

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING September 29, 2011

The special meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room. Members present were Gail B. MacDonald, Chairperson, Sam Agnello, Faith Leitner, and Doug Rea, Secretary, Kevin Bornstein, Craig Esposito and Alisa Morrison. Also present were Leanne Masterjoseph, Superintendent of Schools, Ana deOliveira, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, students and interested citizens.

Gail MacDonald welcomed students, administration and parents in attendance.

Rachel Limberakis captured entire meeting on videotape.

Response to State Testing Presentations

Nikki Gullickson provided a summary and comparison of the CMT and CAPT results for 2010-2011 school year with past years. Nikki noted that the district as a whole achieved state AYP status.

Nikki described steps the district will take to implement new curricula in relationship to improving CMT and CAPT scores in the future.

Principals Doug Hammel, Terry Jordan, Jenn McCurdy, Tim Smith, Dr. Stephen Murphy and Program Facilitator Alicia Dawe reported the results for each of their schools. Principals described school action plans to address the improvement of scores.

Principals described future professional development activities and programs for staff to enhance teaching in areas of concern. Programs such as, STEP by STEP, Co-Teaching, Project Read, Words Their Way, "It's Up to Me", Empowering Writer's, Mystic Middle's new program CUBS (C Us Building Skills) were mentioned, along with use of technology-based intervention at Pawcatuck Middle School.

Board & Administrative Dialogue

Leanne acknowledged principals' efforts in providing outstanding instructional leadership.

The Board also thanked administration for their presentations. The Board feels this type of annual presentation would be beneficial.

Sam Agnello requested from principals Terry Jordan and Doug Hammel the ratio of students receiving reading support to number of reading support staff. He also requested a summary of Title I fund allocations for recent year.

Kevin Bornstein acknowledged that all administrators gave good presentations, and applauded efforts to drill down into the data.

Doug Rae had various questions for the administrative staff on individualized plans for students, home involvement and barriers for Free and Reduced Lunch students. He inquired about moving Virtual High School program down to the lower grade levels.

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Ginny Brown explained Response to Intervention model used at the elementary levels to monitor student progress.

Faith Leitner also noted that all the principals provided great presentations. Faith questioned principals on use of Smart Boards and possibility of expanding that type of technology to more classrooms.

Leanne previewed next month's presentation of significant challenges in all areas, but including technology in regards to maintaining, supporting and balancing allocations of resources.

Craig Esposito recommended having a common reporting format for principals to follow which would make the data more digestible for the Board.

Gail MacDonald thanked everyone for their data and presentations. Gail asked principals to comment on number of teachers with SERC training. Gail questioned Dr. Murphy on programs that allow students to catch up to appropriate course level. Gail noted that she is pleased to hear that programs are in place to encourage hard working students to progress.

Gail asked administration to let the Board know what they can do to help the district reach their goals.

Leanne noted that presentations under development each include a critical component of how the Board can support our efforts.

Comments from Citizens

Cindy Nadeau – commented on CMT/CAPT scores, late buses for elementary and great support given by Tim Smith at Pawcatuck Middle School during CMT testing.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Kevin Bornstein.

Motion 1: To adjourn at 9:31 p.m.

Aye: All



Doug Rea, Secretary