

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MAY 8, 2008

Mr. Bolduc, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Commons at the High School. Members present were John Bolduc, Chairman, April Smith, Secretary, Gail MacDonald, Sam Agnello, Rob Cary, Kevin Bornstein, and Doug Rea.

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

Recognitions by Board Members and Superintendent

Mr. McKee recognized SHS seniors, P. Christopher Manning and Kelsey Drake, for being selected as this year's recipients for the CABE Leadership Awards. Mr. McKee introduced both students and their parents Beth and Peter Manning and Bruce and Linda Drake to the Board.

Comments from Citizens

Rob Marseglia, DMS parent, spoke in support of introducing new programs and opportunities for students into the district and the importance of continuing to do so every year. Kristen Basso, DMS parent, spoke in support of the new language program. Christine Halleck, SHS parent, spoke to the importance of supporting special services.

Student Government Report

Catherine Schmitz presented the following highlights from the Student Government Report:

- Elections for Student Government and Class Offices were held last week. The new President is Catherine Schmitz and the Vice President is Andrea Fossa.
- Student Government held an ice cream social for Staff Appreciation Week.
- Student Government held their second EEC Special Olympics for Track and Field events on May 4th.
- Student Government is holding a fundraiser for the victims of the Peachtree Apartments Fire in Norwich.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes

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

- **Motion 1: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 10, 2008.**

Aye: All

Consent agenda continued..

B. Checks and Bills

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

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

Aye: All

C. Intra-account Transfers

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

- **Motion 3: To approve the intra-account transfers of May 8, 2008 as presented.**

Aye: All

D. Submission of Carl D. Perkins Grant Proposal

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

- **Motion 4: To approve the submission of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 – P.L. 1105-332 Grant proposal for \$23,000.**

Aye: All

E. Submission of IDEA Grant Proposal

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

- **Motion 5: To approve the submission of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Special Education, IDEA, Part B, Section 611, Preschool Special Education, IDEA, Part B, Section 619, Grant proposal \$489,788.**

Aye: All

Finance

A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy Samokar presented the monthly financial report to the Board.

B. Budget 2008-2009

Board members discussed whether or not to begin the process of making necessary reductions to the 2008-09 budget.

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

- **Motion 6: That the Board of Education reiterate its commitment to the 2008-09 Board of Education Goals.**

The vote was as follows:

Doug Rea – No

Gail MacDonald – Yes

April Smith – No

John Bolduc – No

Sam Agnello – No

Rob Cary – No

Kevin Bornstein – Yes

The motion failed.

Ms. Smith said that a vote against the motion was not a vote against the Board Goals.

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

- **Motion 7: To table discussion on the 2008-09 budget.**

Aye: All

Operations

A. Project Updates

Bill King reported to the Board on the following:

- Fuel Bids
- Tools for Schools – Indoor Quality Program
- CIRMA Certified Playground Inspections
- Channel One at PMS

Operations continued...

B. Maintenance/Custodians Contract 2007-2010

Board members reviewed the proposed 2007-2010 maintenance/custodian contract.

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

- **Motion 8: The Board hereby ratifies contract “The Stonington Board of Education and the Stonington Board of Education Maintenance/Custodians Local 1303-170 Council 4, AFSCME, July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2010.**

Aye: All

SHS Student Government Proposal

Members of the SHS Student Government presented a proposal on recycling at the high school. Part of the proposal is to replace disposable plates used in the lunchroom with the reusable plastic trays. The Board will consider the students proposal at the regular June board meeting.

Curriculum and Instruction

A. Teacher Evaluation Report

Mrs. Masterjoseph reviewed the status of the Teacher Evaluation in the district with the Board.

B. Good Teaching Task Force

Mrs. Masterjoseph presented the most recent work of the Good Teaching Task Force. GTTF developed a survey to help assess the way parents feel about their relationship with the schools. The survey has been sent home to parents/guardians and data will be shared with the Board at the regular June meeting.

C. SHS Disciplinary Report

SHS Assistant Principal, Pat Jeffrey, presented a report on in-school and out-of-school suspensions for the last several years. One of the highlights from her report is that there are fewer disciplinary measures that have had to be taken this year than in prior years because there have been many fewer disciplinary infractions.

Committee Reports

A. Building Committee

Gail MacDonald reported that the committee had not met and therefore there was no report.

B. SEF

Gail MacDonald was unable to attend the meeting and therefore there was no report.

C. Athletic Committee Meeting

Sam Agnello reported that the meeting had been cancelled and therefore there was no report.

D. Pension Committee

April Smith reported that the pension committee met on May 6th and that the pension fund is slightly down but remains strong.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. McKee reported on the following:

A. Important Dates

Mr. McKee shared upcoming important dates in the district with the board members.

A. Personnel

CERTIFIED

Resignation

Clint Kennedy

District Technology Director

May 30, 2008

Comments from Citizens

Pawcatuck Resident, Mr. Mercier, asked the Board questions about the IDEA and Perkins grants. He also asked questions about the new punch/clock in system for payroll. Mr. Mercier also stated he was shocked to hear that as a citizen he has been required to recycle cans for years and that the high school is not required to recycle cans.

Lori Taylor, PMS parent, stated that she feels the foundation portion of the budget cannot suffer any reductions. She stated that she supports new programming as long as existing classroom sizes and staff are not negatively effected.

Kristen Basso, DMS parent, gave the Board a hand-out regarding the importance of foreign language curriculum in the schools and earlier grade levels.

Comments from Board Members

Sam Agnello asked that the administration and the Board consider researching the ability of the SHS BBC to videotape various district events such as BOE meetings, sporting events and school related events. Also looking at the possibility of the communications class editing the filming and making snip-its for use in different presentations. He pointed out that Fitch has been doing something similar for years and it has been a big success.

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

- **Motion 9: To adjourn at 8:35 p.m.**

Aye: All

April Smith, Board Secretary