

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 8, 2012

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 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, Joni Moody, Student Government, members of the staff, students and interested citizens.

Fall Drama Production Preview “And a Child Shall Lead”

Erin Stanley, Drama Coach, introduced the cast of The Broad Street Bears who presented a preview of their upcoming show “And a Child Shall Lead”. Show dates are as follows: Friday, November 16, 2012 – 7:00 p.m., Saturday, November 17, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 18, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.

Communications & Recognitions

Communications:

Gail MacDonald shared communications on the collaborative Board meeting and possible school calendar changes.

Recognitions:

Dr. Van Riley recognized the following “We Are Stonington Public Schools” recognition recipients for October and November:

Nicholas Balestracci – Student -SHS
Brendan Gavowski – Student - SHS
Joanne Lindeborg – Secretary - MMS
Thomas Bousquet – Dean of Students – MMS/PMS
Jennifer Bausch – Teacher – MMS
Nancy Sullivan – Teacher – MMS
Nora Selinger – Guidance – MMS
Suzanne Prince – Teacher – MMS
Noreen Selinger – Teacher – MMS
Danielle Pelletier – Teacher – MMS
Mandy Kulpik – Teacher – MMS
Natalee Denard – Teacher – MMS
Lorrie Ann Bennett – Teacher – MMS
Bruce Yarnall – Teacher - MMS

Alisa Morrison recognized the Food Service group for providing food for the shelter during the hurricane and also recognized fall sport athletes such as field hockey, girls’ soccer and boys’ cross country for winning the ECC Championships.

Deborah Downie recognized the SHS band for a great performance during this year’s concert.

Gail MacDonald recognized the following:

- Board members for receiving the CABE Board Recognition Award to be presented on November 16th at the CAPE/CAPSS convention.
- Mystic Aquarium for hosting the reception for the new superintendent.
- Mystic Aquarium and Mystic Seaport for hosting SPS students during the storm.
- PMS 7th grade student Chase Adams as Student of the Month for the Read Naturally program along with teacher Elaine Temel.
- SHS student Tyler Hommand for receiving the Nathaniel C. Bennett Memorial Award.
- MMS and PMS unified sports participants and Mrs. Nadeau for video of the soccer program.

Comments from Citizens

Cindy Nadeau commented on unified sports and noted that a video is available on the event. Cindy also recognized the 8th grade students who attended the Washington DC trip and how SPS should be proud of all the students who attended the trip for their good behavior.

Sue Fornara commented on the school calendar changes and noted she believes students would benefit from days off during the year and proposed that days be built into the school calendar for bad weather.

Julie Duba commented on the school calendar changes and suggested that Veterans Day be used as one of the makeup days along with sending a survey to families to get their feedback on this issue.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – September 13, 2012 (Regular)
September 27, 2012 (Special)
October 17, 2012 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Inter-Account Transfers

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda items A through C as presented.

Aye: All

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent, reported on the following:

- First trial with early dismissal/late pick up process and noted that Bill King will be working with First Student and the Town before the next ED day.
- Complimented and thanked the DOT and Town officials for their communications during the hurricane situation.
- His visit with the SHS Student Government.
- Invited Booster, PTO chairs and Board members to attend a luncheon on November 28th at CO to share issues and ideas pertaining to each building.

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 2: To reorder the agenda and move items 13 and 14 up to item 8 position on the agenda.

Aye: All

Discussion/Action on Washington, D.C. Close Up! Washington Field Trip

Richard Walter SHS Social Studies teacher gave an overview of the field trip scheduled for March 3-8, 2013.

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 3: To approve the SHS Washington, D.C. Close Up! Washington Field Trip on March 3-8, 2013 as presented.

Aye: All

Proposed Revised 2012-2013 School Calendar

Dr. Van Riley reported that meetings with associations and administrators were held to discuss the proposed school calendar changes.

The Board and administration discussed implications of the proposed school calendar changes in regards to regional PD and total school year days; both parties agreed that the proposed changes are in the best interest of staff and families.

Student Government Representative, Joni Moody, commented having three day weekends during the school year is nice but would rather not attend school too late into the summer.

The following motion was made by Frank Todisco and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 4: To approve the revised 2012-2013 School Calendar as presented by Dr. Riley.

Gail MacDonald: Yes

Faith Leitner: No

Craig Esposito: Yes

Frank Todisco: Yes

Alisa Morrison: Yes

Deborah Downie: Yes

Kevin Bornstein: Yes

Motion Passes

Monthly Reports

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

The Board had questions on the following reports:

- Kevin Bornstein and Gail MacDonald had questions on budget. Board agreed to start with a zero based budget for 2013-2014.
- Kevin Bornstein asked about storm damage as it relates to technology equipment.
- Gail MacDonald had questions on the decrease in Food Service revenue generation, RFP for the policy manual, new ED dismissal policy and adoption of textbook “Tuesdays with Morrie”.
- The Board requested an update of Special Ed students in regards to placement and newly created programs for these students and on the School Based Health Center for the December Board meeting.

Administration answered the Board’s questions.

Bill King noted that a meeting with MMS was held to discuss the potential a new program, MMS Mudders. More information will be provided in December’s Board meeting.

Nikki Gullickson presented the book “Tuesday’s with Morrie” by Mitchell Albom for a second read and approval.

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Kevin Bornstein:

Motion 5: To approve the adoption of the text; “Tuesdays with Morrie” by Mitchell Albom.

Aye: All

Discussion on CIP & Initial Budget Parameters

Bill King presented the CIP Plan and explained the categorization and priority of each item. Bill reviewed items that are proposed for the 13-14 budget year and answered the Boards questions.

CABE Delegate Assembly

Gail MacDonald noted that she has submitted her name for CABA delegate. Gail also went over some of the proposed changes outlined by CABA in the CABA Government Relations Committee, 2013 Proposed Resolutions Delegate Assembly bulletin and asked the Board for their input.

Board of Education Goals

The Board and Superintendent, Dr. Van Riley, discussed the new Board goals which were derived from previous meetings with Nick Caruso. Both agreed to keep the new current list of Board goals.

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 6: To approve the five Board of Education Goals for 2012-2013.

Aye: All

Discussion/Action on ED-099 Agreement for the Child Nutrition Program

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 7: To approve the ED-099 Agreement for the Child Nutrition Program as presented.

Aye: All

Board of Education Meeting Calendar 2013

Board discussed options of additional meetings on certain months. Board came to an agreement to leave BOE meeting calendar as is.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Deborah Downie:

Motion 8: To approve the 2013 Board of Education Meeting Calendar as presented.

Aye: All

Committee Assignments & Reports

- **Athletic and Field Task Force Committees** – Alisa Morrison attended a Field Task Force meeting this morning. She reported that the committee is looking to hire a consultant and interviews are scheduled for November 21st, field tours will be on November 27th, turf field ground breaking will be on May 1st with anticipated completion by September 1st.
- **Policy Committee** – Kevin Bornstein, Frank Todisco and Gail MacDonald reported that the next meeting will be held on November 19.
- **STEM/Tech Committee** – Kevin Bornstein noted that October meeting was very productive and the committee will be meeting in two weeks again to discuss a detailed action plan.
- **Revenue Generation Committee** – Frank Todisco reported that the meeting focused on establishing a calendar for the entire school year, discussion on selling out softball score board space, and exploring the idea of selling school apparel in retail.
- **Special Services** – Deborah Downie reported that the group has not met this year and are working on a meeting date.
- **Safe Schools Task Force** – Deborah Downie met today at SHS and talked with parents on different activities.
- **Data Mining** – Craig Esposito reported that the group has not met yet.
- **Board of Finance Liaison** – Gail MacDonald reported that she has had informal discussions with individuals on the BOF and attended a reception for Andy Rines.

- **LEARN** –Craig Esposito met at LEARN this morning and noted that it was Ginny Seccombe’s last board meeting. The meeting focused on regionalism and getting school districts to act collaboratively which will create cost savings in various areas.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones agreed and thanked the Board for the change in the calendar. Sue commented on the relocation of the buses. Sue requested that the committee reports be submitted before hand in writing and be part of the packet.

Board Comments/Concerns

No comments at this time.

Contract Ratification - Teachers, Assistant Superintendent and Administrators Contracts

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 9: To enter into executive session for discussion with respect to collective bargaining.

The following motion was made by Frank Todisco and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 10: To invite Bill King and Superintendent, Dr. Van Riley to attend.

Aye: All

Board entered into executive session at 9:15 p.m.

Board exited executive session at 9:25 p.m.

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Frank Todisco:

Motion 11: To approve the ratification of the Teachers’ Contract.

Aye: All

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Frank Todisco:

Motion 12: To approve the ratification of the 2013-2016 Administrators’ Contract.

Aye: All

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Frank Todisco:


Motion 13: To approve the ratification of the Assistant Superintendent’s Contract.

Aye: All

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Frank Todisco:

Motion 14: To adjourn at 9:37 p.m.

Aye: All


Faith Leitner, Board Secretary