

## STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING DECEMBER 20, 2007

Mr. Bolduc, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Members present were John Bolduc, Chairman, April Smith, Secretary, Gail MacDonald, and Doug Rea.

Sam Agnello – Late arrival at 7:10 p.m.

Rob Cary – Late arrival at 8:25 p.m.

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

### Communications

Mr. Bolduc shared with the Board an email he received from Betty Pacelle, DMS Library/Media Specialist, regarding the 2008-09 budget and the need for a full-time media library paraprofessional at DMS. Mr. Bolduc also reported to the Board that he received three emails regarding the privatization of custodial services and 1 e-mail regarding fifth grade students and the honor roll.

### Recognitions by Board Members and Superintendent

Mr. McKee recognized PMS 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Tim Flanagan, for being selected 2008 Teacher of the Year. Board Chairman, John Bolduc, presented Mr. Flanagan with a plaque from the Board of Education.

### Student Government Report

- Spirit week was held in November.
- There was a Math Meet on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Norwich Free Academy.
- Band and Choral students participated in the Mystic Holiday Stroll.
- A Career Expo was held at SHS.
- The Football Banquet and Fall Sports Awards were held last week.
- Reindeer Games are being held on Friday, December 21.
- Westerly Community Credit Union 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Basketball Tournament is being held on December 26 through December 29, 2007 at SHS.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes

The following motion was made by April Smith and seconded by Doug Rea:

- **Motion 1: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2007 and the Special Meeting of December 6, 2007.**

**Aye: All**

B. Checks and Bills

The following motion was made by April Smith and seconded by Doug Rea:

- **Motion 2: To approve the disbursement of checks and bills for the month of November 2007.**

**Aye: All**

C. Intra-account Transfers

The following motion was made by April Smith and seconded by Doug Rea:

- **Motion 3: To approve the intra-account transfers for December 20, 2007.**

**Aye: All**

Multimedia China Presentation

Mr. McKee presented a multimedia presentation about how establishing Chinese sister schools aligns with the educational vision of the Stonington Public Schools, the importance of China and its educational system to America, and the importance of connections and relationships made between SPS and the Town of Stonington with Shandong schools and municipalities.

2008-2009 Budget Goals

Mr. McKee presented the SPS administration's recommendations for this year's budget goals. Mr. McKee recommended that the Board adopt goals so that administration can continue to develop a budget with the Board goals as a guide.

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

- **Motion 4: To adopt the following as the 2008-2009 budget goals concept:**
  - **To increase support strategies for students; thereby enabling all children to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**
  - **To begin redefining curricular content and course offerings to enable all children to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**
  - **To increase access and use of instructional technology to enable all children to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

**Aye: All**

Business and Finance

A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy Samokar presented the monthly financial report.

B. Custodial/Maintenance Review of Operations

The Board reviewed the memo included in their Board packet regarding Custodial and Maintenance operations.

C. School Secretaries Contract Ratification

The Board reviewed the memo from Mr. Connolly, which summarized the secretaries's contract.

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

- **Motion 5: The Board hereby ratifies contract "The Stonington Board of Education and the Stonington Board of Education Secretaries, Local 1303-380 of Council 4, AFSCME, July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2010."**

**Aye: All**

D. Business Office Reorganization Proposal

Mr. McKee presented a proposed reorganization plan for the business office when Mr. Connolly retires in March 2008. The Board asked several questions and discussed the proposal as well as expressing their support and/or concerns regarding the proposal.

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

- **Motion 6: To approve the reorganization of the business and finance department.**  
**The vote was as follows:**

<b>Doug Rea: No</b>	<b>April Smith – No</b>
<b>John Bolduc – Yes</b>	<b>Sam Agnello – Yes</b>
<b>Gail MacDonald – Yes</b>	<b>Rob Cary – No</b>

**The Motion Failed.**

Business Office Reorganization Proposal continued....

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

- **Motion 7: To direct the Superintendent to advertise for Business Finance Director.**

**The vote was as follows:**

<b>Doug Rea: No</b>	<b>April Smith – Yes</b>
<b>John Bolduc – No</b>	<b>Sam Agnello – No</b>
<b>Gail MacDonald – No</b>	<b>Rob Cary –Yes</b>

**The Motion Failed.**

#### Capitol Improvement Plan

The CIP was presented at the November Board meeting.

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

- **Motion 8: To approve the 2008-2009 Education CIP submission for the Town Budget.**

**Aye: All**

#### Curriculum and Instruction

A. Stonington Academy

Leanne Masterjoseph, Assistant Superintendent, provided the Board with the Winter 2008 Offering Guide and invited Board members to participate in any of the classes.

B. Tradebook Adoption

Mrs. Masterjoseph presented two tradebooks, which will be used at high school level for the Board's consideration. This was a first reading so no action was taken.

#### Health and Safety

The Board was provided with information regarding the proactive stand Stonington has taken prior to any cases of MRSA being found in the school system.

Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

April Smith, Rob Cary and Gail MacDonald reported on behalf of the finance committee, which met regarding Stonington Continuing Education. After meeting with Mr. Connolly, town officials and reviewing the program finances the committee had the following suggestions for improving and providing some discipline to areas of concern.

1. There needs to be more policies and procedures for instructor fees, determining which classes to offer and which classes to stop offering.
2. Create a specific schedule of instructor fees.
3. Investigate and take advantage of grants.

The committee also stressed that during discussions of the budget that the director's salary must be revisited. This item will be placed on the January Board of Education regular meeting agenda.

B. Grievance Committee

Mr. Bolduc reported on behalf of the grievance committee which heard a level 3 grievance from the SEA concerning monthly meetings. Mr. Bolduc also informed the Board that he had received a notification of arbitration request.

C. Stonington Education Fund

Gail MacDonald reported on behalf of SEF. She reported that SEF approved two Apple grants.

D. Building Committee

Gail MacDonald reported on behalf of the building committee. She reported that the committee reviewed the architect estimates for various options for elementary and middle school projects with a focus on the cost estimates for the least expensive option.

E. Town Pension Committee

April Smith volunteered to serve on the Town Pension Committee.

F. LEARN

John Bolduc reported that with the resignation of Ed Haberek the Board is in need of a new representative for LEARN.

Committee reports continued....

G. Comcast

Mr. Bolduc reported that the Comcast Advisory Board has once again requested that a representative from the Stonington Board of Education serve on their Board. No volunteers came forward to serve.

Policies

A. Policy and Revised Regulations 5131.6 – Students; Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco – Continued  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Gail MacDonald reported that the policy committee met with Pat Jeffrey and as a result they have some proposed alternatives which will be represented at the January Board meeting.

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

- **Motion 9: To remove the word “or” from regulation 5131.6 – Students; Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco on page b under 1<sup>st</sup> violation item a (1).**

**Aye: All**

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

- **Motion 10: To continue Board meeting past 10:00 p.m.**

**Aye: All**

B. Revised Policy 5114 – Students; Suspension, Exclusions, and Expulsion/Due Process – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Doug Rea:

- **Motion 11: To table Revised Policy 5114 – Students, Suspension, Exclusions, and Expulsions/Due Process.**

**Aye: All**

Superintendent's Report

Mr. McKee reported on the following:

A. Personnel

ADDED TEACHING

New Appointments

Dan Cawley	Girls Basketball Coach	PMS
Andrea Silvestri	Assistant Indoor Track Coach	SHS

Resignation

Dawn Taylor	Girls Basketball Coach	PMS
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B. Comprehensive Guided Career Development

The Board was provided with the abstract of the Perkins Innovation Grant Submission written by Dr. Murphy. Mr. McKee told the Board that he considers it one of the foremost innovations to be proposed by SPS in his 12 year tenure.

C. Montreal Trip

The world language department at the high school, under the direction of its Interdisciplinary Coordinator, Lea Kennedy, requested a field trip to Montreal for April 10-13.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Doug Rea:

- **Motion 12: To approve the April 10-13 world language field trip to Montreal, Canada.**

**Aye: All**

D. Special Education Need

Mr. McKee reported that Pawcatuck Middle School has had an increase of eleven students in need of special education. In order to be in compliance it is necessary that a 0.6 FTE special education teacher be hired for PMS.

Comments from Citizens

On behalf of the maintenance and custodial workers, Manny Santiago, wished the Board, Administration and their families best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Betty Pacelle, DMS Library/Media Specialist, thanked the Board for adopting the 2008-2009 Board goals. Mrs. Pacelle also spoke to the Board regarding the need for full-time library/media paraprofessionals at Deans Mill School.

Gail MacDonald referred to the Board's first goals which focused on communication between the Board and the public and recommended that the Board work on a Board of Education website and that the Board set a date for a public session.

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

- **Motion 13: To adjourn at 10:18 p.m.**

**Aye: All**

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April Smith, Board Secretary