

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MARCH 14, 2013

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:43 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, members of the staff, students and interested citizens.

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

Motion 1: To move the School Safety item to the first position on the agenda.

Aye: All

School Safety Discussion/Approval

Gail MacDonald welcomed the Police Commissioners, Police Chief, Darren Stewart and Captain, Jerry Desmond for their information on school safety.

Captain Desmond went over the safety and security program and protocols that are currently in place in our schools. Captain Desmond reviewed different aspects covered in the Stonington Security Analysis presentation of the safety and security programs and new ideas that will be put into place in the future. Captain Desmond also mentioned that there is currently a police officer assigned to the schools every day all day and touched on the idea of sub-stations at each school. Captain Desmond feels that this will promote a better relationship with the students and cost to set up would be approximately \$800 for each school. Captain Desmond spoke of collaboration between fire, police and ambulance in the event of an emergency in a school and the idea of creating a separate frequency for communication. The Police Commissioner commented on hiring, budget and collaboration with the Board.

Ken Donovan went over the presentation on Stonington Schools Security Analysis, which covered present programs in place, security programs with low or no cost involved and those involving substantial cost that are now being reviewed. A copy of the presentation was available.

Bill King went over the cost involved in implementing the various security programs.

The Board asked the following questions:

- Alarming doors
- Review of safety procedures with substitutes
- Flashing "Code Red" activation strobes
- Panic button system
- Prioritization of items
- Funding
- Forwarding request to BOF for consideration
- Choice of WVS pilot school

Dr. Riley added that safety training for substitutes will be held prior to the start of school and will be highly recommended.

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

Motion 2: To support the proposal brought forward by the Police Commission of \$100,000 for staffing and training.

Aye: All

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

Motion 3: To move to submit a request to the Board of Finance for \$48,000 for security enhancements as outlined by the Stonington Police Department with the thought that the Board may be returning to the BOF for more funding.

Aye: All

Chief Stewart thanked Dr. Riley, Bill King, Jason Jones, Ken Donovan and staff for coming together on this issue and appreciated the opportunity to come before the Board to discuss the different programs.

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones asked about thoughts on remote access on teachers' badges, playground area at WVS and separation from woods, scanning of driver licenses as it relates to expansion of this in all schools.

Ani Hoops commented on use of students' cell phones as an internal alert system.

Communications & Recognitions

Dr. Van Riley recognized the following "We Are Stonington Public Schools" recognition recipient for March: Janis Ingham – Teacher – PMS.

Gail MacDonald recognized the receipt of a thank you note for condolences, sent to the entire Board.

Communications:

Gail MacDonald asked the Board if an end of the year recognition ceremony before the May meeting is still an option with retirees also being recognized at that time. The Board all agreed.

Kevin Bornstein communicated receiving an email regarding questions on PSAT and SAT.

Comments from citizens

Sue Jones commented on numeracy tutors in relationship to the budget, and feels that tutors would be beneficial to students for extra help in the looping classes.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes - February 14, 2013 (Regular)
February 20, 2013 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report
- E. Resolution to Name Signers for Accounts at Washington Trust
- F. Annual Contract Non-Renewal Authorization by the BOE

The following motion was made by Frank Todisco and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 4: To approve Consent Agenda items A through F as presented and to amend motion to remove item E from the Consent Agenda and approve items A, B, C, D and F of the Consent Agenda.

Aye: All

Discussion of Item E – Resolution to Name Signers for Accounts at Washington Trust

Faith Leitner asked for clarification as to the reason for her signature on this document. Judy Samokar explained that over the years this permission document has been lost and therefore making funds inaccessible and that this document gives Stonington Public Schools permission to do business with the Washington Trust.

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

Motion 5: To move to approve the resolution to name signers for accounts at Washington Trust.

**Kevin Bornstein – Yes Deborah Downie – Yes Faith Leitner – Yes
Craig Esposito – Yes Frank Todisco – Yes Alisa Morrison – Yes
Gail MacDonald - No**

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Riley will be address items in Friday letter to the Board.

Monthly Reports

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

Gail MacDonald asked Nikki Gullickson for further explanation of information regarding the benchmark assessment report.

Nikki Gullickson answered the Boards questions on the benchmark assessment report.

Kevin Bornstein asked Bill King for the status on the softball scoreboard.

Bill King reported that the board will not be up in time of softball due to the renovation of the field.

Committee Reports

Alisa Morrison reported that the next Field Task Force meeting will be held on April 1 and bids will be open and review at that time. Alisa also noted that there will be a ground breaking event sometime the end of April.

Gail MacDonald noted that a regional meeting will be held on April 10 in Ledyard to discuss collaboration of various districts.

Kevin Bornstein reminded that a Policy Committee meeting is set for next Thursday, March 21.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

No comments at this time.

Items for Future Agendas

- Discussion on creating Stonington Public Schools Facebook page
- Future Board Retreat

Board Comments/Concerns

No comments at this time.

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

Motion 6: To adjourn at 9:31 p.m.

Aye: All


Faith Leitner, Board Secretary