

## STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING September 12, 2013

Gail MacDonald, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Frank Todisco, Kevin Bornstein and Craig Esposito.

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

### Communications & Recognitions

#### **Communications**

Faith Leitner shared a thank you note from Joni Moody, the former Student Government representative thanking the Board for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

#### **Recognitions**

Deborah Downie congratulated Alisa Morrison and the Athletic Committee for the very nice ribbon cutting ceremony of the new field.

Alisa Morrison added that it was a great ceremony and there was a nice article regarding the ceremony in the newspaper. Mrs. Morrison also noted that it was nice to see the community out to support the athletes.

Van Riley also recognized Alisa Morrison for her part in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Dr. Riley acknowledged there were over 100 students in attendance.

Van Riley recognized a well-prepared staff, principals, and teachers for an amazing smooth start to school.

Gail MacDonald spoke of the recognition program "We Are SPS" and asked the Board if they are still interested in continuing this type of recognition. The Board decided to hold off on this program and discuss other ways to recognize staff and students.

### Comments from Citizens

Cindy Nadeau thanked Mark Friese and gave kudos to the Link Crew for a well-done student orientation. Mrs. Nadeau also spoke of the pros and cons of the new student on-line registration process.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes –June 13, 2013 (Special)  
July 11, 2013 (Regular)  
August 3, 2013 (Special)  
August 22, 2013 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report
- E. Contract Approval – Courier & Night Security Contract
- F. Salary Re-opener Approval – OT/PT, COTA Contract

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

**Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda Items A-F as presented.**

**All: Aye**

### **CMT Scores/Discussion**

Nikki Gullickson reported on the status of the CMT waiver the State requested. Mrs. Guillickson stated that the State is encouraging districts to go with the Smarter Balance. Nikki said CMT scores are relatively flat this time.

The Board exchanged dialogue with Administration on the following:

- Timeline for scores to be supplied to parents
- Vertical scores
- Data by school was requested and will be supplied to the Board
- Idea of afterschool programs to support students on how to be better prepared for testing was discussed
- Closing the gap
- Student proficiency and goals

Van Riley explained he has met with the principals and believes we need to make some significant efforts and changes. Dr. Riley noted that one new change has already been implemented, which is our K-4 reading materials, and all of our site's main focus is student achievements; our goal is to improve our student achievement gap.

### **Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Van Riley reported on the following items and distributed supporting documentation to the Board.

- Food Service program - Tim Paquette, Food Service Director, and principals are looking at the percentage of students who qualify but do not use this program. The free and reduced lunch program and food quality was discussed.
- Summer Activities – summer reports from the high school and middle schools were distributed. The administration and the Board discussed ways to improve future attendance of these summer programs.
- Kindergarten furniture delivery – update on the deliveries for DMS and WVS was discussed
- Board subcommittees – a list of subcommittees was distributed. There was a discussion regarding structure, meeting dates, and assignments between the Board and Dr. Riley. The Board gave suggestions on member participation and schedules.
- Technology update – protocols, implementation of weekly meetings between principals and tech paras, and need for updated equipment for teachers.
- School Presentations to BOE Calendar – Board received a calendar with future dates of each presentation
- Building Committee update with BOE Representative – an outline of key points discussed at last night's Building Committee meeting was discussed. The Board and Dr. Riley discussed these key points further.
  - Site tours for BOF and BOS of WV, WB and DMS scheduled
  - June 30 State Timeline Issue
  - Presentation to BOF on October 2

Emily Craig, Student Government representative, mentioned the group will be reaching out to students to get their input on the various lunch program issues.

Kevin Bornstein asked about the status of the implementation of the new Chromebook project. Jason Jones reported that this was not yet a priority for principals as was the start of school was first priority.

Faith Leitner mentioned that anyone interested in attending the Building Committee meetings that this committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

### **Request to Board of Finance**

Van Riley requested the Board move forward with the following three items to the BOF.

- A. Modify current MOU to allow certain budgeted funds to be used in case of emergencies
- B. Request that out-of-district tuition be transferred directly to district account to cover costs of tuition paying student(s)
- C. Medicaid Billing

The Board came to a consensus to move the three items forward to the BOF at Dr. Riley's request.

**Monthly Report**

All monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet.

Nikki Gullickson distributed a copy of the book “The Dogs of Winter” to the Board. Mrs. Gullickson will be linking the adoption document for the Board’s review.

Faith Leitner questioned Bill King on the need of a new tractor for the Maintenance department. Mr. King explained that they have been borrowing one, which now needs to be replaced.

Deborah Downie asked Jason Jones about the availability of Wi-Fi throughout the district. Mr. Jones gave an update on the status of this project.

**Committee Reports**

Faith Leitner reported that the Blue Monday event brought in funds of \$3,000, which will be going out to mini-grants. Mrs. Leitner asked if there was any Board member who would like to take on the Board representation for SEF.

Deborah Downie attended the LEARN Forum in which a presentation on Special Services was given and informed that LEARN also offers various trainings. Mrs. Downie to be in contact with Allison Van Etten on this.

Gail MacDonald reported on the BOS meeting which had a very positive outcome for the BOE. Mrs. MacDonald asked the Board if they would like to participate in the CABE Board recognition award. The Board all agreed to do so again this year.

**Showcasing Students**

No students to showcase at this time but item will remain on the agenda for next month.

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

Sue Jones commended the Link Crew on the orientation and noted that she is very impressed with the program.

Cindy Nadeau commented on the good suggestion from Emily Craig, Student Government representative, in regards to an after school program for students to work on testing strategies but feels the reinstatement of late buses at elementary levels would help to make this program work better.

**Items for Future Agendas**

No items were discussed at this time.

**Board Comments/Concerns**

The Board had no comments or concerns at this time.

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Craig Esposito:

**Motion 2 :** To adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Aye: All

  
Faith Leitner, Board Secretary