving) stands for the school; students should not have been told to take them off;



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\$7,750 library cut – 2.92% increase; technology rotation-district computer total/leasing handout; and smart boards at C.S. through Capital budget.

Mr. Lathrop outlined a possible budget including BOE reductions of \$5762.82 for a final budget increase of \$462,973.61 and final total amount of \$16,114,723.76 representing an increase of 2.96 %

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the budget as listed by Mr. Lathrop and to go forward to be presented to the Board of Finance.

Board members discussed: loss of library funding impact; input from Ms. Moore; every student has ability to use library; accommodations for all students; need for alignment with C.C.S.S.; investments over last several years; supplemental skills teachers; possibly reinstate \$2,400 for library funding; and existing lease funds.

MOTION withdrawn, second withdrawn.

Board members discussed: need to put books back; need for access to students; possible change \$1,000 to \$750 for teacher computer cost; replacement furniture possibly cut from \$48,525 to \$24,000; add back library books, subtract \$24,000 for replacement furniture – 2.95% increase; possible savings with new hires under step 4 could go back for funding replacement furniture; and seeing a student with a book sitting on a floor is better than seeing a student on a chair without a book.

Mr. Lathrop outlined a possible budget including \$20,000 decrease for replacement furniture and library funding back in.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to approve the budget as adjusted by Mr. Lathrop at \$16,113,143.76 at 2.95% increase.

Board members discussed how compromising brought forth a budget that supports some and is as close as can get right now.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative except Mr. Shuhi who voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

Dr. Wheeler thanked the Board for being a part of such thoughtful and fruitful process.

### New Business

- a. BYOD Letter from L.I.S. - Dr. Wheeler and Ms. Murphy presented a letter sent home to parents and guardians on January 18, 2013 including the following: parental request after the holidays; possible use of devices in school for reading; policy

guidelines; teacher input; no problems reported; use during reading time; aligned with Board policy; discussed in C.P.P.; used to take notes; most popular in 6<sup>th</sup> grade; possible Google searches done; no discipline issues; and use has been appropriate.

Board members discussed: transitional phase; no inherent problem; need to get to One to One for true equality in access; network connectivity issues; need time to update L.I.S.; value for educational use, note taking usability; issues with access to internet; not available at L.I.S.; safety concerns for students; teacher supervision issues; security issues; student responsibility issues; implement One to One in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and need to evaluate before setting up in L.I.S.; trying BYOD at high school; access plans in roll out; not ready for internet use yet; IT team not prepared to support; everything consistent with Board policy; if working at L.I.S. then no need to pull out; need for a more restrictive filter for C.S. and L.I.S. students; possibly stepping out of plan for technology; limited wireless access is available; inequality issues; parental concerns for use at the L.I.S.; no 3G use; developmentally different for students at L.I.S.; need no internet access; access points; need for password protection; and need to explore filter and password cost.

MOTION made by Ms. Fabbri and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve correcting the handbook at L.I.S. internet access on own devices is prohibited.

Board members discussed preparing L.I.S. access points in school, access ID and password protection.

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

b. Resignation letter.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to accept the letter of resignation from Julie Tracy as H.S. Library/Media Specialist.

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

Committee Reports - None

Policies

- a. First Reading – Policy # 3110 Budget – one change made. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.
- b. First Reading – Policy # 3323 Bid Requirements – return to Policy Committee for further review.

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- c. First Reading – Policy # 3326 Paying for Goods and Services – no changes made. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.
- d. First Reading – Policy # 4126 Consultants – one change made. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

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

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