

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 23, 2014

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Deborah Downie, Secretary, Faith Leitner, Alisa Morrison, Craig Esposito, Alexa Garvey, and Terry Stefanski.

Also present were Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Frank Todisco asked that a motion be made to add an item to the agenda.

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Deborah Downie:

Motion 1: To add the item Comments from Citizens to the first item on the agenda.

All: Aye

Comments from Citizens

Dan Kelley president of DMS PTO group spoke on behalf of DMS parents. Mr. Kelley commented on the poor condition of the DMS roof. Mr. Kelley suggested that the leaks be addressed sooner than later.

Sue Jones spoke on the budget proposal and reductions in regards to teaching positions and total budget increase.

DMS Roof

Dr. Van Riley had available a handout regarding the DMS roof, which the Board had previously requested. Dr. Riley noted that a meeting regarding the roof will be held at DMS on Tuesday, January 28 at 6:30pm, all are invited. (See attached handout)

The Board had a dialogue on strategies to address the DMS roof situation including:

- Cost and funding options
- Timeline of repairs
- Quotes
- Building project
- Roof repair specifications
- Warranty

The Board requested a long-range facilities/maintenance report for the February meeting. Ken Donovan and Bill King to supply this report.

Dr. Van Riley to bring back to the Board for the February meeting a detailed report of when and what parts of the DMS roof is in need of repair which will also be presented to the BOF.

Continued Review of 2014-15 Budget

Van presented his budget proposal and spoke on the following:

- Effects of reductions on students and staff
- SHS class enrollments
- SEED
- Budget 2014 reductions spreadsheet

Dr. Riley reviewed his suggested staffing options for implementing SEED and their effects on the budget proposal. Dr. Riley also gave the Board a list of prioritized items for suggested reductions to the budget proposal.

The Board discussed the suggested list of items presented by Dr. Riley and prioritized them so that to decrease the overall budget percentage of increase. The Board came to a consensus to keep the budget overall increase to less than 3%. The Board also suggested that a message go out to parents reminding them to attend next week's Board meeting, in order to give parents an opportunity to comment on the budget proposal before the final product is delivered to the Board of Finance.

Concept of Long Range Financial and Facilities Planning

Dr. Van Riley suggested the Board derive at a comfortable number for the overall budget increase so that a long-range finance and facility plan can be looked at. Dr. Riley noted that this would be helpful in the planning of future budget proposals.

The Board agreed with this type of planning.

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones commented on the effect of removing AP testing from the budget proposal, the possibility of having an open dialogue type of Board meeting for budget conversation opposed to a regular Board meeting setting and getting communication out to school groups regarding budget discussion and involvement.

Rob Marseglia commented on the need for a better microphone system during the Board meetings, DMS roof planning and prioritization and how it relates to the building project along with funding options.

Dan Kelley also commented on the microphone system. Mr. Kelley spoke on the proposed budget cuts involving teachers and the DMS librarian and feels both should not be cut.

Board Member Comments

Terry Stefanski commented on his concern of the DMS roof.

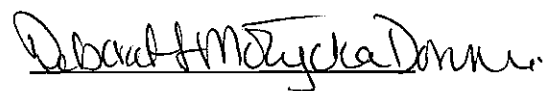
Faith Leitner reminded all of the upcoming week's events including the School Based Health Center open house at PMS on Monday, January 27, DMS roof meeting on Tuesday, January 28 and the Board meeting on Thursday, January 30 to discuss the budget proposal.

Deborah Downie suggested reaching out to the community for filling future positions in the district.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

Motion 2: To adjourn at 8:45p.m.

Aye: All



Deborah Downie, Board Secretary