

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 24, 2013

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Kevin Bornstein, Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison and Frank Todisco.

Absent: Craig Esposito

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

Gail MacDonald started the meeting by thanking Faith Leitner, Secretary, for running the Board meeting last week in her absence.

Comments from Citizens

No comments at this time.

Personnel – Approval of New Director of Special Services

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

Motion 1: To approve Allison Van Etten as the new Director of Special Services.

Aye: All

Dr. Riley noted that there were fifteen candidates and that the interview committee consisted of ten individuals some teachers, parents, administrators and a BOE member. Dr. Riley believes that Ms. Van Etten will be a wonderful new director and it will be nice to have her on board.

Gail MacDonald thanked all that served on the search committee.

Allison Van Etten thanked everyone for the opportunity to work with the elementary, middle and high schools.

Report on Budget Impacts to Looping Programs at PMS

Dr. Riley answered the Board's question as it related to the Looping Program at PMS. Dr. Riley assured the Board that this program is not budget driven. Dr. Riley noted that both middle school principals will be meeting with teachers and parents on the program's needs and how the program fits into the State requirements. Dr. Riley will update the Board on this program at future Board meetings.

The Board asked administration about State requirements as it relates to the Looping Program and effective date of new assessment requirements.

Nikki Gullickson explained the State requirements as it relates to the Looping Program and mentioned that 2015 is the year for new assessments which will be done on-line.

Report on Technology Recommendations Related to the Budget

Dr. Riley answered the Board's question on budget funding for Chromebooks at PMS. Dr. Riley explained that this is a pilot program. Dr. Riley also stated that there are currently sufficient funds in the budget to also provide the same program at MMS.

The Board asked what need do the Chromebooks fill, and agreed that district should pilot the program in both middle schools. The Board believes that the district should start with a small number and monitor how students maintain such devices before further implementation.

Budget Workshop

Gail MacDonald explained that the Board's goal this evening was to give Dr. Riley direction on the bottom line of the 2013-2014 Budget Proposal.

Dr. Riley explained the four optional items that were discussed at the previous Board meeting and noted that including these four items, the 2013-2014 Budget Proposal stands at a 2.97% increase.

The Board shared their thoughts and discussed the impact on the budget proposal with the following four items:

- Crew funding and support - \$6,000
- Tests – PSAT and others - \$24, 833
- Technology request at PMS - \$20,000
- Facilitator/Dean to Assistant Principal issue/option

The Board also requested an update on the Mental Health needs at MMS, supports to teachers and students at WBS, MMS utilization of Chromebooks and an update on when a report will be available on the Summer Academy.

Administration answered the Board's questions as it related to the four items and other requested updates.

The Board agreed to keep the 2013-2014 Budget Proposal as presented with an overall budget increase of 2.97%.

Gail MacDonald noted that there will be a public forum on February 7th and a motion on the 2013-2014 Budget Proposal at the February 14th Board meeting.

Dr. Riley and Gail MacDonald honored Virginia Brown, who will be leaving the district on February 1st, with a plaque in appreciation for her dedication and years of service to Stonington Public Schools and wished her the best of luck in her new position.

Virginia Brown thanked the Board and all present for the opportunity to serve the district for the past twelve years.

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones asked for a clarification on the budget increase previously presented compared to the current proposed increase. Sue also commented on the need to increase the Dean to Assistant Principal issue for reasons of security, discipline and evaluation.

Cindy Nadeau commented on funding and scheduling of PSAT and SAT testing and agreed with the proposal to increase the Dean to Assistant Principal.

Executive Session

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

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

Motion 2: To enter into Executive Session to discuss various contract negotiations and to invite Dr. Riley to join the Board.

Motion was amended by Frank Todisco to also invite Bill King to join the Board and Dr. Riley.

Aye: All

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:11 p.m.

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

Motion 3: To Adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

Aye: All

FAITH LEITNER

Faith Leitner, Board Secretary