

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MAY 14, 2009

Mr. Bolduc, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were John Bolduc, Chairman, April Smith, Secretary, Rob Cary, Doug Rea, Gail MacDonald, Kevin Bornstein, and Sam Agnello.

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

Communications

Mr. McKee publicly announced his plans to retire from Stonington Public Schools in 90 days.

Doug Rea informed the board members that he had received a phone call from Paulla Solar asking if the Board had received a letter from the Stonington coaches and what was the next step toward addressing the coaches' concerns regarding the Board's drug and alcohol policy.

Recognitions

Mr. Bolduc recognized and thanked Mr. McKee for his 13 years of service as superintendent in Stonington Public Schools.

Mr. McKee recognized this year's CABE Leadership Award recipients, Kevin Agnello and Catherine Schmitz.

Comments from Citizens

Rob Marseglia, DMS parent, handed out a sample of written materials from a school district in New Jersey regarding school budget and voter information. Mr. Marseglia emphasized the importance of information from the school board to citizens.

Kelly Enoch, Grade 2 teacher at West Vine, spoke regarding her concerns with the projected class size of grade 2 at West Vine next year.

Rachel O'Dell, West Vine parent, stated her concerns regarding the projected class size in grade 2 for 2009-10. She asked the board if the assistant principal position at West Vine would be .6 or full-time? Also asked if the Mandarin class in middle school was still necessary with the elimination of the Mandarin class at the high school? Ms. O'Dell also asked the board where the seven teachers who were re-instated would be located?

Melissa Letinsky, West Vine parent, asked the board how much ARRA money did Stonington receive?

Mr. Bolduc, Board Chairman, told the parents that the Board of Education has received no ARRA money as of this date. He also explained that the intention for Mandarin was to start at the lower grades and if the interest increased as the students moved onto high school the board members at that time would discuss the return of Mandarin at the high school. In response to the request asking where the seven teachers were reinstated, Mr. McKee explained that the information was distributed at a previous meeting held at the Human Services building.

Student Government Report

Sarah Schmitz reported on behalf of the Student Government:

- Student Government elections were held on May 14.
- The Student Government will hold their annual Induction Ceremony on May 21, 2009.
- Some students from Student Government will be taking a trip to Block Island for a day of reflection on this year's activities.
- During the first week of June, the Student Government will be hosting an Activities Fair for the upcoming Freshmen class.
- The Music Awards Night will be held on May 18.
- The SHS band is playing at a festival at Lake Compounce on May 22.
- The SHS band is playing at the Mystic Memorial Day Parade on May 26.
- The Chamber Choir, NBA, and Jazz Band are playing at the SHS Veterans Luncheon on May 26.
- The SHS Pops is Saturday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

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

- **Motion 1: To approve the minutes of the Special Meetings of April 9, 2009 and April 16, 2009 as amended.**

Aye: All

B. Checks and Bills

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

- **Motion 2: To approve the disbursement of checks and bills for the month of April 2009.**

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 April 2009.**

Aye: All

D. Submission of IDEA Grant

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

- **Motion 4: To approve submission of the IDEA Grant for 2009-2010.**

Aye: All

Finance

A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy presented the monthly financial report.

B. Budget Impact on SHS

Dr. Murphy and Mrs. Masterjoseph provided the board with data regarding the impact of the budget on the high school in regards to course selection and scheduling. The board members asked several questions.

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

- **Motion 5: Move to allow the administration to substitute elimination of 0.2 of another science in replace of AP Biology.**

Aye: All

C. Budget 2009-2010

The board discussed the administrations recommendation to reinstate 1.4 library media specialists reduced in the budget process and eliminate all library media paraprofessionals except those assigned to the high school. The board members discussed the proposal and no action was taken.

Operations

A. Project Updates

Bill King reported to the Board on the following:

- a. Work on locating the bus depot at the parking lot behind the Human Service building continues.
- b. Updated the board on emergency lighting repairs at the high school.
- c. Bill reported that the sophomore 5-K run is scheduled for Memorial Day and he is working to make sure all paperwork is in order.
- d. Mr. King will be looking into resurfacing the SHS track during the summer months.

B. Bargaining Unit Issues

The board held a non-meeting after the regular meeting.

C. Land Trade Proposal

The Board reviewed a proposal presented by Nick Kepple, the attorney representing the family who has proposed a swap of land. The family owns land adjacent to MMS property and his proposal is to trade some of his land behind MMS that could be developed for parking for a piece of town land that serves as the driveway to the house on his property. The board asked several questions and instructed administration to provide engineering information regarding the topography of the land that would be developed into parking.

Curriculum and Instruction

A. Teacher Evaluation Report

Mrs. Masterjoseph reviewed the status of the teacher evaluation in the district.

B. Tradebook Adoptions

The Language Arts Committee recommended three books for adoption. The books recommended are: Beowulf, by Seamus Heaney, and Drama for Reading and Performance: Collection I and Collection II, edited Julie Shumacher. This was a first reading, therefore, no action was taken.

C. New Technology Plan

The board was provided with a copy of the new technology plan. This was a first reading and therefore no action was taken.

Committee Reports

- A. Building Committee – There was no meeting so therefore no report.
- B. Retirement Board – April Smith gave a brief report regarding the town pension plan.

FOI Request

Rob Cary addressed the board with his concerns regarding the process and passing of time regarding the letter from SEA and the request from the Day. He also expressed concern that the information received from Attorney Dick O’Connor regarding FOI was inaccurate.

Superintendent’s Report

- A. Personnel

Certified

Resignation

Emily Ballard Science Teacher SHS

Added Teaching

Volunteer Appointment

Glen Herbert Tennis Assistant Coach SHS

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

- **Motion 9: To approve the volunteer appointment of Glen Herbert as Tennis Assistant Coach.**

Aye: All

- B. Important Dates

- May 12 – Mother/Daughter Banquet – 6 p.m.
- May 21 – St. Gv’t Induction @ Seamens Inn – 6 p.m.
- June 2 – Ninth Grade Activities Fair @ SHS – 9 a.m.
- June 4 – WISE Dinner @ SHS – 6 p.m.
- June 6 – Pops Concert @ SHS – 6:30 p.m.
- June 8 – Academic Achievement Night - 6:30 p.m.
- June 23 – Senior Banquet – 6 p.m.
- June 24 – Senior Breakfast – 8 a.m.
- June 25 – Graduation – 6:30 p.m.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action

Rachel O'Dell, West Vine parent, asked the board once again if there is a need for Mandarin at middle school.

Karen Chapman, MMS library-media specialist, informed the board that the library is divided into different work areas and when she is teaching in the world language program that the library continues to be open for teachers and students.

Bevin Winner, Pawcatuck library-media specialist, told the board that the PMS library is divided into sections and is open all day most of the week. She also stated that when she teaches the library remains open.

Tori Kimball, parent, told the board she volunteers in the WBSS library and spoke in support of library-media specialists and the importance of their role.

Tricia DeLapp, WVSS teacher, asked the board at what class size would the board consider reinstating a teacher for Grade 2.

Rachel O'Dell, WVSS parent, asked the board if the budget is a done deal or can there be changes?

Jill Main, WVSS parent, asked the board when do they receive current enrollment figures from administration?

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

- **Motion 7: To adjourn at 8:55 p.m.**

Aye: All

April Smith, Board Secretary