

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 11, 2008

Mr. Bolduc, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Members present were John Bolduc, Chairman, April Smith, Secretary, Sam Agnello, Gail MacDonald, Rob Cary, and Kevin Bornstein.

Member Absent: Doug Rea.

Also present were Michael McKee, Superintendent of Schools, Jackie Garvie, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Communications

Mr. Bolduc, Board Chairman, read aloud a letter he received from the Board of Finance Chairman, Glen Frishman regarding the superintendent's insurance premium benefits after retirement.

Recognitions by Board Members and Superintendent

Mr. McKee recognized SHS student, Michael Tranchida, who has been named to the Class SS All State Football team. Mr. Agnello also recognized the SHS football team and commented on the exciting Stonington versus Westerly Thanksgiving Day game.

Student Government Report

Catherine Schmitz reported on behalf of the Student Government:

- Student Government is planning Reindeer Games and hopes to donate proceeds to Heifer International.
- Juniors have begun working on their Junior project.
- The National Honor Society will be ending its annual winter clothing drive.
- The Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band held its concert on December 8th
- There was an open house for the CloseUP! Washington trip and registration is now open.
- Attorney Meredith Brown spoke to Law & Government Forum students about careers in law on December 10.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by April Smith:

- **Motion 1: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 13, 2008.**

Aye: All

B. Checks and Bills

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

- **Motion 2: To approve the disbursement of checks and bills for the month of November 2008.**

Aye: All

C. Intra-account Transfers

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Rob Cary:

- **Motion 3: To approve the Intra-account Transfers for the month of November 2008.**

Aye: All

Finance and Operations

A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy Samokar presented the monthly financial report to the Board.

B. Project Updates and Operations Update

Bill King reported to the Board on the following:

- a. Energy contracts locked in until 2012.
- b. K-12 Building Committee funds leftover from high school renovation.

C. Transportation Contract

Mr. King reported that he consulted with Attorney O'Connor on the legality of extending the current bus contract. He also reported that there is no statutory requirement to go out to bid for the bus contract and that board policy regarding bus contracts states that the contract awarded should not exceed 5 years. First Student offered for board consideration, an extension with increases of 0%, 2.5%, 2.5% from existing pricing.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by April Smith:

- **Motion 4: To approve the continuation of the First Student Bus Contract respectively with a 0% increase in 2009-10, 2.5% in 2010-11 and 2.5% in 2011-12.**

Aye: All

D. 403b Plan Document

The Board reviewed the final 403b Plan Document and recommended resolutions.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Rob Cary:

- **Motion 5: To approve the Board of Education Resolutions Regarding The Stonington Public Schools 403(b) Plan as presented.**

Aye: All

E. CIP

The Board reviewed the Capitol Improvement Plan for 2009-2010.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

- **Motion 6: To approve the 2009-2010 Education Capital Improvement Plan Submission dated November 13, 2008 for the Town Budget as presented.**

The vote was as follows:

Gail MacDonald – Yes

April Smith – No

John Bolduc – Yes

Sam Agnello – Yes

Rob Cary – No

Kevin Bornstein - Yes

The motion carried.

Budget 2009-2010

A. Staffing Projections

Mr. McKee gave the board a projection for the number of teachers and classified staff needed for next year. He also pointed out contractual expenses and budgetary savings that will impact the 2009-2010 budget and announced he had asked bargaining units to freeze their salaries for 2009-2010 at the 2008-09 levels. The board chairman asked the board members for suggestions and input that would give the administration direction in planning the budget.

On behalf of the Board of Education, the board chairman will send a letter to the Board of Finance in response to the Board of Finance's letter dated October 3, 2008.

Budget 2009-2010 continued...

B. High School for 21st Century

Dr. Murphy was unable to attend the meeting and therefore this item was tabled until the January meeting.

C. Budget Goals

The Board discussed and worked to create budget goals for the 2009-2010 budget season.

The following goal was agreed upon and adopted by the board: "To fund Stonington Public Schools programs that are effective, current and aligned with the district's philosophy and long-term goals".

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Gail MacDonald:

- **Motion 7: To approve the following 2009-2010 budget goal**
"To fund Stonington Public Schools programs
that are effective, current and aligned with the district's
philosophy and long-term goals".

Aye: All

D. Contractual Obligations

Mr. McKee reported to the board on contractual obligations that will impact the 2009-2010 budget which will need to be considered during budget planning.

Curriculum and Instruction

A. Tradebook Adoption

On behalf of the Language Arts Committee, Mrs. Masterjoseph, presented two books for adoption by the Board at the November meeting. They were Pathways: Literature for Readers and Writers and Our Town. This was a second reading.

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by April Smith:

- **Motion 8: To approve the addition of Pathways: Literature for Readers and Writers**
and Our Town for inclusion on the list of adopted tradebooks for Stonington
Public Schools.

Aye: All

SBIT Policy (#9400) Discussion

The board discussed the current SBIT board policy and the role of the SBITs. The board suggested some revisions to the policy, which will be added to the February agenda for review.

Mr. Bolduc, Board Chairman, made the following SBIT assignments:

Kevin Bornstein – Deans Mill School	Gail MacDonald – Pawcatuck Middle School
April Smith – Mystic Middle School	Sam Agnello – West Broad Street School
Doug Rea – Stonington High School	John Bolduc – West Vine Street School

Committee Reports

A. Building Committee

Gail MacDonald reported on the unused funds from the high school renovation project and also reported that the final contractor issues have been resolved allowing the project to be closed. She also reported that the potential elementary school project has been put on hold.

B. SEF

Gail MacDonald reported that money that has accrued from the “Monday Blues” concerts which are sponsored by the Mark Kepple family will be used to fund a music multicultural program for the 5th graders.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Gail MacDonald:

- **Motion 9: To approve adding Finance Subcommittee to the agenda under Committee Reports.**

Aye: All

C. Finance Subcommittee

Rob Cary and April Smith reported that they attended a meeting regarding the 2009-2010 budget in which the First Selectman stated that he expected the town and educational budgets to come in at 0 % level funding with the exception of contractual agreements.

The following motion was made by Gail MacDonald and seconded by Rob Cary:

- **Motion 10: To approve the Finance Subcommittee sending a letter to the Board of Finance outlining the Board of Education’s position on contracts and insurance premium stipulations and expressing the Board’s willingness to meet with the Board of Finance.**

Aye: All

Superintendent's Report

A. Personnel

Volunteer Appointment

Girls Basketball Assistant Coach

Earl Palmer

SHS

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Rob Cary:

- **Motion 11: To approve the volunteer appointment of Earl Palmer as Girls Basketball Assistant Coach.**

Aye: All

B. SHS World Language Canada Trip

Mr. McKee informed the board that Mrs. Kennedy had submitted a completed request to take a group of world language students on a field trip to Canada during the February break.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

- **Motion 12: To approve the SHS World Language trip to Quebec City, Canada from February 4-7, 2009.**

Aye: All

Comments from Citizens

Mr. and Mrs. Lyon requested a private meeting with the Board of Education. John Bolduc and Gail MacDonald explained that the Board of Education cannot meet in private or executive session unless it is a personnel issue, regarding pending litigation or contract negotiations. Dr. Hawk, Director of Special Services, will assist Mr. and Mrs. Lyons as a liaison to the board.

Board Comments

Mr. Agnello acknowledged SHS student, Mario Costa, for being selected to play on the All New England Soccer Team.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

- **Motion 13: To enter into executive session at 9:15 p.m. to discuss Central Office Staff, Cafeteria Workers, and Nurses Contracts inviting Mr. McKee, Judy Samokar and Bill King.**

Aye: All

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Rob Cary:

- **Motion 14: To return to open session at 9:25 p.m.**

Aye: All

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Sam Agnello:

- **Motion 15: To approve the “Conditions of Employment for Cafeteria Workers July 1, 2008-June 30, 2010”.**

Aye: All

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Rob Cary:

- **Motion 16: To approve the “Conditions of Employment for Central Office Classified Staff July 1, 2008-June 30, 2010”.**

Aye: All

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

- **Motion 17: To approve the “Stonington Board of Education and Local 1303-397 of Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO Nurses Contract July 1, 2008-June 30, 2010”.**

Aye: All

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by April Smith:

- **Motion 18: To adjourn at 9:27 p.m.**

Aye: All

April Smith, Board Secretary