

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 9, 2012

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Deborah Downie, Frank Todisco, Kevin Bornstein and Craig Esposito.

Absent: Alisa Morrison

Also present were Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Joni Moody, Student Government, members of the staff, students and interested citizens.

Communications

Gail MacDonald welcomed and introduced the new Student Government Representative, Joni Moody.

Deborah Downie noted that she received many emails from parents in regards to the Magnet School transportation.

Gail MacDonald received the following communications:

- a letter from the State of Connecticut State Board of Education approving the appointment of Dr. Paul Smotas as Interim Superintendent of Schools
- a letter from Magnet School parents Tim and Abby O'Brien
- correspondence from a kindergarten family
- SHS fields

Comments from Citizens

Jim Turner a Magnet School parent thanked the Board for adding this item to the agenda and asked for their support in restoring the transportation. Jim added that this is valuable for students, families and benefits the Town.

Tim O'Brien thanked administration for their consideration in reinstating Magnet School transportation.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – July 12, 2012(Special)
July 12, 2012 (Regular)
August 2, 2012 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills

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

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda items A and B as presented.

Aye: All

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent introduced and welcomed the new Program Facilitator for WVSS/WBSS, Ruth Rose.

Dr. Paul Smotas gave updates on:

- SHS fields
- WBS sprinkler system
- elementary students class assignment letters
- updated on Superintendent search
- proposed reinstatement of Magnet School transportation
- Reforesting the Tropics project in the middle schools

The Board and administration discussed budget implications if Magnet School transportation were reinstated.

Proposed Reinstatement of Magnet School Transportation

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

Motion 2: To reinstate funding for the Magnet School transportation for 2012-2013 school year.

Aye: All

Assistant Superintendent's Contract

Dr. Paul Smotas noted that the Assistant Superintendent is the only employee who does not have a contract for 2012/13 and recommended keeping the existing contract and matching the district wide increase of 2.9%.

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

Motion 3: To approve the Assistant Superintendent's salary increase of 2.9 % as presented by Dr. Paul Smotas.

Aye: All

Appointment of Program Facilitators WVS/WBS and DMS

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

Motion 4: To appoint Ruth Rose (WVS/WBS) for Program Facilitator and to appoint Allison Hine (DMS) for Program Facilitator.

Aye: All

Monthly Reports

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

The Board had questions on State selection process for PISA testing, athletic fields and budget calendar.

Administration answered the Board's questions on these topics.

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

Motion 5: To approve the calendar for budget preparation for fiscal year 2013-2014 as proposed.

Aye: All

Committee Assignments & Reports

The Board had no committee reports at this time.

The Board discussed committee assignments and representation for 2012/13 school year.

State Testing Summary

Gail MacDonald noted that there will be a special meeting on September 27th dedicated to discuss State testing. The Board discussed ways to improve testing scores.

Nikki Gullickson distributed an updated report on testing scores and gave a detailed summary on the district's current CMT and CAPT scores, the student growth model and professional development opportunities covering this topic.

Gail MacDonald asked Student Government, Joni Moody her view on the degree of challenge she experiences as a student in Stonington.

Joni Moody added that students need to take initiative to be challenged in school.

Dr. Paul Smotas suggested that the district and Board research how other area districts work to improve test scores.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Stacie Furtado thanked the Board for reinstating Magnet School transportation.

Jordan Morace a Magnet School student thanked the Board for reinstating the Magnet School transportation.

Jim Turner thanked Dr. Smotas, Bill King and the Board for reinstatement of Magnet School transportation and offered the Board his support to retain funding from the Town on the sprinkler system project.

Tim O'Brien thanked Dr. Smotas and the Board for the opportunity to revisit the Magnet School transportation and supports Stonington on their work to improve test scores in Stonington.

Tiffany Johnston thanked the Board for the reinstatement of Magnet School transportation. Ms. Johnston offered suggestions on programs to improve testing scores in Stonington.

Board Comments/Concerns

Frank Todisco asked that the Data Mining Committee continue to move forward with representation from Craig Esposito and Nikki Gullickson.

Gail MacDonald reminded all of upcoming negotiations and of the following upcoming meetings:

- September 6th Board Retreat with Nick Caruso
- September 13th Regular Board Meeting
- September 27th Special Board Meeting to discuss testing

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

Motion 6: To adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Aye: All



Faith Leitner, Board Secretary