

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING APRIL 19, 2012

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary. Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Kevin Bornstein and Frank Todisco

Late Arrival: Craig Esposito – 7:54 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.

Gail MacDonald thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting.

Communications & Recognitions

Recognitions:

Leanne Masterjoseph recognized the following:

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

Jill Aiosa	Stonington Public Schools Maintenance Crew:
Thomas Bousquet	Bernie Worden
Wendianne Caraballo	Dominic Diangi
Judy Colschen	Bob Mitchell
Jo-Ann Cope	Scott Howard
Tia Dudda	Duke Carey
Kelly Enoch	Vicki McCord
Duffy Grace	The Potter Family
Michaela Lamb	Deloris Simons
Gabrielle LaChance	Bruce Yarnall
Sue Weaver	

Gail notes that a celebration for “We Are Stonington Public Schools Award” recipients will take place on May 10th at 6:00 p.m. at Stonington High School Commons, prior to the May 10th board meeting.

Leanne Masterjoseph also recognized the following:

- West Broad Street School for receiving the 2011 Orion Award which was awarded through the Mystic Seaport
- AJ Jones for being selected as one of the Governor's Scholars of Connecticut for 2012
- Alex Schroeder for receiving the Connecticut State Scholar Athlete scholarship
- Awareness Week at Stonington High School
- Jen Bausch for receiving the SIEMENS award
- Recognized and thanked the team for their hard work in putting together the Family University event

Alisa Morrison thanked parents for the great turn out at the Board of Finance meeting.

Faith Leitner recognized the following:

- The growth of West Vine Street School Sensory Garden
- Faith also recognized West Broad Street School for the recent visits from Selectman Haberek, Senator Maynard and Representative Diana Urban
- Pawcatuck Middle School's musical “Once Upon a Mattress”
- Mystic Middle School's Jazz Band performance at the La Grua Center on April 24th at 7:30 p.m.

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Gail MacDonald recognized Jen Bausch for her excellent program.

Gail MacDonald presented the CABE 2011 Award of Excellence for Educational Communications to the Board and the Superintendent for Stonington Public Schools Proposed Annual Budget.

Communications:

Gail MacDonald acknowledged an invitation from West Vine Street School for the Art in the Garden event in the WVSS Sensory Garden.

Kevin spoke of a communication from Julie Holland in regards to Administrative Support at WVS and WBS.

Gail MacDonald shared a communication on Bullying that she received and mentioned that there will be a National School Board Conference being held in Boston this weekend.

Comments from Citizens

Gretchen Noonan shared her thoughts on the 2012-2013 School Calendar.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – March 8, 2012 (Regular)
March 20, 2012 (Special)
March 22, 2012 (Special)
- 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

BOE Budget 2012-2013

Leanne Masterjoseph shared her Superintendent's Summary with the Board which recommended that the Board consider meeting the remaining mandated reductions while simultaneously addressing the need for increased administrative support at the elementary level.

Gail MacDonald explained that the Board does not vote formally on the budget until after the budget is approved by the Board of Finance.

The Board questioned the administration on the additional administrative support at the elementary level. Administration answered their questions.

The Board discussed ways and events in which information on voting could get out to the public before the referendum date, which has been set for May 8th.

2012-2013 Calendar Correction

Leanne Masterjoseph reviewed the 2012-2013 school calendar and suggested that going forward the Board be a part of the initial generation of the school calendar which takes place early in December.

The Board discussed the 2012-2013 school calendar and had questions for administration. Administration answered the Board's questions.

2012-2013 Calendar Correction (continued)

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

Motion 2: To adopt the Superintendent's recommended revisions to the 2012-2013 calendar as presented.

Aye: All

State Technology Plan: First Read

Nikki Gullickson and Kevin Bornstein presented the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Stonington Educational Technology Plan. Nikki and Kevin explained the timeline for the implementation of this plan and how it will impact our schools.

Gail MacDonald thanked the committee members for their part in this process.

Glennville State College "Hidden Promise" Consortium

Leanne Masterjoseph acknowledged that this partnership connection came through Steve Coan and noted that Dr. Barr, President of Glennville State College, previously toured West Broad Street School and was greatly impacted by the tour and therefore extended this opportunity to Stonington Public Schools.

Jenn McCurdy and Tim Smith supplied the Board with a handout in regards to the "Hidden Promise" Consortium, explained in detail the program and answered the Boards questions.

The Board asked questions about the program and noted that they felt it is a great program for Stonington to participate in.

Committee Reports

- Revenue Generation Committee – Frank Todisco reported that the committee did not meet this past month. Scoreboards went to Planning and Zoning for approval. Next meeting will be May 2nd.
- Fields Task Force - Alisa Morrison noted that the committee met on Tuesday night and decided to present a plan to the Board of Selectman for the proposal of the artificial turf field. Alisa reported that the entire fields project would be completed by fall of 2014.
- Athletic Committee – Alisa reported that at tonight's meeting discussion focused on the Athletic Philosophy which would be submitted to the Policy Committee. Alisa also distributed to the Board the Athletic Department's winter report. A joint meeting is planned with the Revenue Generation Committee to discuss the scoreboards.
- STEM – Kevin Bornstein noted he was unable to attend last month's meeting. Nikki reported that the committee discussed the definition of tech as it applies to STEM and that a guest speaker Mr. Lynch was in attendance, who spoke on a project in Costa Rica.

Committee Reports (continued)

- Policy Committee – Kevin Bornstein reported that this month’s meeting focused on the Suspension and Expulsion Policy which would soon be ready for a first read.
- SEF Committee – Faith Leitner reported that committee met April 2nd and conversation focused on upcoming grant dates and thank you notes from the last fund raiser event. Faith also reminded the Board of the Blue Mondays starting in June.
- World Language Committee – Faith Leitner was not able to go to attend the meeting.
- Special Services Committee – Deborah Downie reported on the upcoming event on April 30th Parents Transitioning Planning. Ginny Brown noted that minutes of each meeting will be posted on our website.
- Safe Schools Committee – Deborah Downie attended the Stonington High School meeting and reported that good discussion took place at the meeting.
- Data Mining Committee – Craig Esposito was only able to attend a portion of the meeting. Leanne Masterjoseph reported that the committee continued discussion on the collection tool in order to collect another round of data. Discussion on the protocol to process the text of “Turning High Poverty Schools into High Performing Schools” was introduced in which the committee showed great interest in.

Gail MacDonald reported that she attended the Board of Directors meeting in which conversation revolved around pending legislation on education reform. Gail also noted that she will be attending the National School Board Conference in Boston this weekend.

Monthly Reports

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

Student Government:

Reka Keller reported on the Case for Dignity drive and reminded everyone about the Kaleidoscope event taking place on April 24th.

Operations:

Bill King answered the Board’s questions on the dismissal process and will provide the Board with a more comprehensive report at the next Board meeting.

The Board suggested that this process be put on a Policy Committee Agenda so that it may be reviewed and in place for next school year.

Deborah Downie asked Bill King about the well project at Mystic Middle School. Bill King explained that the project would not start until after July 1st.

Special Services:

Ginny Brown explained that a PD is in the works for the fall and a survey will be going out to establish more PD for the Special Services department.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones commented on the dismissal issue, 2012-2013 school calendar and the State Technology Plan.

Board Comments/Concerns

Frank Todisco requested a list of school events.

Alisa Morrison asked that the Board look into taping the monthly Board meetings.

Gail MacDonald noted that she is getting a lot of interest in the formulation of the Building Committee and will continue to monitor the situation.

Gail McDonald reminded the Board of the May 5th Board of Education retreat, held at the Administration Office.

Gail MacDonald asked that Board presence would be appreciated at the “We are SPS” celebration on May 10th.

Gail MacDonald mentioned that the Adult Education Graduation is set for Wednesday, May 16th at 7 p.m.

Gail MacDonald noted that she is forming a negotiation committee for the upcoming SEA negotiation re-opener for wages and benefits, and Administrator negotiations. Gail shared that Frank Todisco and Craig Esposito will be part of the committee.

Alisa Morrison expressed interest in being part of the Building Committee.

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

Motion 3: To adjourn at 9:14 p.m.

Aye: All



Faith Leitner, Board Secretary