

## **STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MARCH 22, 2012**

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Frank Todisco, and Craig Esposito  
Late Arrival: Faith Leitner, Secretary – 7:15 p.m.

Absent: Kevin Bornstein

Also present were Leanne Masterjoseph, Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, students and interested citizens.

Gail MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the focus of the meeting was to come to an agreement on the 2011-2012 school calendar.

Deborah Downie recused herself from discussion and vote on the 2011-2012 school calendar due to potential conflict of interest.

### **Superintendent's comments concerning the 2011-2012 school calendar**

Leanne Masterjoseph presented and explained her recommendations for the 2011-2012 school calendar. Leanne distributed copies of the Superintendent's recommended 2011-2012 calendar, along with a narrative description and language from State statutes governing graduation dates for high schools.

Gail MacDonald acknowledged the number in attendance and asked that remarks be kept brief.

### **Comments from Citizens**

- Cindy Nadeau spoke in favor of reinstating April vacation, eliminating concerns about busing, subs, and consistency for all students.
- Gretchen Noonan spoke on behalf of the SEA and supported the moving forward of the Superintendent's recommendations.
- Sue Jones commented in respect to the calendar affecting the budget vote.
- Christian Rogerson thanked the Board, supported that graduation date not be changed but asked that the Board make a decision on the school calendar as soon as possible so that necessary arrangements can be made.
- Kim Genkus suggested alternatives for making up the three days and asked that graduation date stay as is.
- Steve Taylor thanked the Board for their recommendations, supported reinstating April vacation and also suggested more effective communication for important messages to parents.
- Bruce Yarnall spoke in favor of the Board reinstating April vacation and had concerns of the loss of the two school days.
- Christine Green spoke in favor of reinstating April vacation.
- Erica Towne asked that the Board keep graduation date as is.

Comments from Citizens (continued)

- Catherine Ogilvie asked that April vacation be reinstated even if students need to return for graduation since this could have an effect on staff contracts.
- Elias Gharios suggested keeping graduation date as is, reinstating April vacation and making up three schools days at end of the year.
- Chad Obrey asked that the Board take this year's calendar situation as a lesson for next year so that this does not continue to occur.
- Jonathan Towne urged the Board to keep the graduation date as is due to the impact it has on students and families and asked for other alternatives.
- Jennifer Ogden noted that discussion on the calendar should of taken place earlier in the year to avoid this situation.
- Sue Fornara noted that going forward a calendar should be derived that would prevent these issues and spoke of the April vacation clause on the calendar.
- Kim Connett spoke of the impact and message that the calendar situation has sent.
- Candace Anderson expressed that the calendar discussion should have been earlier in the year and supported the Superintendent's recommendations.
- Matthew Chmielinski noted that he will not be able to attend if there is a change in the graduation date.
- Christine Fullerton suggested options for the 2011-2012 school calendar.

Board discussion regarding the 2011-12 school calendar

The Board thanked everyone for their comments.

The Board discussed the 2011-2012 school calendar, acknowledged and addressed the citizen's comments and concerns.

The Board came to an agreement to support the Superintendent's recommendations for the 2011-2012 school calendar.

Possible vote on the 2011-2012 school calendar

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

**Motion 1: To accept the Superintendent's Recommendations for the 2011-2012 School Calendar.**

**Gail MacDonald: Aye**

**Craig Esposito: Aye**

**Alisa Morrison: Aye**

**Faith Leitner: Aye**

**Frank Todisco: Aye**

**Deborah Downie: Abstention**

Deborah Downie recused herself from vote.

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

**Motion 2: To adjourn at 7:50 p.m.**

**Aye: All**



Faith Leitner, Board Secretary