

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING October 10, 2013

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Frank Todisco, Kevin Bornstein and Craig Esposito.

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

Communications & Recognitions

Communications

There were no Communications at this time.

Recognitions

Gail MacDonald recognized Board member, Kevin Bornstein for the time he served as a member of the Board and his great representation for the students of this district. Mrs. MacDonald added that this was Mr. Bornstein's final meeting and that it has been an honor to serve with him.

Emily Craig, Student Government representative, recognized the SHS guidance department for the college fair.

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones asked that the Board give parents and the public an opportunity to comment during the last deliberation on the final budget before it is sent to referendum.

Bruce Yarnall commented on his concerns regarding the computers, Chromebooks, and tech situation in the middle schools. Mr. Yarnall asked that anything the Board could do to help the situation would be appreciated.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – July 11, 2013 (Special)
September 12, 2013(Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report
- E. Approval of 2014-2015 BOE Budget Preparation Calendar
- F. Second Read/Motion: To approve the adoption of the following text:
"The Dogs of Winter" by Bobbie Pyron (Grade 9)

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Frank Todisco:

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda Items A - F as presented.

All: Aye

Approval of Maintenance/Custodian Union Contract

The following motion was made by Frank Todisco and seconded by Faith Leitner:

Motion 2: To approve the Maintenance/Custodian Union Contract for 7/1/2013 through 6/30/2016 as presented

All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent spoke on the following topics:

- Negotiations Update
Contracts for the Maintenance, Paraprofessionals, Nurses, and Secretaries have reached an agreement and will be ratified shortly. Dr. Riley noted the Teachers are still in negotiations.
- Substitute Safety Training – October 22 (MMS), October 25 (SHS)
The district is requiring substitute teachers to attend one of these meetings to review SPS safety training. They will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding safety protocol. These sessions will be recorded for future training of incoming substitutes.
- Thanksgiving Day Issue
The administration will be looking at students in band and their participation in this event.
- Flu Shot Update
Flu shots are on order; there are currently about 150 employees signed up for the free flu shot.
- Policy Review Timeline
All administration are involved in this policy review which will be ready for review before winter break.
- Candidate Orientation
Next Wednesday evening a BOE Orientation will take place at SHS to explain the role and responsibilities as a Board member. There are two new candidates and current Board members attending.
- Magnet Schools/Districts Issue
Dr. Riley is pursuing the idea of offering a magnet program in a few areas of study in Stonington.
- Parent Volunteer
The district will be examining ways to increase parent volunteers in our schools. Dr. Riley shared information on what other districts do in this area.
- BOF Fees for Field Use -
Dr. Riley and staff are talking to the Recreation Department and Town on how the district can be consistent and fair with fees. The district is also checking with other districts to see what they are charging for fees.

Emily Craig asked Dr. Riley to further explain how a magnet program would work in our schools and how a routine day for those students from other districts would be.

Gail MacDonald and Dr. Riley gave an example of a routine school day schedule for those who enroll in our magnet program and the revenue that this program would generate for the district.

Monthly Report

All monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet.

Bill King asked for the Board's consensus in order to go forward with a proposal from Johnson Controls, who will further investigate efficiencies throughout the district. A representative from Johnson Controls was available for questions.

The Board all agreed to move forward with this program.

The Board asked Bill King for more financial detail on the savings of being in this type of program. Bill King will report back at the next Board meeting.

Gail MacDonald had questions regarding the October 18 target date for the completion of the Chromebook project.

In Jason Jones, absence Tim Smith and Jennifer Bausch reported on the status of the completion of the Chromebook project.

The Board agreed the district needs to make tech issues a priority going forward.

Committee Reports

Gail MacDonald explained how the subcommittees were developed.

Craig Esposito reported he attended the LEARN Board meeting which focused on lobbying processes.

Committee Reports (continued)

Deborah Downie reported on the Teaching and Learning committee meeting which will be meet on October 11 at Central Office. Mrs. Downie also expressed the need for a potential tech committee to help prioritize various issues. Mrs. Downie noted that the District's Safe Schools committee is moving along.

Faith Leitner reported on SEF who met this past Monday. SEF has funds of \$3,502 for the music departments and have received good suggestions on how to spend this money between now and December 3. Mrs. Leitner noted that Annual Appeal letters will be going out before Thanksgiving, inside the letter will be a Save the Date for the February 28 Education Celebration.

Faith Leitner reported that the K-12 Building Committee met on October 8. The Committee met with the BOF October 9.

Gail MacDonald commented that the BOF session on October 9 was a positive one. The BOF showed signs of leaning and making a decision in the committee's favor on November 6.

Alisa Morrison reported that the Field Committee will stop meeting soon. Mrs. Morrison commented the fields outside are absolutely beautiful and have been reseeded. Mrs. Morrison reminded all there will be a field dedication ceremony on October 11 at 6pm with Emily Craig, Student Government representative, leading the flags.

Gail MacDonald reminded the Board of the upcoming CABE Conference at Mystic Marriott in November and noted CABE has also invited two or three students to attend the conference. Mrs. McDonald spoke on the CABE delegate assembly which she will be attending and representing the Board.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones commented on the Board Agenda and how it would be helpful to have the committee reports or minutes linked to the agenda.

Cindy Nadeau suggested getting volunteers to help with the Chromebook project.

Items for Future Agendas

Discussion regarding the Budget Calendar.

The Board requested a joint meeting with all three Boards, BOF, BOS, and BOE sometime in November.

Board Comments/Concerns

Faith Leitner asked what affect has the Government shutdown had on the status of the Grade 8 Washington field trip.

Jennifer Bausch from MMS reported a decision would need to be made this week in order to move the trip to springtime without any penalty.

Tim Smith noted that PMS is not scheduled to leave until November 5, therefore the shutdown may not affect the trip.

Frank Todisco expressed his concerns regarding the tech needs with budget season approaching.

Van Riley noted tech issues should be resolved within the next month or so and will report on the progress at the next Board meeting.

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

Motion 3 : To adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

Aye: All


Deborah Downie, Board Secretary