

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:03 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. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Joni Moody, Student Government, members of the staff, students and interested citizens.

Recognitions

Gail MacDonald recognized the passing of Valerie Provancha, stating that Valerie served for 27 years throughout the district and added that she will be sadly missed by many people.

Communications

Faith Leitner communicated that she visited DMS and MMS and received positive feedback on the start of school.

Gail MacDonald noted that the Board received a thank you note from the Rines family.

Gail MacDonald received a request from the SHS yearbook committee for the purchase of an ad. Gail asked the Board for authorization to purchase a full page ad in the yearbook. All agreed.

Comments from Citizens

Cindy Nadeau commented on the proposed change of the elementary fall conference dates, student first day handouts and school crossing issue at WBS.

Gretchen Noonan stated that the issue with elementary fall conference dates was brought up last school year and that the November 2nd date is the only date being requested by the union for a change in the calendar.

Proposed Appointment of the New Superintendent of Schools

The following motion was made Frank Todisco and seconded by Deborah Downie:

Motion 1: To move to appoint Van W. Riley as the new Superintendent of Schools.

Aye: All

Gail MacDonald recognized and expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the members of the search committee and Dr. Paul Smotas for their work in the search. Gail noted that choosing between the remaining two candidates was a difficult one.

Frank Todisco and Deborah Downie stated that Van W. Riley was the most impressive candidate and the committee's unanimous choice.

Dr. Paul Smotas thanked everyone for the opportunity to conduct the search as well as thanked all who served on the search committee. Dr. Smotas also noted that he feels the entire community will be impressed with the appointment of the new superintendent.

Gail MacDonald read a letter from Dr. Riley thanking the community for his appointment.

BOE announced that there would be a short recess to celebrate the appointment of the new Superintendent of Schools for Stonington.

Gail MacDonald called the meeting back to order at 7:35 p.m.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – August 9, 2012 (Special)
August 9, 2012 (Regular)
August 28, 2012 (Special)
September 6, 2012 (Special)

B. Checks and Bills

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

- Motion 2: To approve the Consent Agenda items A through B as presented.**
Aye: All

Joni Moody, Student Government Representative, reported on the role of the student government with regards to student transition, upcoming freshman elections for student government, homecoming, and back to school night.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent, reported on the following:

- Smooth opening day for schools
- Completion of the sprinkler project at WBS
- Completion and condition of the athletic fields at SHS
- Dates for back to school nights district wide
- Gave an update on September 5th Board of Finance meeting noting that the Board of Finance will meet on October 9th to hold a town meeting to approve the special appropriation which covers costs for the WBS sprinkler project and thanked them for their support
- Changes in bid threshold amount as approved by the Board of Finance from \$5,000 to \$10,000
- Enrollment
- Joint meetings with all three Boards starting in October

Proposed Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Maintenance of Athletic Fields

Dr. Paul Smotas and Bill King reported that a MOU is being drafted to address the responsibilities of the Town and Board of Education as to the maintenance of the athletic fields. A September 25th special Board of Finance meeting is scheduled to discuss this MOU.

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

- Motion 3: To authorize the Interim Superintendent of Schools, Paul Smotas, to represent the Board to this regard along with Bill King and Ken Donovan.**
Aye: All

Discussion of Stonington Plan of Conservation and Development

Alisa Morrison gave an explanation of the plan and what the Board's role is in the plan. Alisa and the Board agreed to review this on a monthly basis.

Discussion/Action – Request to Change Date of Elementary Fall Parent Conferences

Dr. Paul Smotas and the Board discussed alternative dates for the November 2nd Elementary Fall Parent Conferences.

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

Motion 4: To change the Elementary Fall Parent Conference date from Friday, November 2nd to Thursday, November 8th.

Aye: All

Monthly Reports

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

Kevin Bornstein had questions for the Technology Director, Jason Jones, regarding the Sprint offering discussed in the technology monthly report. Jason Jones will supply the Board with further information on this topic.

Nikki Gullickson reported on the Tradebook Adoption “Tuesdays With Morrie” which will be presented as a first read at the next Board meeting. Nikki also noted that a special Board meeting will take place on September 27th to discuss District Response to State Testing.

Gail MacDonald had questions for Virginia Brown, Director of Special Services, as to the timeline for the PMS School Based Health Center.

Virginia Brown reported that a meeting is set for next week with the administrator from the Child and Family Agency to discuss the program and would share any new information with the Board.

Committee Assignments & Reports

- Safe Schools Committee and the Special Services Committee - Deb Downie reported that the committees did not meet.
- LEARN Board - Craig Esposito attended the meeting where discussion focused on pharmacy management and cost savings associated with this and the appointment of a new Executive Director, Dr. Eileen Hawley from West Hartford.
- STEM – Kevin Bornstein reported that the first meeting will be on September 25th.
- Policy Committee – Kevin Bornstein informed that the committee met earlier this evening resulting in a recommendation to hire an outside source to review and recommend updates to the BOE Policy Manual.
- Athletic Committee – Alisa Morrison communicated that the committee will have a public session on September 24th to discuss field and road proposals.
- Revenue Generation – Frank Todisco noted that this committee will meet later this month.

Gail MacDonald mentioned she had details on an upcoming retirement party for LEARN’s previous Executive Director, Dr. Virginia Seccombe.

Gail MacDonald noted that the Board is once again qualified to apply for the CABE Board Recognition Awards.

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

Motion 5: To authorize the Interim Superintendent to hire a consultant to review the Board Policy Manual.

Aye: All

Policy 5114 Suspension and Expulsion – First Read

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

Motion 6: To waive Board policy to have two reads on Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion in only this instance.

Aye: All

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

Motion 7: To accept Board Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion.

Aye: All

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones asked about start date of the new Superintendent.

Gail MacDonald explained that the new Superintendent would start on October 15th. Dr. Paul Smotas added that he will transition with the new Superintendent for a week.

Cindy Nadeau commented on the new fall elementary conference date.

Gail MacDonald announced that a special Board meeting will take place on September 27th at the Administration Building to discuss CAPT and CMT scores.

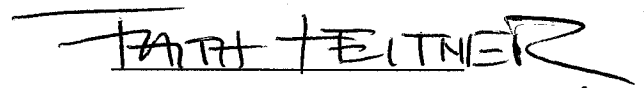
Executive Session – To Discuss Contract of Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Paul Smotas explained that the Board was not provided sufficient information to discuss the Assistant Superintendent's contract; therefore an executive session will not take place.

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

Motion 8: To adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

Aye: All



Faith Leitner, Board Secretary