

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 28, 2010

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, Doug Rea, Secretary, Sam Agnello, Faith Leitner, Kevin Bornstein and Alisa Morrison.

Member late: Rob Cary

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

Comments from Citizens

Susan Jones addressed the Board on the following:

- Appreciation for the information Leanne Masterjoseph has sent out
- The differences in class size between Mystic Middle School and Pawcatuck Middle School
- Teacher to be added at Mystic Middle School
- Mandarin Chinese classes

Faith Leitner commented on the successful Language Arts and Math night that was held.

Completion of Stonington High School

Bill King informed the Board that they could accept the Stonington High School as complete.

Sam Agnello thanked Mr. Sartor and Gail MacDonald for the tremendous number of hours that they put into this committee.

Gail MacDonald added that it was a pleasure to work with the committee and explained her appreciation for the former Chairman of the Board, John Bolduc.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Alisa Morrison

Motion 1: The Stonington Public Schools Board of Education accepts Stonington High School renovation as complete

Aye: All

Gail MacDonald recognized Paul Sartor and asked if he would like to comment.

Paul Sartor addressed the Board on the following:

- His thanks to everyone on the committee and especially John Bolduc and Gail MacDonald
- Money returned to the town at the completion of this project

2010-2011 Budget Discussion

Gail MacDonald set the following goals for this meeting:

- To form a consensus of about a bottom line for budget increase
- To have remaining questions answered
- To make preliminary decisions
- To set a hour time frame

All Board members agreed.

The Board discussed the following:

- Language programs
- Revenues
- Technology
- Mystic Middle School teaching position
- Stonington High School request for additional positions
- Elementary Library Media program
- Family and Consumer Science
- Looping at Mystic Middle School and Pawcatuck Middle School
- Pupil Services – line 313
- Percentages of increase
- Student Achievement and class size
- Special Education Costs
- Instructional Bid Supplies/Instructional Supplies/Non Instructional Supplies

- Excess Cost Reimbursements
- Line items
- Health insurance costs
- Town Pension Fund
- Tuition
- Technology Education
- Administrative Reorganization
- Redistribution of Para supports

Gail MacDonald commented about the strong feelings of the new Board members and cautioned them about putting forward changes in programming. She explained that it is important to give changes to programming a chance to work before reversing them the following year as changing a philosophy is difficult.

Leanne Masterjoseph explained that before bringing forward reductions or increases, the administration must look at the value of the programs, results, and shortfalls that they provide. Some programs have been brought forward for Board of Education consideration while others are not. She asked the Board to consider this when suggesting that additional programs be restored.

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

Motion 2: To adjourn at 9:16 p.m.

Aye: All

Doug Rea, Board Secretary