

DRAFT

3489

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 6, 2016

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School Art Room.

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

Absent was: Mr. Waugh.

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

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to add to the agenda VI g. 2016 - 2017 budget discussion.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to add to the agenda VI h. Green Team discussion.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to add to the agenda VII g. out-of-state field trip discussion.

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 the regular meeting of March 16, 2016, with the following corrections: on page 3485 middle of page change "Lacrosse" to "lacrosse;" and on page 3486 last sentence, change "voters" to "votes."

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

Payment of Invoices

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: approve the payment of FY 2015-16 invoices on Accounts Payable warrant dated 4/7/2016 in the amount of \$178,366.61.

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.
- e. Correspondence -- none.
- f. Administrators' Reports
 - Ms. Turner reported: parent conferences coming up Wed., Thurs., and Fri. of next week; evening conferences will be on Thur.; Charlie and the Chocolate Factory book club finale; and "Light Up Litchfield" event coming up on Friday evening; every student has made a lantern for this event.
 - Ms. Kubisek reported: All BOE members were given a Booster Club flyer with items for sale for LMS Fundraiser; all school spirit items being offered; previous Wednesday 8th grade went to Ellis Island and "On Your Feet" performance; 7th grade going to Nature's Classroom overnight next Monday and Tuesday; another fun night being held on Friday; and upcoming dance is planned.
 - Ms. Della Volpe reported: successful performance of play *Starmites*; jazz band played at Infinity Hall; TSA spring blood drive held; spring sports are underway; winter sport's awards were held; National Art Honor Society induction took place last Wednesday with Wamogo; 9th grade English classes attended a Broadway show; for the CAS Art and Music awards, we had two students who received the awards, Riley Cotton and Sara Mitnik.
 - Mr. Fiorillo reported: distributed monthly report.
 - Ms. Murphy reported: "Courage to Speak" event will take place tomorrow for Intermediate students; program against drug abuse is sponsored by Prevention Council; conferences scheduled next Wed., Thurs, and Friday; and upcoming White Memorial trip; "Light Up Litchfield" event for Autism Awareness on this coming Friday; Mrs. McMullin added Ms. Clementson and Adam Piechowski organized this event with a grant from LEF; \$5.00 for lantern kits still available at True Value, Hometown Pizza, and Sportmen's of Litchfield; thank you to all the many staff and teachers involved;
 - Ms. Haggard reported: she distributed information earlier.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent McMullin reported on the following: Curriculum Committee met and discussed Rubicon Atlas for curriculum writing; a lot of enthusiasm for the program; funding from LEF for STEM and STEAM programs; Rubik's Cubes purchased by LEF for 8th grade math classes; two teachers funded by LEF for Columbia Readers' and Writers workshops; LEF and Lions sponsoring "Light Up Litchfield"; the high school business department taking students on 3 field trips to Torrington Chamber of Conference, Hartford Yard Goats Career Day, and NYC Wall Street visit to financial district and first-person presentation about the 2008 banking crash; and graduation date scheduled for June 20 at 5:30, but John Bagioni advised superintendents to wait two more weeks before setting the last day of school.

Old Businessa. Litchfield Hills Rowing Club restructuring.

Ms. Della Volpe reported: request to redesign crew athletics for the immediate spring season; new competitions selected to fit the size and abilities of the small group; new schedule resulted in out-of-state competitions and required BOE approval just as with an out-of-state field trip; issues with CIAC and crew being grandfathered in as an 'other' sport; not a Litchfield sport with the new restructuring; more of a club sport without any high school league oversight; 7-13 students involved; Wamogo is involved, but unknown what their thoughts were on this; issues with BOE policies and insurance liability; and issues with coaches being certified to coach and drivers being certified to drive the vans; issues whether vans would be appropriate to carry 13 students and over state lines.

Board members discussed: number of students involved; input from Kynan Reelick, head coach; issues with licensed van drivers; takes months to get van driving certification in place; school buses can't go over state lines; crew opted out of CIAC sponsored events before talking about the BOE regarding next steps; discussion of insurance issues; being a "club" sport changes everything; talked to Mr. Weaver to get input in the fall; talked to parents in spring and were intending to talk to Mr. Weaver again; input from Jeff Stone, President of Litchfield Rowing Club, that students getting crushed during CIAC competitions against much larger clubs; issues with changing the status of the club before talking with Mr. Weaver or the Board; issues with out-of-state competitions; issues with co-op with Wamogo which had been grandfathered, but co-ops have since been eliminated; expenses shared with Wamogo by billing them at end of season, but Litchfield's liability; issues with other club sports like elite soccer and lacrosse; no letter is given to students in club sports; crew was always a club sport in the fall, now with new schedule and arrangement is actually a club sport in the spring, as well; competitions with Glastonbury and Simsbury overwhelming for students; issues now with the new out-of-state competitions which require an overnight stay and who will pay for coaches and students who cannot afford overnight; change of status has an effect on how the Board can sponsor the sport; input from CIAC website; fees will be charged per student if not sponsored by Board; if club

sport, no insurance from the Board may be available for students and travel; questions about the ability of the club to get back to its original status and whether or not they may be able to do this; 19 students going up against 110 students is unfair for students; in the past Litchfield and Wamogo had up to 40 students; size of rowers affects competition; budget amounts are for in-state competitions with school buses and not out-of-state buses with charters; issues with setting a precedent for a club sport; possibly keep in-state competitions only; competitions at Bantam Lake; under the CIAC, the designation for "other" sports includes cheerleading, archery, and skiing, for example; questions about the timing for certification for van driver; needed to present this plan and all the questions much earlier in the year; crew has been a school sponsored sport for years; issues with CPSRA; coaches sought input from parents; both coaches and parents saw almost no benefit to go back to CPSRA; intended to get back to Mr. Weaver in the spring; Board asked about possibly return to CPSRA for school sport sponsoring because club sports are outside the Board's jurisdiction including finances, transportation, coaches, and facility use; check on whether leaving CPSRA has dissolved the co-op status with Wamogo.

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve the out-of-state field trips on (b) 4/24/2016 to Camden, NJ; (c) 5/14/2016 to Providence, RI; (d) 5/21-22, 2016 to Worcester, MA; and (e) 6/10-12, 2016 to West Windsor Township, NJ as presented.

MOTION denied. All votes were in the negative. There were no abstentions.

f. 2016-2017 BOE budget review.

Mr. Fiorillo presented the following: 2.83% increase presented to Board of Finance; reconfigured to 2.49% following presentation to BOF; and current recommendation to the Board at 2.0%.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the 2016-2017 Board of Education budget as presented at 2.0% increase.

Board members discussed: clarifying of the process of arriving at the 2.0%; comments from Board of Finance that led to recommendation to 2.0%; 2.49% had no impact on programs because reduction found in duplicate entry for stipends and difference in salary for Superintendent; 4-month budget process; line-by-line has been presented to BOF; some issues with 2.0%; questions about where the tuition changes were originating and whether budgeted tuition too close, about how personnel cost was adjusted, long term liability adjustments; Mr. Fiorillo and superintendent comfortable with 2.0%; 2.49% does not impact programs; might have impact on outcome of town meeting if the BOE presents a 2.49% over a 2.0%; community could request even lower percentage; and better to present the lower amount to avoid future conflict.

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

g. Green Team discussion.

Mr. Fiorillo presented the following: proposal for lighting contract; replace interior light bulbs where recommended for energy savings; presented to Board of Finance; interested in idea but did not move on it; and a non-appropriations clause would enable the BOE to move forward with this cost savings on its own.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to accept as is and put in as a non-appropriation clause into the contract.

Board members discussed the following: letter of authorization from Eversource; any possible issues with entering into a contract on own; time limits for this opportunity are 30 days; good if the whole project could get done this summer; questioned who will change lights if a bulb goes out, but lights last for 5 years or they will replace for us; company installs the lights, not our staff; issues with town responsibility and input from Mr. Paul who wants to delay the project until after hearing from Town Facilities Committee which may recommend closing a school.

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

New Business

a. Update on SRBI/Dean of Students Position.

Mr. Pascento presented the following: main focus of the SRBI program and how he is coordinating program at secondary level; uses input from guidance, social worker, Special Education director; and staff; works with data from Power School; used these resources for identification of students who are in need of intervention; Tier I, II, and III academic and behavioral supports; sometimes one-on-one support; addresses behavior issues and academic concerns because they are so often related; seeks input from parents; extending school day to incorporate afterschool time with teachers for support; increase time for interventions; the high school schedule, with its built in flex time, naturally allows for intervention time; flex support for A and B days; students can also make use of math and Language Arts lab; adjusting program opportunities based on the kids' struggles day-to-day; at the lower grade levels focus is basically on reading and math; at the HS level, it's on how best to educate the whole student and get him or her ready for the next step after high school; working with other administrators on developing a K-12 program.

Board members discussed the following: whether students' flex scheduling and tier intervention is directed by their study time; when do they get released from the formal scheduling and gain independence; resource for students who are struggling; discussed whether this was a male issues versus female; open door policy for all students; Mr. Pascento's office is a safe place to attend to the issues students are having; privacy issues with some frequent flyers who are beyond our control; importance of having a mentor in the building.

b. Out-of-State Field Trip

MOTION made by Mr. Clock and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the out-of-state field trip to Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA on May 16 and May 23, 2016, as presented.

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

c. Update on trip to China postponed to next meeting.

Ms. Della Volpe and Ms. Haggard distributed a handout featuring the trip to China.

d. High School Graduation Date.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Clock: to approve the high school graduation day for June 20, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. at Warner Theater in Torrington, Connecticut.

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

e. Teacher's Professional Development Day make-up in June – last day of school and PD day tabled until next meeting.

f. Accept Three Teacher Resignations.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Pavlick: to approve the resignations of Aryn Kavanaugh, Helena Morris, and Michael Sadej as presented.

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

g. Out-of-State field trip.

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MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the out-of-state field trip to Wall St. in NYC on May 23, 2016 as presented.

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

Committee Reports

Finance - Mr. Shuhi reported on the following: scheduled last evening to make-up cancelled meeting from Monday due to snow; finance document distributed; additional sally-ports to be installed at the Intermediate School; funded through grant money; 2 new sets of double doors at the top of the hallways to secure the school areas beyond the corridors; status of bills; how to account for lost and broken technology issues and getting payment from students and/or parents for damaged equipment owed to the district; OPEB questions and issues discussed again; fund 15% of ARC, \$206,000; next year would be \$100,000.

Policiesa. Review

- i. Policy # 6180.1 Regulation – Student Wellness, Nutrition and Physical Activity – no changes made.
- ii. Policy # 9230 Orientation of Board Members – no changes made.

b. First Reading

- i. Policy # 6180.1 Student Wellness, Nutrition and Physical Activity.
- ii. Bylaw # 9270 Conflict of Interest – changes made. Return for second reading at next regular BOE meeting.
- iii. Bylaw # 9271 Code of Ethics – change made. Return for second reading at next regular BOE meeting.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Mr. Clock: to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

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

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