

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2015

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield High School Library/Media Center.

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

Also present: Superintendent McMullin; Mr. Fiorillo; Ms. Mongeau; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Turner; Ms. Kubisek; the public and the press.

MOTION made by Mr. Waugh and seconded by Ms. Carr: to add to the agenda as VII e. a discussion on the CABA Superintendent Evaluation document.

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

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the minutes of regular meeting of May 6, 2015 with the following corrections on page 3368 under “Administrators’ Reports” change “Maria” to “Maraia.”

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

Approve Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve the payment of invoices on Accounts Payable warrant dated 5/21/2015 in the amount of \$151,105.66.

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

Public Comment and Correspondence Communications

- a. STPC - none
PTO - none
- b. LHS Student Council – none.
- c. Litchfield Prevention Council – none.
- d. Other Public Comment – none.

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- a. Correspondence
 - Invitation to NHS induction ceremony.
 - Invitation to Board and LEA Retirement and Recognition dinner in June.
- b. Administrators' Reports
 - Ms. Mongeau outlined: office business; building news; and professional development.
 - Ms. Turner reported: Kindergarten orientation held on Wednesday during early dismissal, 60 students registered; parent input; setting up email accounts and Constant Contact; field day next Friday; and 3rd grade visitations to L.I.S. with 4th graders.
 - Mr. Fiorillo outlined and reported: financial; information technology; transportation; facilities; a PowerPoint on "Technology Team Web Recommendation," list needed for projects over summer; input from Facilities Committee; scheduling needed; feedback system for maintenance support; input from Mr. Healy; changing from "School Dude" system; email Financial Report; projection for end of the year; funding needed for math program and website update; and new format for financial report will be given to the BOE for their approval.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: LEF grant used in Horticulture class; NHS induction; NFLHS induction; Celebration of Excellence June 2nd; CASS MS Leaders honored; NFLHS potluck fundraiser on Wednesday at Community Center; scholarship funding; senior night coming up; and senior trip to Lake Compounce.
 - Ms. Murphy reported: completion of SBAC testing; transition activities to 7th grade; 7th grade teachers visited 6th grade students; upcoming shadowing days; visiting 3rd graders to 4th grade June 10th; 3rd grade parents meeting that evening; concert 3rd of June at 6:00 p.m.; field day June 12th; and moving up June 18th at 6 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Covered in Math presentation and Student Survey presentation.

Old Business – None

New Business

- a. Math Curriculum presentation

Superintendent McMullin introduced committee members who presented the following: enVisions MATH program chosen; our math history; math before Common Core 1-25 content areas; math with Common Core; thinking through operations; numbers and operations in base 10; measurement and data; geometry; 11 standards vs. 25; 8 mathematical practices grades K – 12; why we need a new program; our process; our key criteria; enVision Math 2.0 was

unanimous choice; technology supports for teachers; daily challenges; differentiation; math tools, pull down features for teacher's dashboard; visual learning bridge, video, parent access; math workshop instructional model; my word cards; solve and share; convince me; guided practice; independent practice; games available; tech support for parents; developed concepts on Smart phone; online access; PD calendar set; June 22nd voluntary; August PD available; \$53,617.10 total; includes teacher manual; 6 years of consumable workbooks supplied; manipulatives included; and may pay this year because price is so good.

Board members discussed: issues with differentiation; grading practices; creating benchmarks; determine proficiency; how monitor students; standard technology needed; tablets for K-5; Smart phones needed; school on line with WiFi; text books available; transition issues from old program to new program; students excited with technology; students involved in pilot program; kidfriendly; ensuring differentiation on both ends of spectrum; lessons and mini lessons included; individual centers; challenge activities; more in-depth for some students; write own problems; STEM activities; lessons on computer start where left off; will there be issues with parent access; videos for parents; schedule for math block; 70 – 75 minutes needed; can float lesson; issues with tablet use; centers needed for tablets; all classes have Smart Boards; support for math in centers; can stagger math block; flexibility of program; and input from other systems that use program.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the purchase of the math program as presented.

Board members applauded efforts of committee; aligning with the MS; not a big transition for 7th and 8th grade; and flexibility in purchase process.

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

b. Grade 7-12 Student Survey results

Superintendent McMullin reported on the following: long awaited results; presented to Prevention Council; presented to community at Board meeting; available tomorrow online to community; students allowed to decline; use "skip logic" so students didn't answer question which didn't apply; Power Point included – Litchfield Schools Youth Survey 2014; Survey details; survey participation; substance abuse – alcohol; lifetime use of common substances of concern; alcohol use; substance use, illicit drugs; lifetime use of selected illicit drugs; marijuana use; other illicit drugs; age of initiation; substance use, legal products; electronic cigarettes; prescription medications; over the counter medications; perception of harm; perception of parental and peer disapproval; perceived availability; getting a gun; perceived availability of substances; antisocial behavior; gambling statistics; self-concept; suicide and depression; social supports; family; family has clear rules; parent/guardian statistics, attending activities, close, valued, loved; perception of school environment; perception of community; prevention statistics;

top ranked prevention strategies by grade; exceptions to local and national trend data; significantly higher; grade 10 issues; have survey available to community; on webpage; charged with the responsibility to get data out to community.

Board members discussed: nice job presenting data; need to come up with a plan; concerns about gambling issues; need to reach out for help; issues for counselors; concerns about students in abusive relationship; possible use of Susan B Anthony group that are free; schools somewhat redeemed due to typical results; concerns about data that is greater than average statistics; concerns over students feeling sad, lonely, depressed; input from advisor program; meet once a week; developmental guidance needed; issues with school curriculum; sensitivities to students; referrals from teachers; less tendency for students to go to teachers; students keep to themselves; texting doesn't allow communicating with friends like talking over the phone; gender statistics; need for guidance in elementary levels; past practices with guidance in lower grades; concerns with students contemplating suicide; self-destructive actions; mental health concerns; need to do another survey in two years; input from social workers, guidance and administrators; solve issues of depression, suicide results in less substance abusive behavior; Bob Kenney in CS met with students early on; stop progression of problem before escalate; and contemplating and acting two different set of circumstances.

c. Tuition Student Request

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve the tuition request from Raymond and Leslie Capella to allow their daughter to continue attending L.P.S.

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

d. Recommendation to hire

Superintendent McMullin reported on the process used to interview candidates for L.H.S. Latin teacher; provided background on candidate.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve Dr. Robert Caldwell as Latin teacher.

MOTION carried. Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Mr. Bongiorno, Mr. Clock, Mr. Falcetti, and Mr. Waugh voted in the affirmative. Mr. Shuhi abstained.

e. CABE Superintendent Evaluation Document

Board members discussed: input needed for Personnel Committee; evaluation needed; limited time for Superintendent; adjust categories to use; scoring needed by all Board members; same as last year; complete by June 3rd; review in Committee meeting on June 10th; deadline in

July; next year will be different; Board consensus for this year was to eliminate "Education Leadership;" eliminate 4 under "Curriculum Development" eliminate "Professional Development;" eliminate 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12 under "Supervision;" eliminate "Student Services," "Questions," and "Infrastructure;" under fiscal management; under "Climate" eliminate 8, 9; under "Teacher Relations" eliminate 3; and under "Personal/Professional Qualities" eliminate 2.

Committee Reports

Policy: Ms. Carr reported that the committee will meet tomorrow evening at 6:45 p.m.

Scholarship Committee: Mr. Waugh reported: awards handed out at 8:30 a.m. on June 4th to seniors; Mr. Petricone honored for his service and Senator Murphy was present.

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel: Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met and discussed all that was presented this evening.

Finance: Mr. Shuhi reported that the committee meeting was cancelled and a Financial Report will be forthcoming.

Facilities and Technology: Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee will meet next week and will add a discussion on needs requested by the music department.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to move to Executive Session at 9:05 to discuss a personnel matter.

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

Executive Session

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

Superintendent McMullin was invited to attend.

Returned to public session at 9:15 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Waugh: to support the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the renewal of the non-tenured teachers.

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

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MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted
Donald Falcetti, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary