

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Deborah Downie, Alexa Garvey, Terry Stefanski, and Craig Esposito.

Late Arrival: Alisa Morrison – 7:08 p.m.

Also present were Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, , Student Government Representative, Mallorie Geiger, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Swearing In of New Board of Education Members

Dr. Van Riley began the meeting by announcing that Bill King would be swearing in the new members of the Board of Education. Bill King sworn in the following Board members: Frank Todisco, Deborah Downie, and Craig Esposito.

Election of BOE Officers

Dr. Van Riley stated that the first officer to be elected would be the Board Chair and asked that the Board of Education members to nominate a Board of Education Chair.

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

**Motion 1: To nominate Frank Todisco as Board of Education Chair.
All: Aye**

The following motion was made by Alexa Garvey and seconded by Faith Leitner:

**Motion 2: To close the nomination for Board Chair and for Frank Todisco to be Board Chair.
All: Aye**

Frank Todisco asked if there were any nominations for Board Secretary.

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

**Motion 3: To nominate Faith Leitner as Board Secretary.
All: Aye**

The following motion was made by Alexa Garvey and seconded by Deborah Downie:

**Motion 4: To close the nomination for Board Secretary.
All: Aye**

Presentation and Action – Strategic Plan

Dr. Van Riley announced the members of the Strategic Planning Committee and thanked all the members for their participation in developing the new Strategic Plan. Dr. Riley shared the Motto, Vision and Mission statements that the committee developed, Motto - "*We Believe In You*", Dr. Riley noted this statement came from one of our students on the committee. The Vision - *Stonington Public Schools, Forward thinking, Fostering passions, Developing responsible citizens and Preparing for tomorrow's opportunities*; The Mission - *Stonington Public Schools – where we believe in all students. Through partnerships with family and community, we will provide an innovative and inspirational educational environment where students succeed with confidence and develop a love of life-long learning.* Dr. Riley asked the Board for discussion and approval of the Strategic Plan.

The Board commented and gave suggestions on the Strategic Plan for the future. The Board members all agreed everyone did a great job. Dr. Riley noted the plan is to review it each year.

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

**Motion 5: To approve the Strategic Plan and Mission statement as presented.
All: Aye**

Board Presentations -Teaching and Learning: *Van Riley and Nikki Gullickson*

Dr. Van Riley and Nikki Gullickson reviewed the document Middle School and High School Program Reviews and Recommendations document shared with the Board and community. (see attached document) Dr. Riley noted he and Mrs. Gullickson met with administration and union representatives and it became apparent that review of our educational programs was necessary. Mrs. Gullickson brought administrators' recommendations to the Teaching and Learning committee. Dr. Riley reviewed his recommendations for the middle schools illustrated in his handout (attached). Dr. Riley explained the timeline and process and asked the Board for their consensus or recommendations.

Frank Todisco, Chair, asked for the Board's consensus to move forward with this process. The Board was in consensus to move forward with the studies.

Communications & Recognitions

Alexa Garvey congratulated the boys' soccer team for their win and girls' field hockey team who was playing at the time. Faith Leitner commented on the Veterans Day celebration in which there was a big turnout of over one hundred people, where the student government served lunch and an excellent guest speaker also attended, kudos to the group and staff that helped put this on. Deborah Downie thanked parents and community members for the fall clean ups at the schools.

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones commented on the middle school program recommendations and said she would like to see equality on both sides of town. Mrs. Jones also commented on the 1000 Policy series especially Policy "1120a" in regards to public comment during Board meetings and would like this policy revisited.

Cindy Nadeau told Dr. Van Riley we used to have those programs way back and it would be nice to see programs like home economics and shop back again. Mrs. Nadeau also spoke on the recent unified soccer game in which the students had a good time and on the great performance from the SHS band at the Veterans Day parade.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – October 8, 2015 (Regular)
October 26, 2015 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report
- E. Field Trip Approval – SHS Washington D.C./CloseUp! Washington

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

**Motion 6: To approve the Consent Agenda A-E
All: Aye**