

**STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING June 11, 2009**

Mrs. Smith, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Members present were April Smith, Secretary, Rob Cary, Doug Rea, Gail MacDonald, Kevin Bornstein, and Sam Agnello.

Member Absent: John Bolduc, Chairman

Late Arrival: Doug Rea at 7:24 p.m.

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

Communications

The board acknowledged receipt of a letter from Betty Pacelle who is the media specialist at West Vine Street School and Deans Mill School.

Recognitions

Mr. McKee recognized the 2009 SHS Valedictorian, Nianyi Hong, and Salutatorian, Gabriela Hybel, who attended the meeting with their parents.

Mr. McKee also recognized and read the names aloud of the 2009 Stonington Scholars.

Rob Cary recognized Anne Hogsten, DMS Assistant Principal, and thanked her for all her work and efforts in the district.

Gail MacDonald recognized the Pawcatuck Middle School students, teachers and principal, Jane Giulini, for their community fundraising efforts for the new Senior Center. They raised \$10,000 to benefit the Senior Center.

Comments from Citizens

Tracy Swain, parent, asked questions regarding salaries for new hires replacing vacant positions. She also expressed concern that the bus contract was not going out to bid. She also stated that she felt special education busses were overcrowded. The board members advised Mrs. Swain to write a letter listing all her concerns.

Jill Main, parent, asked about whether the board had addressed furloughs with staff. The board told Mrs. Main that they had met with the teacher union and that the teachers would not agree to furloughs and did not wish to continue discussions.

Student Government Report

Nianyi Hong reported on behalf of the Student Government:

- Student Government held the annual Activities Fair on June 2 for the incoming freshmen.
- The Student Government proudly announced that Amanda Coffey will be next year's Student Government President.

Student Government Report continued.....

- The SHS band performed at the Thrills and Trills Music Festival at Lake Compounce.
- The SHS band played in the Mystic Memorial Day Parade, and the chamber choir performed at the Westerly parade.
- The Pops Concert, “Around the World” was on June 6.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

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

- **Motion 1: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2009 and Special Meeting of May 28, 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 May 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 May 2009.**

**Aye: All**

Finance

- A. Monthly Financial Report  
Judy presented the monthly financial report.
  
- B. Contract Ratification - Paraprofessionals

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

- **Motion 4: To approve the “Agreement Between The Stonington Board of Education and The Stonington Paraprofessionals Local 1996 of Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.**

**Aye: All**

- C. ARRA Monies  
Leanne Masterjoseph, Assistant Superintendent, Judy Samokar, Finance Manager, and Dr. Mark Hawk, Special Education Director presented a report concerning ARRA monies.

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

- **Motion 5: To accept the administration’s recommendations for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 monies as presented. (See attachment 7a).**

**Aye: All**

- D. Budget 2009-2010  
The administration recommended that a grade two class be added at West Vine Street School and that a fourth grade class be added at West Broad Street School using some of the ARRA monies.

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

- **Motion 6: To use stimulus monies, in concert with federal regulations, to add a grade 2 teacher at West Vine and a grade 4 teacher at West Broad.**

**Aye: All**

Operations

A. Project Updates

Bill King reported to the Board on the following:

- a. Bill reported that changing the bus depot location has been put off for one year.
- b. He also reported that the Building Committee signed off on the funds for the electrical work.
- c. Bill updated the board on CIP projects.
- d. He reported that Ken Donovan is working on the grease separators.
- e. Bill is working with the Director of Public Works, Joe Brograw, on the paving of the DMS parking lot.
- f. The Coast Guard donated furniture to SPS.

B. Health Food Certification

The board reviewed the packet on Healthy Food Certification provided by Tim Paquette, Food Service Director.

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

- **Motion 7: To approve Stonington's continued participation in the Healthy Food Program.**

**Aye: All**

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 another piece of town land near his property. Bill King explained that he met with the town engineer, Larry Sullivan, and received the unofficial opinion that the land that would be acquired is better suited for parking than the land the board would be giving up. The board asked several questions and requested more information. See motion on the following page.

Land Trade Proposal continued....

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

- **Motion 8:** **To require the transferor to provide an A-2 Survey of parcels received and transferred, provide a Hazardous Waste Affidavit, and address the impact of swap on the existing easement and address limitations or changes to use of the easement if the swap takes place, and explanation of motivation for request to swap land. To acquire from the town engineer a letter addressing the suitability of received land for parking lot construction and confirmation of unsuitability of transferred land due to ledge and the impact of the swap on the cost of a parking lot. To acquire from the Superintendent a prepared written document describing the benefit to the Board of Education or School District. And for the Board of Education to walk the property.**

**The vote was as follows:**

**Doug Rea – No**

**Gail MacDonald – Yes**

**April Smith – Yes**

**Sam Agnello – Yes**

**Rob Cary – Yes**

**Kevin Bornstein – Yes**

**The motion carried.**

#### Curriculum and Instruction

A. Technology Plan

Paul Picard, Technology Director, provided a brief description concerning the status of the Stonington Technology Plan.

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

- **Motion 9:** **To approve the submission of the Educational Technology Plan – July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2012.**

**Aye: All**

B. Tradebook Adoption

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.

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

- **Motion 10: To approve the adoption of the following texts: Beowulf, by Seamus Heaney, and Drama for Reading and Performance; Collection I and Collection II, edited by Julie Shumacher.**

**Aye: All**

C. Reconsideration of Captain Underpants Request

The board discussed a parent's request that Captain Underpants be removed from the approved list of trade books..

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

- **Motion 11: To approve that Captain Underpants remain on the approved list of trade books.**

**Aye: All**

Committee Reports

A. Building Committee

There was no meeting so therefore no report.

B. Teacher Discussion Committee

The committee met on June 1 with SEA representatives and Gail Hooker, CEA lawyer. The SEA is not interested in pursuing discussions any further.

Governor's Budget

The board members discussed the impact of the governor's proposal to eliminate CT Connect and possible elimination of Family Resource Centers.

The following motion was made by Gail MacDonald and seconded by Doug Rea:

- **Motion 12: To send a letter to Stonington's state legislators, members of the Education Committee, and members of the Appropriations Committee opposing the Governor's proposal to eliminate CT Connect.**

**Aye: All**

SHS Spanish Trip

The board reviewed the SHS Foreign Language teachers field trip request to Spain in February 2010. The board recommended that the administration receive a copy of the insurance policy with the insurance broker.

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

- **Motion 13: To approve the February 2010 SHS Spanish trip to Spain.**

**Aye: All**

Superintendent's Report

A. Personnel

**Certified Staff**

**Retirement**

Melissa Ribner

Special Services

WVSS

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

- **Motion 14: To accept the following 2009 retirement with regrets and appreciation for her many years of service. To spread across the minutes resolutions commemorating the retirement of Melissa Ribner.**

**Aye: All**

Superintendent's Report

Personnel continued....

**Resignation**

Anne Hogsten

Assistant Principal

DMS

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action

Rachel O'Dell, West Vine parent, thanked the board for replacing elementary teachers and administrators.

Tracy Swain, parent, commented on the land swap and what she had thought she had heard at the selectman's meeting regarding the land swap. Mr. Agnello explained that the land beginning discussed at the Selectman's meeting was a different parcel of land on the other side of town.

Patricia Menno-Coveny, citizen and former SPS library-media specialist, asked the board to reconsider the elimination of library media specialists.

Jill Main, parent, asked the board "Who will pay for land swap reports, surveys and materials requested by the board?" The board explained that the party requesting the land swap would be responsible for supplying all the requested materials.

Board Comments/Concerns

Sam Agnello announced that he will not be running for a seat on the Board of Education this Fall and will be submitting a letter announcing his candidacy for Second Selectman.

Gail MacDonald spoke regarding the Governor's budget proposal which would eliminate Family Resource Centers. She pointed out the important role the FRC at West Broad has played for the community. Mrs. MacDonald suggested a similar letter as the CT Connect letter be written in support of the FRC be sent to Stonington's State Legislators

Superintendent Search

The board members discussed the steps to be taken to proceed with the search for a superintendent. It was agreed by the board to place advertisement in The Day, The Sun, The Hartford Courant, CareerBuilder.com, CTREAP.net and on the CABA and CAPSS websites. The board also agreed to hold a special meeting on Wednesday June 17, June 24, July 1 and July 8 to continue work on the superintendent search.

The board also agreed to contact CABA, CAPSS and ECS and invite their superintendent search consultants to meet with the board.

Superintendent Search continued...

Three board members were chosen to handle sending letters to search firms. They were Sam Agnello, Kevin Bornstein, and Gail MacDonald.

The board instructed the board clerk to post internally for Interim Principal.

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

- **Motion 15: To place an advertisement for superintendent vacancy in The Day, The Sun, The Hartford Courant, CareerBuilder.com, CTREAP.net and on the CABA and CAPSS websites.**

**Aye: All**

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

- **Motion 7: To adjourn at 9:43 p.m.**

**Aye: All**

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April Smith, Board Secretary