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**LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 11, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 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; Ms. Kubisek; and members of the public.

**Presentation of Citation**

The Board presented a citation to August “Augie” Hurtado for saving the life of a classmate who was choking by performing the Heimlich maneuver.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to move LHS Student Council report IIa.

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

b. LHS Student Council: Natalie Wihbey, Ariel Brandt, Madeline Bove, Matthew McCarthy and Melissa McDonald reported on the student council activities at the high school.

**Approve Minutes**

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting August 14, 2013 with the following corrections: on page 3158, fourth paragraph should have “Voters,” on page 3159 under Superintendent’s Report it should include “August 29 Dr. Wheeler met with paraprofessionals to review and revise their evaluation system”; on page 3160 under Equipment Financing it should read “bond anticipation,” and on page 3161 under the fourth paragraph “a lease purchase agreement” should be changed to “tax exempt purchase agreement.”

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the minutes of special meeting August 29, 2013.

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

**Approve Payment of Invoices**

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Shuhi: to approve the payment of invoices for 2013-2014 as required.

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

**Field Trip Approval**

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve an Out of State Field trip for chorus and band to Bennington, VT for the New England Music Festival Association (NEMFA).

Board members discussed: use of school van; agenda; and host families.

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

**Public Comment and Correspondence**

Mr. Simone thanked all the administrators and teachers for the smooth opening of school this year.

- a. STPC: Ms. Fabbri reported – first fundraiser Yankee Candle ends September 20<sup>th</sup>; first meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and meeting schedule 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Bongiorno and seconded by Ms. Carr: to move agenda item X a, to VII a.

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

PTO: Ms. Stone and Ms. Stevenson distributed a handout and discussed: invitation to the First Parent Academy meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>; mission; values; increase in parent participation; September 5<sup>th</sup> Back to School Family Social well attended; booth at Open House; Facebook page; Constant Contact; and input from Dr. Wheeler and the principals.

- c. Public Comment:

- Ms. Reardon commented: retain the Conflict of Interest policy.
- Ms. Morgan commented on the Conflict of Interest policy and Conflict of Interest issues.

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, September 11, 2013

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- Mr. Sandrib distributed a copy of ALGEE, About Mental Health First Aid.
  - Ms. Moore commented on increase in library book circulation over summer with alignment with OWL.
  - Ms. Garden commented on non-refundable lap top insurance, high school student activities fund and issues with choice of laptops.
  - Mr. Donnelly commented on laptop insurance policy.
- d. Correspondence
- Invitation to a workshop on Section 504 Civil Rights Act responsibility.
  - Cable Connections from Connecticut Junior Republic that features student works.
  - School Law Alert from Pullman & Comley, LLC.
  - Email from Jodi Rockness concerning laptop issues and mandatory fee.
- E. Administrators' Report
- Ms. Murphy reported: great opening; Wednesday, September 18 is Open House from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
  - Ms. Turner reported: smooth opening; September 19<sup>th</sup> meet the teachers night; thanks to Board for Smart Boards for Center School; and effect on students and learning.
  - Mr. Zaremski reported: extended school year through the summer thanks to the dedication of Laurie Behmke, Melissa Michaud, Liz Bailey, Erin Butler, Kim Roe, Judy Albert, Francesca Rivellini and Michele Mongeau; one out placed student graduated on August 30<sup>th</sup> and the Board should be proud for supporting these students.
  - Ms. Della Volpe reported: College Fair tonight; 80 colleges; well attended; meeting held with Berkshire League principals; need to rotate tournaments; and budget and security implications to do so.
  - Mr. Lathrop reported: distributed August financial report to be discussed at the next Finance, Facilities and Technology meeting; equipment financing; laptop/copiers approved by Selectmen and Board of Finance; town meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> at LIS; town rate is best; and need to take a look at laptop and repairs issues.

Board members discussed: leasing through town; need for town meeting; pleased with Board of Finance process; and better rate received.

**Superintendent's Report**

- a. Back to School update: smooth opening; enrollment dropped to 987 students; 90 seniors graduated – 56 Kindergarteners enrolled; added Kindergarten section as anticipated; status of school buildings; thanks to Joe Tofuri and maintenance crew; welcomed police presence at opening day; status of paving at C.S.; sidewalk along Route 202 completed; Smart Board at C.S.; PD scheduled for next week on the Smart

- Board; tax exempt purchase agreement; Chartwell's status; and thanks to parents, students, administrators and staff for such a smooth opening.
- b. Broadcasting conflict with broadcasting live meeting coverage on November 20<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>; could reschedule to different dates or provide taped programming. Board consensus was to tape the meeting and keep the dates as scheduled but put out a reminder to the community as to that decision.
  - c. NEASC site visit scheduled for March 15 – 18, 2015; will have budget implications for 2014-2015.
  - d. Recommendation for hire – Maria Krafty for .2 FTE Health Teacher at LIS.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Maria Krafty for .2 FTE Health Teacher at LIS.

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

### **Old Business**

- a. FICA – discussion referred to the agenda for FF & T Committee meeting next Monday with a recommendation to the Board to follow.
- b. Bylaw # 9270 Conflict of Interest – town Ethics Board is enforceable body; BOE cannot enforce ethics policy; need for good guidelines; not enforceable but should be followed; could leave in place; broad statement of what Board should do; appearance to public; create standard Board could aspire to; every Board in state has one; need to hold Board up to these standards; need for input from Board attorney; possible change in wording could make a difference; need to add info to the policy telling where to go for enforcement; wording is not the issue; need to hold ourselves to a higher standard; and agreement to have conference call with the attorney at the next Policy Committee meeting next Thursday.

### **New Business**

CMT/CAPT results report – Dr. Wheeler and Mr. O'Connell presented the following: Chart 1 Connecticut Mastery Test Vertical Scale Descriptors, Mathematics and Chart 2, Reading including 5 stages, descriptions and vertical scale score; 2012-2013 Test Results; Vertical Scale Growth Mathematics, Reading– Grade 3 to 8; Grade 3 to 7; Grade 3 to 6; Grade 3 to 5; Grade 3 to 4; Class of 2015 – Current Juniors; SAT Comparisons for the Class of 2013; Mean Senior SAT I Scores by Class; 2013 Advanced Placement Results at LHS; Celebrations; Continuing Our Work.

Board discussed: intervention needs; patterns; curriculum; Common Core alignment; how district will be moving forward; new Smart Balance test; causes of data set

decline; need to teach beyond growth levels; possible waiver for testing in the spring; both tests will not be taken.

- c. Establish Tuition Rate – Mr. Lathrop requested that the Board set tuition rates for non – resident students as follows: grades K-6 - \$9,284 and grades 7-12 - \$11,133 which is a 4% increase.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve tuition rates for 2013-2014 – grades K-6, \$9,284 and grades 7-12, \$11,133.

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

### **Committee Reports**

Curriculum, Programs and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee will meet tomorrow.

Facilities, Finance and Technology - Mr. Bongiorno reported that the committee will meet on Monday.

### **Policies**

- a. Rescind Policy # 5131.61 Tobacco Policy

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to rescind Policy #5131.61 Tobacco Policy.

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

- b. Review – Policy #5131.11/4118.23/4218.23 Electronic Surveillance – Policy reviewed and approved.
- c. First Reading – Policy #5127 Graduation – Policy reviewed. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.
- d. First Reading – Policy # 5131.6 Drug Policy for the Litchfield Public Schools – Policy reviewed and changes made. Return for second reading at next regular Board meeting.
- e. Second Reading – Policy # 5126 Award for Achievement

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Bongiorno: to approve Policy # 5126 Award for Achievement as submitted.

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

f. Second Reading – Policy # 5129 Homework

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to approve Policy # 5129 Homework as submitted.

g. Second Reading – Policy # 5131.5 Vandalism

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve Policy # 5131.5 Vandalism as submitted.

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

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move to Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. to discuss Superintendent's Goals and Negotiations.

Executive Session to discuss Superintendent's Goals.

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

Dr. Wheeler was invited to attend.

Open session resumed at 10:01 p.m.

Mr. Shuhi left at 10:01 p.m.

Executive session to discuss negotiations resumed at 10:03 p.m.

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

Dr. Wheeler was invited to attend.

Open session resumed at 10: 20 p.m.

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, September 11, 2013

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MOTION made by Donald Falcetti and seconded by Gayle Carr: to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 p.m.

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

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