

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING JULY 12, 2012

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Frank Todisco, and Kevin Bornstein.

Absent: Craig Esposito

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

Gail welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting.

Communications

Faith recognized the MMS parents who will be volunteering their time to install a garden fence for the garden club.

Gail MacDonald received a communication that recognized MMS as receiving the CAFE award which will be acknowledged at the convention in November.

Gail MacDonald received a communication from police Chief Darren Stewart thanking the Board for having honored him at the Police Commissioner Association of Connecticut awards dinner.

Gail MacDonald welcomed and introduced the new Interim Superintendent, Dr. Paul Smotas.

Interim Superintendent, Dr. Paul Smotas thanked the Board and noted that he will be assisting the Board with the search for the new superintendent.

Comments from Citizens

Jim Turner commented on the Magnet school transportation budget reduction and distributed a handout to the Board on this issue. Mr. Turner asked that the Board use end of the year surplus to reinstate Magnet school transportation.

Hans Hartman a concerned parent of a Magnet school child spoke of an email he received regarding parent transportation to the Magnet school. Mr. Hartman asked the Board to find funds to reinstate Magnet school transportation.

Tim O'Brien, spoke of grants available that could be applied to cover costs of Magnet school transportation. Mr. O'Brien asked the Board to please find a way to reinstate Magnet school transportation.

Dean DePietro a parent of Magnet school students requested that the Board reinstate Magnet school transportation.

Erin O'Brien Smith Magnet school parent commented on the unfavorable burden for those who do not have the means to transport students. Ms. Smith implored the Board to find a way to reinstate the Magnet school transportation

A.J. Massengale commented on the cuts to freshmen sports and asked that the Board reconsider this budget reduction.

Michael Mirsky spoke of a correspondence that he wrote to the Board. Mr. Mirsky expressed his concern for the safety of Magnet school students while being transported by parents and asked that the Board find funds to reinstate Magnet school transportation.

Cindy Nadeau commented on the Magnet school transportation, athletic cuts and WBS issue as it relates to double sessions and the affect it would have on after school programs.

Al Furtado a Magnet school parent commented on budget impact of Magnet school transportation reduction and asked that the Board reinstate transportation to the Magnet school.

Mark Wallace expressed his thoughts on importance of athletics for students and asked that the Board reinstate the athletic reduction to the budget.

Sarah Omar a Magnet school parent requested to see results from the Magnet school transportation survey. Ms. Omara asked that the Board reinstate the Magnet school transportation, due to the hardship that this is causing families.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – June 7, 2012 (Special)
June 14, 2012 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Frank Todisco:

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda items A through B as presented.
Aye: All

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent reported on:

- current new hires and vacancies in the district
- Emergency Planning meeting attended by both Bill King and Dr. Smotas
- upcoming emergency drill on July 30th and 31st
- WBS sprinkler system; issues identified by Fire Marshall and State Fire Marshall and cost involved to repair

Dr. Paul Smotas asked Board for approval to proceed with the WBS sprinkler project so that the school would be ready for opening day.

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

Motion 2: To authorize the Interim Superintendent to go forward with the signing of a contract for the WBS sprinkler system project.
Aye: All

Dr. Paul Smotas thanked the Board for their support and noted that a contract will be put out with the assistance of Bill King and Ken Donovan.

Dr. Paul Smotas addressed the current budget reductions.

Monthly Reports

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

Committee Assignments & Reports

Assignments:

Gail MacDonald explained that a list of committees will be provided at the August Board for Board member participation.

Reports:

Athletic Committee: Alisa Morrison gave an update on the June Athletic Committee meeting as it related to the athletic budget reductions.

Gail MacDonald requested that the Board change the order of items on the agenda.

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

Motion 3: To changed the order of items on the agenda as follows to item ten, then nine, then eleven, then eight and then adjournment.

Aye: All

Board Comments/Concerns

Gail MacDonald explained that budget monitoring is done throughout the year.

Kevin Bornstein noted that there is a monthly review of the current budget by the Board. Kevin commented on the Magnet school transportation.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Cindy Nadeau asked the Interim Superintendent if a delay of school opening were to happen, to consider this delay be across the entire district.

A.J. Massengale commented on the June Athletic Committee meeting and cuts to the coaching positions.

Hans Hartman commented on the sprinkler system contract. Mr. Hartman would like to see a referendum vote be considered for the Magnet school transportation reduction. Mr. Hartman expressed concerns of town liability risks as it relates to parent transport to the Magnet school.

Tim O'Brien spoke of the budget cuts and the burden that this has caused.

Gail MacDonald invited the public to attend the discussion of the last item on the agenda after the executive session.

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

Motion 4: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of Board Members Performance and to invite Nick Caruso from CABE to attend.

Aye: All

Possible Executive Session – Discussion of Board Members' Performance

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:14 p.m.

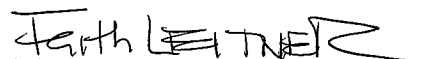
Development of BOE Goals 2012-2013

After leaving executive session, the Board did not discuss development of BOE goals because of the time.

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

Motion 5: To adjourn at 10:18 p.m.

Aye: All



Faith Leitner, Board Secretary