

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2012

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

Late Arrival: Craig Esposito – 7:47 p.m.

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

Communications & Recognitions

Recognitions:

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized the following:

“We Are Stonington Public Schools Award” recipients for February were:

Evelyn Bridges - SHS
David Carpenter
Mark Friese - SHS
Cindy Hartley - WVS
Pam Krause-Choquette – PMS
Heather Priest - PMS
Ryan Shea
Mary Wilkinson - SHS

Mystic Middle School Jazz Band under the direction of Jim Hilbie:

Christian Anderson	Laura Marseglia
Clayton Andrews	David McSweeney
Emma Brown	Serena Monteiro
Margit Burgess	Luke Monteiro
Christiana Congdon	Alexander Opsahl
Robert Gestrich	Adam Rugh
Alex Green	Leslie Spencer
Peter Holliman	Mackenzie Switz
Ryan Kilcoyne	Kyle Whalen
Jason Kilcoyne	Hannah Lamb

Stonington Education Fund Board of Directors:

Donna Abbott	Saddia Rahaman
Patti Coan	Paula Reid
Kim Connett	David Sanford
Laura Ely	Paul Sartor
Ann Gestrich	Bob Williams
Rob Marseglia	Kathleen Murphy

Leanne Masterjoseph also recognized Kyle Mola, SHS student, who received first place in the state in the Invite-Write portion of the Stock Market Game. Kyle was honored with a trophy in a special award presentation in Art Howe’s class.

Leanne Masterjoseph also recognized Christian Rogerson as the finalist in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

Gail MacDonald recognized Superintendent, Leanne Masterjoseph for being chosen as Secretary of the SECASA organization.

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Communications:

Gail MacDonald stated that the next CABE event “A Day on the Hill” will take place on March 14th and would forward information to any Board member interested in attending.

Gail MacDonald communicated on the dramatic changes happening in Hartford, as it relates to education and students in the state.

Leanne Masterjoseph received a communication from a SHS student as a result of a classroom assignment on the direct budget impact on students and shared this communication with the Board.

Gail MacDonald acknowledged and thanked the student for the communication.

Comments from Citizens

No comments from citizens at this time.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes –January 12, 2012 (Regular)
January 19, 2012 (Regular)
January 26, 2012 (Regular)
February 2, 2012 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Inter-Account Transfers

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

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda items A through C as presented.

Aye: All

Gail MacDonald asked that the Board move to the next item on the agenda, Response to K4 EdSpecs Submission until Representative Diana Urban was present to discuss the legislative updates.

Response to K4 EdSpecs Submission

Gail MacDonald introduced Paul Sartor and Selectman Ed Haberek who addressed the K4 EdSpecs Submission.

Paul Sartor and Selectman Ed Haberek gave an overview on the timeline and funding of the project and noted that more information would be available in the next two months.

Gail MacDonald stressed the need to move forward with the project and asked that the committee follow-up on state monetary incentives. Gail thanked both Paul Sartor and Selectman Ed Haberek for their information on the project.

Gail MacDonald asked the Board to move back to the agenda item Legislators’ Updates.

Legislators’ Updates

Gail MacDonald explained that Senator Andrew Maynard and Representative Diana Urban would be giving an update on events happening in Hartford. Gail thanked the Senator and the Representative for attending the meeting and for being responsive to the Board.

Senator Andrew Maynard and Representative Diana Urban discussed the Governor’s focus and proposals on various topics relating to education in the state and answered the Board’s questions.

Budget Discussion

Gail MacDonald recapped the Board's consensus on the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget from the last month's Board meeting.

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the new 2012-2013 Proposed Budget to the Board.

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

Motion 2: To increase the reduction of line item 600 from \$5,000 dollars to \$10,000 dollars in the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget.

All: Aye

The Board discussed the additional reduction in the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget and asked for comments from Administration.

Administration had no comments and made the Board's requested change to the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget.

Gail MacDonald noted that the reduction would bring the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget to a 4.112% increase. Gail thanked the Administration for the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget preparation.

The following motion was made by Kevin Bornstein and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 3: To send forward the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget at 33,212,814.00 to the Board of Finance.

All: Aye

Gail MacDonald advised that the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget would be presented to the Board of Finance in March and asked the Board members for thoughts on the presentation of the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget to the Board of Finance.

Gail MacDonald and the Board discussed community outreach for the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget. The Board asked Administration to supply a list of upcoming parent centered events in which the Board could make voting registration cards available.

Monthly Reports

All monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet. The Board had no questions at this time on the monthly reports presented.

Progress Toward Board Goals

Gail MacDonald reviewed each Board Goal and asked the Board to express their thoughts on where the Board stands on each Goal.

Committee Reports

- Special Services Committee – Deborah Downie reported that last month's meeting had a large participation and great ideas. The February 9th meeting was very productive and noted the upcoming events with area organizations.
- Data Mining Committee – Craig Esposito noted that he was unable to attend last month's meeting. Leanne reported that group is looking deeper into equity audit data. The next meeting is scheduled for February 14th.

Committee Reports (cont.)

- SEF Committee – Faith Leitner reminded everyone of the major fundraising event on February 11th and that tickets are still available.
- World Language Committee – Faith Leitner reported that discussion focused around defining different levels of proficiency and the use of Google docs was also discussed.
- Policy Committee – Kevin Bornstein reported that the committee will meet next week and will focus on a new policy.
- STEM – Kevin Bornstein noted that the next meeting will be on February 25th. Nikki Gullickson gave kudos to the high school course selection matrix.
- Athletic Committee – Alisa Morrison distributed to the Board the SHS Athletics Department Fall 2011-12 Season Re-cap information. Alisa noted that the next meeting will be on February 23rd.
- Fields Task Force – Alisa Morrison reported that field maintenance, town wide needs were discussed. Alisa also reported that the committee will be sending recommendations to the Selectman in the next few months. The next meeting will be on February 21st.
- Revenue Generation Committee – Frank Todisco reported this group did not meet. Next meeting is in March.
- Retirement Board – Frank Todisco reported that the next meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday.

Gail MacDonald noted that Board representation is still needed to attend the LEARN monthly meetings.

Faith Leitner gave kudos to West Broad Street School for their work on the Seaport Connection.

Reka Keller, Student Government representative, reported that a great deal of fundraising is being done at the high school.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones gave kudos to Dr. Stephen Murphy and the entire Stonington High School staff for a very helpful parent night on course selection.

Board Comments/Concerns

The Board had no comments/concerns at this time.

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

Motion 4: To adjourn at 9:27 p.m.

Aye: All


Faith Leitner, Board Secretary