

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 13, 2009

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

Also present were Interim Superintendent of Schools, Paul Smotas, Michele Melia, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Board member absent was Doug Rea.

Communications

Gail MacDonald informed the Board of communications from a concerned parent regarding their student at the high school, communications about the summer school bus incident and the meeting with the cable TV advisory committee.

Recognitions

Gail MacDonald introduced Interim Superintendent Paul Smotas and welcomed him. Also recognized was Douglas Hammel, the new Principal for Dean Mills School.

Consent Agenda

Gail MacDonald stated the minutes from Special Meeting July 1, 2009, Regular Meeting of July 9, 2009 and the Special Meeting of July 30, 2009 as well as the Checks and Bills for June 2009 would be tabled until the September Board Meeting.

Financial Considerations

Judy Samokar presented the monthly financial report and informed the Board that the new fiscal budget was loaded into the system and there were no variances to report. She updated the Board on the ED01 report and the deadlines approaching for submission to the State Department of Education.

Operations

A. Project Updates

Bill King provided project updates for the high school electrical modifications, intercom upgrade, the High School track resurfacing, elevator project, Dean Mills School parking lot, team cleaning in the schools, and the potential for project funding from the Clean Energy Task Force.

B. FRC Update and YMCA request

Leanne Masterjoseph updated the Board on the status of Family Resource Center funding as well as the interest the YMCA had expressed for providing a preschool experience to students at West Broad Street School. Leanne reported on the funding for the Family Resource Center appears more likely at this time. Leanne asked the board to reiterate support for FRC at West Broad Street School should funding be available from the state.

C. Transportation Discussion

Bill King updated the board on the Summer School bus incident and reported that the bus routes are being updated for the new school year.

D. Friends of Stonington Crew

Bill King discussed the proposal from Friends of Stonington Crew about transfer of assets. Members of the Friends of Stonington Crew, including the founder and a coach, responded to questions from the Board. The Board suggested that the District Athletic Committee meet in September to discuss.

Food Service

Tim Paquett addressed the Board concerning the narrative provided the Board packet and the email he received from Beth Pratt regarding the Healthy Food Initiative. Tim discussed the percentage of students applying and receiving free and reduced lunch as well as the tiered pricing proposal. There was a consensus of the Board to authorize the Superintendent to work with Tim on implementing tiered pricing for premium items at Stonington High School. It was also the consensus of the Board to request more information and feedback before deciding on the use of a collection agency to recoup outstanding debts from parents and students who charged lunches and did not pay for them.

Land Swap

The Board decided to walk the property at 6 p.m. at Mystic Middle School on August 25, 2009 and that no decisions would be made at this Board meeting.

Curriculum and Instruction

A. Summer School Summary

Leanne Masterjoseph reported on the success of this years Summer School program at West Vine Street School. The Board was updated on participation numbers, as well as the instructional focus of the program.

B. August Professional Development Series

Leanne Masterjoseph discussed the district's 2009 August Professional Development brochure and the "Got Joy" theme. She reviewed dates, as well as the offerings, and invited all Board members to attend.

C. CMT/CAPT Scores

Leanne Masterjoseph answered specific questions from the Board members and it was agreed upon the complete report would be given at a Special meeting on September 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Stonington High School cafe.

Committee Reports

A. Finance

Rob Cary spoke on the collaboration with the Town.

B. Pension Board

Gail MacDonald reminded the Board that no one as of yet would replace April Smith.

C. Building CTE

Gail MacDonald stated that there was no new information.

D. Superintendent Search Update

Gail MacDonald updated the Board on the Superintendent search process, receiving the Brochure from Eliza Holcomb and that they have been distributed. Gail also reported on the number of applications received and the forms that were completed from interested citizens.

Policy

- A. Review of Regulation 5145.61(a) – Students Grievance Procedures – Title IX - 2nd reading
Sam Agnello acknowledged that there would be no vote tonight on the Regulation and addressed the proposed modifications and answered Board members' questions.

- B. Review of Policy and Regulations 5145.5 – Students; Sexual Harassment – 2nd Reading
Sam Agnello discussed the proposed modifications and input from the Sub Committee and that this would be reviewed again at the September meeting.

BOE/Town Collaboration

Gail MacDonald addressed the letter she hopes to send to Mr. Habereck and Mr. Frishman regarding this issue. She provided updates and answered questions and concerns.

Superintendent Report

- A. Enrollment
Paul Smotas informed the Board that information is not yet available.

- B. Filled and Unfilled Vacancies
Leanne Masterjoseph informed the Board about the Stonington High School Technology Education teaching position that is currently vacant.

- C. Other
Paul Smotas informed the Board concerning upcoming meetings and phone calls he has had as well as meetings that will be taking place with various town leaders. He discussed his review of the Board of Education Policy Manual and offered suggestions regarding future review of the Board of Education policies. Paul also reviewed a request from the United Way as well as his conversations regarding Swine flu with area Superintendents.

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

- **Motion 3: To adjourn at 9:02 p.m.**

Aye: All

April Smith, Board Secretary