

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2013

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Frank Todisco, and Craig Esposito and Kevin Bornstein.

Absent: Faith Leitner, Secretary

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.

Communications & Recognitions

Recognitions:

Deborah Downie congratulated students, Sarah Downie and AJ Jones, of Stonington High School as winners of the CAS Fine Arts Award. Deborah also acknowledged AJ Jones and Lindsey Gimple who were finalists for the National Merit Scholarship, along with Molly Kam and Zachary Goldberg who were recognized for the CAS/CIAS Scholar Athlete.

Dr. Van Riley recognized the following "We Are Stonington Public Schools" recognition recipient for February.

Peggy Brissette – District-wide Library Volunteer

Gail MacDonald thanked everyone who worked before the storm setting up the shelter at SHS and those involved in the clean up after the storm.

Gail MacDonald also thanked Alisa Morrison, Deborah Downie, Glee McAnally and the Prue family for their efforts in organizing the first informal public meeting, unfortunately cancelled due to the blizzard.

Comments from Citizens

Cindy Nadeau thanked Dr. Riley for his work on the Unified Sports transportation funding and invited everyone to attend the PMS/MMS Unified Bowling tournament on February 26 at the Waterford Family Bowl. Cindy also recognized a gentleman at the Waterford Family Bowl who gave the bowling team permission to use lanes for practice before the upcoming tournament.

Rob Marseglia commented on and supports full-day kindergarten. Rob stated that the community should be supplied with the particulars of how the full-day kindergarten will be accomplished in regards to space, staff and funding. Rob also commented on prioritizing budget items if the 2013-14 budget proposal is not accepted on the first vote. Rob extended an invitation to everyone for the SEF fundraiser at the Mystic Aquarium on February 23.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes - January 2, 2013 (Special)
January 10, 2013(Regular)
January 17, 2013(Regular)
January 24, 2013(Regular)
February 7, 2013(Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Calendar 2013-2014 Conference Date Change
- E. Softball Scoreboard Ad

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

Motion 1: To remove item D from the Consent Agenda and make it a separate item.

Aye: All

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

Motion 2: To approve Consent Agenda items A, B, C and E as presented.

Aye: All

Calendar 2013-14 Conference Date Change

The Board agreed to proceed with the conference day changes as presented. The new half-day conference dates for middle school are October 29 and 30.

Legislators' Updates – Senator Andrew Maynard and State Representative Diana Urban

Gail MacDonald explained that due to a conflict the representatives were not able to attend tonight's meeting. Gail will work with them to reschedule to be present at the March Board meeting.

Discussion/Action - Budget Proposal

Dr. Riley noted that the overall increase of the 2013-14 Proposed Budget is set at a 2.97%. Dr. Riley explained that this is a conservative budget which covers our fundamental needs.

Dr. Riley asked the Board for direction on:

- Funding at all levels for transportation of Unified Sports
- Parameters for funding PSAT/SAT testing.

The Board also noted that community financial burden should be considered in the budget decision. The Board agreed to fund transportation of Unified Sports and asked that metrics of new programs be noted as part of the 2013-2014 Proposed Budget. The Board, while in favor of full-day kindergarten, noted that it is not a requirement and parents should be aware of their choices.

The Board agreed that the 2013-14 Proposed Budget is a well thought out conservative budget. Board had questions on staffing and funding for sports transportation.

Gail MacDonald asked Board members for their ideas on the presentation of the budget to the BOF. The Board agreed to work with Dr. Riley in creating the budget presentation. The Board decided that Gail MacDonald will present the budget with the Board and administrative team available to answer the BOF's questions. The Board also agreed to reach out to PTO/Booster parent groups on the 2013-14 budget.

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

**Motion 3: To approve the 2013-14 Proposed Budget including the following items;
Crew Transportation, PSAT/SAT testing, and Chromebooks at PMS.**

Aye: All

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Riley thanked the BOE for supporting the 2013-14 Proposed Budget which will benefit both the students and the Town.

Dr. Riley updated the Board and the community on changes to the 2012-2013 School Calendar due to the two recent snow days. Dr. Riley noted that graduation and the last day of school has now been moved to June 18. Dr. Riley mentioned that Dr. Murphy did reach out to the Coast Guard Academy for the graduation ceremony, recognizing that our field will not be available at that time. Dr. Riley also noted that the recent middle school conference date change due to late entry on February 12 will be posted on our website, the new half-day conference date is February 21.

S'Cool Moves Report by Theresa Jordan

Terry Jordan gave the Board a detailed report on the S'Cool Moves program at WVS and WBS. Terry shared data and the program's progress. Terry answered the Board's questions and gave examples of student activities through this program. Ruth Rose noted that an overview of this program can be found on the school's website. Administration will provide the Board with a comparison of data on the program in June.

The Board had questions regarding S'Cool Moves as it relates to student achievement, control group, supporting data, and assessment plan, timeline and issues on closing the gap.

9th Grade Summer Academy Report by Dr. Stephen Murphy

Dr. Stephen Murphy gave an overview on the success of the 9th Grade Summer Academy. Dr. Murphy noted that the program has a positive impact on incoming high school students. Dr. Murphy answered the Board's questions on recruitment, enrollment, transportation and impact on student activity involvement.

The Board had questions on:

- Recruitment
- Enrollment
- Success of program
- Transportation to and from program

Board Discussion on POCD

Alisa Morrison suggested that the Board submit a write up on where they see the school district will be going in the next ten years. Alisa and Deb agreed to work on this document and meet with the Board for their review before presenting it to the POCD group.

Monthly Reports

Gail MacDonald noted that all monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet and asked the Board if there were any questions on specific reports. Administration answered the Boards questions.

The Board had questions on:

- Roof leaks at DMS
- On-line student registration
- Student Government transition program at the Aquarium
- NAB results

Committee Reports

Alisa Morrison noted that meet and greet public meetings will be posted at the Town's Clerk office along with minutes from those meetings.

Kevin Bornstein commented on Policy Committee agenda items.

The Board reminded everyone of the upcoming SEF fundraiser on February 23 and Building Committee meeting on March 11 at 7 p.m. at the Administration Building.

Gail MacDonald reported on the new CABE mission statement "inspiring students". Gail reminded and asked for interested Board members to attend the upcoming Day on the Hill in Hartford on March 6. Gail also noted that she will be organizing a regional meeting with other Boards and superintendents to speak on regional education issues.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

No comments at this time.

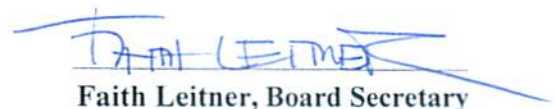
Board Comments/Concerns

No comments at this time.

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

Motion 4: To adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

Aye: All


Faith Leitner, Board Secretary