

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING May 8, 2014

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Deborah Downie, Secretary, Faith Leitner, Alisa Morrison, Alexa Garvey, Craig Esposito, and Terry Stefanski.

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

Board Presentations

Tim Smith, PMS principal and teacher, Dan Agins presented a presentation on how Chromebooks are being used this year at PMS. Mr. Smith explained what types of technology equipment the school currently has and how Chromebooks are providing more learning opportunities in the classroom and how they are used in enrichment programs. The presentation also gave an overview from the students' perspective of how valuable Chromebooks have been in their daily schoolwork.

Communications & Recognitions

Communications

Deborah Downie reported that approximately 100 people attended the April 29 Empty Bowl project where over \$1,300 dollars was raised. Mrs. Downie noted that this was a very successful and fun evening.

Recognitions

Alexa Garvey attended the opening of the WVS Sensory Garden and noted that it was a beautiful experience.

Faith Leitner attended the Unified Sports Talent Show and recognized Deidre Toole and students for their hard work.

Alisa Morrison attended the Kaleidoscope event at SHS and recognized the students for their amazing talent in music and poetry.

Comments from Citizens

Bruce Yarnall thanked the PTO and parents for attending the BOF meeting. Mr. Yarnall asked the community continue to attend the BOF and BOE meetings, to stay involved and to continue to monitor the BOF to make sure they do their job more efficiently.

Rob Marseglia thanked the PTO and those that voted. Mr. Marseglia commented on the items being restored to the budget and advocated for restoring, Virtual High School, and the music teacher at PMS.

Steve Small applauded and thanked Dr. Riley's work on the final recommendations to the BOE. Mr. Small noted that Dr. Riley has restored many programs that directly impact students and acknowledged his service as an educational leader who not only walks the walk but also talks the talk.

Sue Jones applauded and gave kudos to Dan Agins for being a phenomenal teacher and thanked him for all his work. Mrs. Jones thanked Mark Friese for the meeting at the high school in which he connected with parents and noted that she is happy he will be the new principal. Mrs. Jones attended the National Honor Society banquet stated that it was a nice evening and congratulated the new members of the National Honor Society, especially Emily Craig.

Cindy Nadeau commented on the success of the Light It Up Blue fundraiser, which raised \$3,700 and shared that some businesses in Westerly showed their support by lighting their buildings with blue lights.

Kristen Morehouse spoke about the potential for a new middle school configuration and voiced her concern of having parents involved in the process. Mrs. Morehouse spoke about the impact of this type of configuration.

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Bob Statchen commented on the middle school design as to who has the final decision on this configuration and asked there be open communication throughout the process with parents.

Elizabeth Yarnall commented on the reduction of the .5 PMS music teacher and music paras for MMS.

Ashley Gillece commented on budget funding for the elementary librarian.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – April 9, 2014 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report
- E. Approval of IDEA Grant 2015-2017
- F. Approval of Perkins Grant

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

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

All: Aye

Student Recognition

CABE Leadership Award – Emily Craig and Ethan Schroeder

Frank Todisco gave a brief description of the CABE Leadership Award and a bio of the two award recipients. Mr. Todisco presented both Emily Craig and Ethan Schroeder with the CABE Leadership Award and commended them for their outstanding leadership.

Marika Heughins and Tina Eisenbeis – Dream Team Discussion

Frank Todisco explained that this item will be pushed to the June meeting agenda.

K-12 Building Committee Appointment

Frank Todisco asked the Board members for guidance in this matter. The Board came to a consensus to submit only one name to the town for approval. Mr. Todisco will send Alisa Morrison's name forward as the K-12 Building Committee representative to the BOE for town approval.

Budget Update and Approval

Dr. Van Riley distributed the Superintendent's Recommendations for Reductions to the budget (see attached). Dr. Riley explained each item and its impact on students.

The Board had questions on various items on the list such as, SHS PE teacher, Mandarin program, music, and security.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Terry Stefanski:

Motion 2: To approve the Superintendent's Recommended Reductions as presented.

All: Aye

North Stonington Discussion

Frank Todisco pulled this item from the agenda.

Discussion/Approval Graduation Date – June 19

The following motion was made by Alexa Garvey and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 3: To approve the graduation date of June 19, 2014.

All: Aye

First Read/Discussion – Policy 5123.3a Graduation Participation

Frank Todisco explained that the Policy Committee reviewed Policy 5123.3a and an approval can be made at this first read.

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

Motion 4: To approve Policy 5123.3a Graduation Participation.

Frank Todisco: Yes	Terry Stefanski: Yes
Faith Leitner: Yes	Craig Esposito: Yes
Deborah Downie: Yes	Alisa Morrison: No
Alexa Garvey: Yes	

Motion: Passed

DMS Roof Update

Frank Todisco explained he would like this item as a standing item on future agendas. Dr. Van Riley reported that the RFP was opened on April 11 and two interviews are set. Mr. Todisco questioned the timeline for the project. Dr. Riley reported that the project will start right after the end of school and completed during the summer.

Middle School Design Concept

Dr. Van Riley reported that he met with teachers, principals, and administration to share ideas about how to improve the middle schools and their equity issues. Dr. Riley suggested looking at this idea next fall and having discussions with parents, community, and staff.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Van Riley shared that he and Allison Van Etten will be working on a Memorandum of Understanding to allow SPS to expand the community classroom program at the high school to students from neighboring districts and allow new funds to be used by the district; this MOU will be presented to the BOF.

Dr. Van Riley also mentioned he participated in the wonderful opening of the Sensory Garden at West Vine Street School. Dr. Riley also attended the very touching event with the SHS girls' softball team Play for Cure.

Superintendent Evaluation Process and Timeline

Frank Todisco requested that Dr. Van Riley submit his evaluation prior to the June Board meeting. The Board can then set up a couple of dates for the annual review. The Board was in agreement with this timeline.

Monthly Report

All monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet. The Board did not have questions at this time.

Committee Reports

The Policy Committee met and spoke on policies regarding drugs in school, social media, and graduation participation. The committee will bring these policies forward to the BOE.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones commented on .5 PMS music position, para support for the music teacher at PMS, crew transportation, and funding for the Mandarin position. Mrs. Jones also questioned the approval of the Policy 5123.3a Graduation Participation on its first read. Mrs. Jones inquired about the selection of the new assistant principal for the high school.

Ellen Gilbert thanked the BOE, parents, and community members for voting on the budget. Ms. Gilbert also thanked Dr. Riley for attending the recent concert. Ms. Gilbert spoke about equity between chorus and band and the middle school design.

Rob Marseglia commented on the K-12 Building Committee BOE representative selection. Mr. Marseglia showed his interest in the North Stonington Issue and wonders how this will impact the K-12 Building Committee.

Cindy Nadeau commented on co-op sports with Ledyard Public Schools.

Items for Future Agendas

- A. Graduation Questionnaire - June BOE Agenda
- B. Mission/Vision Statements – June BOE Agenda
- C. Televised School Events – June BOE Agenda
- D. Approval 2014-15 Teacher Evaluation Plan - TBD

Faith Leitner suggested adding the following two items:

- Update on the School Based Health Center
- Update on the school nurses and their challenges

Board Comments/Concerns

Emily Craig thanked the BOE for the opportunity to serve as BOE Student Government representative this school year.

Frank Todisco commended Nikki Gullickson, Assistant Superintendent, for the quick response, dialogue, and communication during Dr. Riley's absence regarding the recent tragedy involving one of the districts' students.

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 5: To adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Aye: All


Deborah Downie, Board Secretary