

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 4, 2012

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Library/Media Center.

Present: Mr. Simone, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Bongiorno, Falcetti, Katzin, Shuhi, and Waugh.

Also present: Mr. Buccitelli; Mr. Zaremski; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Longobucco; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Wheeler (at 7:35p.m.) the public and the press.

Mr. Falcetti publicly apologized to Katie Sullivan for the misunderstanding occurring at the last public hearing.

Approve Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 21, 2012 and the Public Hearing, March 26, 2012 with the following corrections: Regular Meeting - on page 3011 first motion change to read "waiver for \$2,483 equal to property taxes"; on page 3012 second bullet should change "CJ" to "CT"; under budget discussion change "trade teachers for medium of technology that has no proven results" to "trade teachers for technology that has no proven results"; on page 3014 under Finance, change "discussed the budget list to Board" to "created a list for the Board;" and Public Hearing - on page 3015-3016 change "discussed the 2012-2013 BOE budget" to "discussed their opposition or disagreement with the adoption of the BOE budget for 2012-2-13," and on page 3016 change the name "Averil Jenkins" to "Avery Jenkins," and in the first motion add, "Mr. Simone abstained."

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

Board members discussed a possible better way to communicate what is going on with the minutes.

Approve Payment of Invoices

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

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

Recommendation to Hire

Ms. Della Volpe reported on Alexander Schwartz for the position of Social Studies Teacher at the high school to replace Wendy Pataky.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to approve Alexander Schwartz for the position of Social Studies Teacher at the high school.

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

Tuition Student Request

This request was withdrawn today.

Public Comment and Correspondence

- a. STPC – no report.
PTO – no report.
- b. LHS Student Council: Jack Pope reported on the student council activities at the high school.
- c. Public Comment
 - Bob Okoski, custodian from the High School, read a letter to the Board commenting on the maintenance at the high school.
 - Tricia Cardin, from AFSME, commented on a past request to be a part of the process and disappointment in the Board for not contacting her.
 - Kevin Brennan, custodian from the Intermediate School, commented on a good relationship with the Board and questioned why the town should take over the maintenance when things are working out now.
 - Ro Cook, president of AFSME, commented on job security; need to be part of the process; and involvement would be appreciated.
- d. Correspondence

Board members received the following correspondence:

- Letter from Jan Wilson thanking the Board for reinstating the original budget document.
- Press release from CABE/CAPSS regarding Senate bill # 24.

- Thank you note from Roxanne Pangallo.

e. Administrators' Reports

- Ms. Murphy reported: the Intermediate school finished CMT's, conferences taking place now; Science fair last week; and April 19th falcon demonstration at 1:15 p.m.
- Ms. Della Volpe reported: 7th grade Mark Twain House trip April 5th; ninth grade Bridge to the Future held tomorrow under Ms. Armington's and Ms. Scozzafava's direction; Spring Concert held the evening of the 3rd; Blood Drive held that exceeded their goal; final schedule building taking place now.
- Mr. Zaremski reported: handout "The Webb Schools," one example of outside placement; reimbursement's based on State; certified by state; flexible student programming; and our students and our transportation.

Board members discussed the following: where diagnosis is done; DCF involvement; costs; funding put aside; greater demand – less return; out of state more expensive.

Old Business

Joanne Moore requested that Cablevision live broadcast be put in the agenda and it will go on the Facilities and Technology agenda.

Mr. Bongiorno discussed possible issues around broadcasting BOE meetings.

New Business

- a. Gift from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Guavain - Board members discussed a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Guavain (Policy #3280) and the need for continued funding for maintenance of riding mower.
- b. Maintenance – discussion and possible action

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Falcetti:
to direct the Superintendent, the Board of Education Chairman, and our Board Attorney to meet with representatives from the town of Litchfield to finalize a plan to move maintenance over to the town, effective July 1, 2012.

Dr. Wheeler arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Board members discussed the following: rationale; \$80,000 taken out of maintenance budget and goes back to town; town will not cut people; supported by the Board of Selectmen; how maintain level of service; Board's budget is not mismanaged; how afford to loose \$80,000; efficiencies and other mechanisms can save money; \$80,000 to be used by Board of Education or Board of Finance; \$80,000 less with no services cut; questions have never been answered about where money will come from; makes sense philosophically to have all under one roof; reality- need to see detail of savings; list of who might loose jobs needed; never shown where the savings come out of the budget; voted unanimously against last year; only way to save \$80,000 is to cut staff; what kind of guarantee for no cuts; need to sit down in a group to see how works; possible trial year; more comfortable to have money stay in Board of Education for a year with same control and after that under Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance; need for attorney to resolve issues; not opposed to trying this and looking at it; economies of scale; cost savings; two different scenarios with two different unions; pay scale is off; our union cost the town more money; Board's needs for safety and town availability; Board legally responsible for maintenance of schools; need for escape clause; no compelling reason to do this; need to engage AFSME as a courtesy; need for conversation with all involved; written definitions needed; need for Board approval before implemented; need for complete plan to come before committee; change plan to proposal; Mr. Paul was not able to show the savings; need for Leo Paul and Jack Healy to show where garner savings; why are we here when no savings have been shown still; and discussions in Committee done.

AMMENDMENT made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to direct the Superintendent, BOE Chair; Board Counsel to meet with representatives from the town of Litchfield for them to present a concrete plan to the BOE as to cost savings proposed, where coming from, proposed impact to the school and town so BOE can assess whether it is reasonable and appropriate to move maintenance activity to the town by 5/15/12 to discuss with the BOE for 7/1/12 transfer.

Board members discussed: ask town for savings; issues with 3rd party contractors; need to put together a plan to go to committee; bidding process issues; who does specs; due diligence to constituents; and issues with town maintenance of schools' facilities.

AMMENDMENT fails: Ms. Carr voted in the affirmative. Ms. Fabbri, Ms. Rosser, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Katzin, Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Waugh voted in the negative.

AMMENDMENT made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to direct the Superintendent, the BOE Chair and our Board Attorney to meet with representatives from the town of Litchfield to develop a proposal to move maintenance over to the town effective July 1, 2012.

Board members discussed concerns about the date and how to be approved by the Board.

AMMENDMENT rescinded by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Shuhi.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to direct the Superintendent, the BOE Chair, and our Board Attorney to meet with representatives from the town of Litchfield to develop a proposal by May 15th subject to Board approval before July 1st to move maintenance over to the town effective July 1, 2012.

Board members discussed the legal process; attorney fees; and funding for fees.

MOTION carried. Ms. Fabbri, Ms. Rosser, Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Waugh voted in the affirmative. Ms. Carr and Mr. Katzin voted in the negative.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Posting anticipated openings soon to get ahead of other districts.
- Changes in plan for baseball field for drainage adjustments, detailed at the Facilities meeting.
- Spring recess for students; with PD days on Thursday and Friday.
- Reviewed an excellent report from SDE regarding the site visit with excellent feedback on TEAM teacher/mentor program led by Ed O'Connell and Jen Johnson and thanks to the professionals involved who contributed to this report.

Committee Reports

Policies

- a. FIRST READING – Policy # 1314 Fund Raising. No changes needed. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.
- b. FIRST READING – Policy # 4111.1/4211.1 Affirmative Action: Recruitment and Selection. No changes needed. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.
- c. FIRST READING - # 4134 Tutoring. No changes needed. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.
- d. FIRST READING - # 4138/4238 Non-School Employment. No changes needed. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, April 4, 2012

- e. FIRST READING - # 5127.1 Graduation Requirements. Some language changes noted. Correct credit count or listing. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to move to Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. for discussion and possible action concerning personnel matter. Dr. Wheeler was invited to attend.

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

Executive Session

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

Returned to public session resumed at 8:53 p.m.

No action was taken.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

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

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