

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JULY 10, 2008

Mr. Bolduc, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Members present were John Bolduc, Chairman, Gail MacDonald, Sam Agnello, Kevin Bornstein and Doug Rea.

Members absent: April Smith, Secretary and Rob Cary.

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

Communications

John Bolduc informed the Board that he had received a copy of a letter between the Board of Finance and the Town Attorney. The letter was in regards to a paragraph in the superintendent's contract regarding medical benefits. He explained that this item will have to be addressed during the Superintendent's evaluation and contract negotiations.

Gail MacDonald stated that she had received an email from a student regarding budget cuts.

Recognitions

Mr. Bolduc recognized Tim Paquette, Food Service Director, for the outstanding efforts and work put forth for the senior banquet. He also recognized the SHS Chamber Choir for their excellent performance.

Comments from Citizens

Several SHS parents spoke in support of the Band Director and spoke regarding the positive impact that the Band Director has had on students and the SHS music program. Also several parents spoke in support of the implementation of world language for the lower grade levels and the need for world language in order for SPS students to be competitive and current on a global level.

Michael Freeman commented that the language being questioned in the superintendent's contract remains in teacher's contract in many districts and he is surprised that it is being questioned in a superintendent's contract.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

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

- **Motion 1: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 12, 2008 and Special Meeting of June 19, 2008.**

Aye: All

Consent agenda continued..

B. Checks and Bills

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

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

Aye: All

Finance

A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy Samokar presented the monthly financial report to the Board.

B. Budget 2007-2008

Judy Samokar updated the Board on the closing of the 2007-08 budget including purchase orders scheduled for FY 2008-09 but bought through end of the FY 2007-08 budget balance.

C. Budget 2008-2009

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

- **Motion 3: To table budget 2008-09 discussions.**

Aye: All

D. Business Operations Updates

Bill King reported to the Board on the following:

- a. Fuel Bids have been finalized for 2008-09. Mr. King will email the final bids to the Board Chairman.
- b. Gasoline purchased for the Town.
- c. Mr. King stated he would like to go out to bid for fuel in November or December which is earlier than in the past.
- d. Reverse 911 services set up for Human Services Department.
- e. Mr. King reported that Raytheon has offered a donation of business furniture to the school district. The furniture is in very good condition and will go to schools.

Food Service Annual Report

Tim Paquette, Food Service Director, reported on the annual report and answered questions from the Board. He also spoke on the issue of rising food prices and the effect it is having on lunch programs in school districts including Stonington.

The following motion was made by Doug Rea and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

- **Motion 4: To approve an increase in SPS school lunch prices by \$.50 on all levels. Elementary would increase from \$2.00 to \$2.50, middle and high school would increase from \$2.25 to \$2.75 and adult lunches would increase from \$3.00 to \$3.50.**

Aye: All

The following motion was made by Doug Rea and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

- **Motion 5: To increase breakfast price by \$.25 in all levels. Elementary schools would increase from \$1.00 to \$1.25. Middle and high schools would increase from \$1.25 to \$1.50.**

Aye: All

Policy

- A. New Policy and Regulation 6177 – Instruction; Use of Commercially Produced Video/DVD Records – 2nd Reading

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

- **Motion 6: To approve New Policy and Regulations 6177 – Instruction: Use of Commercially Produced Video/DVD Records.**

Aye: All

Committee Reports

A. Building Committee

Gail MacDonald reported that the building committee did not have a meeting and therefore there is no report.

B. SEF

Gail MacDonald reported for SEF. She reported that SEF has started informal planning sessions and working on goals for next year. SEF will begin working on its annual appeal fundraiser and is currently looking for new board members.

C. Grievance Committee

Mr. Bolduc reported that he had heard a Level III custodian/maintenance grievance on Wednesday in regards to possible violation of articles 1 and 4 in the custodian/maintenance contract. Rob Cary was suppose to attend on behalf of the Board of Education but was unable to do so. As a result, Mr. Bolduc was not comfortable making a decision since he was the only board member who heard the grievance and will send a letter to the custodian/maintenance union stating that there will be no decision from the Board and they should proceed to the next level if that was their intension. Mr. Bolduc also informed the Board that in the future the grievances will be heard by the entire board instead of a subcommittee.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. McKee reported on the following:

A. Personnel

Certified

2008-09 New Hires

Ann-Marie Crowley Houle	0.4 Social Studies Teacher	SHS
Tammy Souza	0.8 Mathematics Teacher	SHS
Christine Pelissier	One-Year Appointment 1.0 Special Education Teacher	DMS
Catherine Dowling	1.0 School Psychologist	Districtwide
Patricia Limon	One-Year Appointment 1.0 Grade 4 Teacher	WBSS

Resignation

John Jones	1.0 Assistant Principal	MMS/PMS
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Comments from Citizens

Rob Marseglia, DMS Parent, suggested that the Board revisit the idea of sending out a pamphlet regarding the budget. Mr. Marseglia in the past had provided the Board with a pamphlet that was distributed by a school district in New Jersey.

Kristen Bavasso, DMS Parent, suggested that the Board and schools work to come up with ideas for increasing awareness and possibly hold an information night at all the schools regarding the nuts and bolts of the budget process.

Comments from Board Members

Mr. Bolduc responded to board members and parent ideas for getting the public interested in the budget and to vote for the budget. Mr. Bolduc pointed out that several SPS parents are not registered voters and that only 20% of the registered parent voters actually vote. He also stated he is not sure what the answer is to make parents take an interest and get out to vote for the school budget but would be willing to try any suggestions or ideas.

Mr. Agnello explained many of the different avenues the Board of Education has used in the past ten years to get the parents interested in the budget and to try to get the public to vote. He also pointed out that low attendance has been and continues to be a real problem.

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

- **Motion 7: To adjourn at 9:05 p.m.**

Aye: All

April Smith, Board Secretary