

## STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 12, 2012

Faith Leitner, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Craig Esposito, Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Kevin Bornstein and Frank Todisco.

Absent: Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman

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 January were:

- Sheila Adams
- Nikki Gullickson
- Marika Heughins
- Kathy Irvine
- Mary Ribeiro
- Kathy Sanford
- Jayne Scott
- Nora Selinger
- Beth-Ann Stewart
- Richard Walter

Communications:

No communications at this time.

### Comments from Citizens

No comments from citizens at this time.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – December 8, 2011 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Inter-Account Transfers

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

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

**Aye: All**

**State of Youth in Stonington Report**

Beth-Ann Stewart from Human Services reported on the status of youth in Stonington, existing needs, and programs available along with supporting data.

Board members requested that a copy of the data presented be provided.

Officer Darren Stewart of the Stonington Police Department reported on the status of youth in Stonington. Officer Stewart commented that youth are thriving, giving them an “A” overall. He also reported on programs such as the new DCF officer.

**Burden of Proof Discussion**

Leanne Masterjoseph explained CAGE’s advocacy for the shift in Burden of Proof and what role the Board might play if choosing to take a stance on the issue.

Virginia Brown, Director of Special Services, shared information received from the District’s attorney.

Board members asked for more supporting data and may revisit this issue at a future meeting.

**Proposed District Calendar 2012-2013**

Board discussed the adoption of the regional school calendar for 2012-2013.

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

**Motion 2: To approve the adoption of the proposed School Calendar 2012-2013 as presented.**

**Aye: All**

**Policy - Proposed Bylaw: Student Representation to BOE Policy 9160(a) – First Read and Action**

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

**Motion 3: To approve the Proposed Bylaw: Student Representation to BOE Policy 9160(a) as presented.**

**Aye: All**

**Presentation of Superintendent’s Budget 2012-2013**

Leanne Masterjoseph presented the Superintendent’s 2012-2013 Budget and noted that it would be available on our website. Leanne provided a hard copy to the Board and an overview to explain the 4.125% increase over last year. Leanne thanked the District team for their work in the budget process and noted that next week’s workshop would focus on staffing requests.

**Monthly Reports: Departments & Committees**

All monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet. The following discussions took place.

Faith Leitner asked for further explanation on SSR (Sustained Silent Reading) program at the high school.

Operations:

Bill King presented operations report and asked that motion be made on the annual Bearathon Road Race on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Motion 4: To approve the annual Bearathon Road Race fundraiser to be held on May 28, 2012 with the stipulation that all appropriate insurance coverage will be in effect as well as any coordination with police and ambulance services prior to the event.**

**Aye: All**

Curriculum Report:

Nikki Gullickson reported that CMT/CAPT process has started and will be attending District workshop on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Special Services:

Virginia Brown noted that more information on Child and Families partnership program would be available in coming months.

**Committee Reports**

- Revenue Generation Committee: Frank Todisco asked for the Boards support for exploring grant feasibility with other town partners.
- Athletic Committee – Alisa Morrison reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Alisa also shared an overview from the fields and town wide task force meeting. Alisa noted the next task force meeting is Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Technology Committee – Kevin Bornstein reported the next STEM meeting is scheduled for later in the month.
- World Language Committee – Faith Leitner reported last month's meeting was postponed, next meeting scheduled for next week.

**Committee Reports (continued)**

- SEF Committee – Faith Leitner reported that the committee met on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Faith noted tickets are on sale for the big fundraiser to take place on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Mystic Aquarium.
- Data Mining Committee – Craig Esposito noted next meeting is on January 24<sup>th</sup> and noted that Equity Audit data was reviewed in last month's meeting.
- Special Services Committee – Deborah Downie reported next meeting set for next week.
- Safe Schools Task Force – Deborah Downie reported a positive meeting at SHS and will also be attending upcoming elementary meeting.

Faith Leitner welcomed reports on Adopted Schools.

Deborah Downie reported that she has been given a tour of Deans Mill School.

Craig Esposito reported that he has been given a tour of both West Vine and West Broad schools.

**Board Reflection on Progress Towards Goals**

Faith asked for a motion to put this item on next month's agenda.

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

**Motion 5: To remove item Board Reflection on Progress Towards Goals from the agenda.**

**Aye: All**

**Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda**

Sue Jones – requested a copy of the Superintendent's 2012-2013 Budget; asked for possible addition of comments from citizens be added to agenda prior to budget vote.

**Board Comments/Concerns**

Kevin Bornstein complimented Leanne Masterjoseph on the overall process leading up to the budget this year. Seconded by Alisa Morrison.

Faith Leitner reported on her visit to Mr. Massengale's Social Studies class and shared feedback from students.

Faith Leitner announced that there will be a China Day at Pawcatuck Middle School on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Alisa Morrison and Faith Leitner requested clarification on district policy as it refers to celebrations in schools.

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

**Motion 6: To adjourn at 9:15 p.m.**

**Aye: All**

FAITH LEITNER  
Faith Leitner, Board Secretary