

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING, JULY 9, 2009

Gail MacDonald, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Members present were Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, April Smith, Secretary, Rob Cary, Doug Rea, Kevin Bornstein, John Bolduc, and Sam Agnello.

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

Communications

The board acknowledged receipt of a letter from Kelly Spooner resigning as Principal of Deans Mill School. The board also acknowledged a letter from Joe Wojtas acknowledging FOI request has been withdrawn, and a letter from the Department of Education stating they reviewed the Tech Plan approving it through June 2012.

Recognitions

Gail MacDonald recognized the SHS Choir and Band performance for the 2009 graduation.

Gail MacDonald also recognized Mr. McKee on his 13 years of serving the Board and this being the last meeting he would attend in the official capacity of Superintendent.

Comments from Citizens

Betty Pacellie, former Library Media Specialist for SPS, appealed to the board to reinstate Librarians. She noted a number of people resigning and retiring would result in cost savings replacing them. She also asked that the Board consider reinstating librarians and other laid off employees using money saved from retirements and resignations as well as with stimulus funds.

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

- **Motion 3: To change the order of the meeting agenda by making the Land Swap number five.**

Aye: All

Land Swap

Attorney Nick Kepple spoke on behalf of his client, Joseph Putnam. He presented the Board with a survey map and updates concerning, the expansion of current driveway, hazardous waste, A2 survey of the property, and letters from the requester and Town Engineer.

Joseph Putnam presented large poster board drawings of the properties showing parcels, gave the history of the land and offered his views on why the land would benefit the schools should a parking lot be built in the future.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

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

- **Motion 1: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 11, 2009. and Special Meetings of June 17, 24 and July 1, 2009 as amended.**

Aye: All

B. Checks and Bills

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by John Bolduc:

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

Aye: All

Financial Considerations

A. Monthly Financial Report

Judy presented the monthly financial report.

B. Budget 2008 -2009

Judy addressed the surplus and special education costs along with the money saved on energy.

C. Budget 2009-2010

Judy provided updates and plans for the 2009-2010 budget

Operations

A. Project Updates

Bill King reported to the Board on the following:

- a. Bill reported on a graduating class and their sizeable donation for a baseball scoreboard.
- b. Bill updated the board on CIP projects..
- c. Bill reported on working with the Town Hall put out health insurance bids to incur savings.
- d. He provided updates on grease separator, elevator shaft and DMS parking.

B. Television Broadcast

Leanne addressed the television game show Deal or No Deal moving into the area and that they will be hosting a teacher week on the show that will feature local school districts. She reported that local teachers will be able to attend a casting call and some of SPS teachers may get a chance, to play the game. Money won during the show would be the teacher's.

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

- **Motion 4: To allow Stonington Public Schools name to be used for teachers participating in the game show Deal or No Deal.**

Aye: All

Committee Report

A. Town Pension Fund

April Smith reported on the Town of Stonington's Retirement Board holding a special meeting to look at strategies, goals, and policies.

Policies

A. Review of Policy and Regulations 5145.5 – Students: Sexual Harassment first reading -

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

- **Motion 5: To add to the Agenda as a first reading 5145.5 student grievance procedures.**

Aye: All

Legal Firm Use

Gail MacDonald made the recommendation to consider interviewing other legal firms from the area including Siegel, O'Connor. The consensus of the Board was not to do so at this time.

Superintendent's Report

A. Personnel

Mr. Mckee reported on the resignations of Kelly Spooner, Principal of Deans Mill School and

Dennis Johnson, Tech Ed Teacher at Stonington High School

B. Other

Mr. McKee introduced Michele Melia, recording secretary for the evening, (filling in for Jackie Garvie) and Sandy Goddette, who was assisting Mrs. Melia.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

No Comments from Citizens weremade at this time.

Board Comments/Concerns

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

- **Motion 6: To adjourn at 8:50 p.m.**

Aye: All

April Smith, Board Secretary