

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING December 12, 2013

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Board of Education meeting room. Members present were Deborah Downie, Secretary, Faith Leitner, Alisa Morrison, Alexa Garvey, and Craig Esposito.

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

Communications & Recognitions

Recognitions

The Board recognized Jenna Tocchio, Girls' Head Field Hockey Coach, Assistant Field Hockey Coach Tom Portante, and the girls' field hockey team for their wonderful season and for winning the State Championship. The Board presented Ms. Tocchio with a token of appreciation. Ms. Tocchio thanked the Board on behalf of the team for giving them the opportunity to bring the championship home once again.

Van Riley recognized the retirees for the 13-14 school year and recognized in particular Dr. Stephen Murphy who will be retiring at the end of the school year for his amazing career, leadership and for caring about the students of SHS.

Faith Leitner recognized the great Winter Festival, which took place last Tuesday.

Communications

No communications at this time.

Board Presentations

WVS/DMS Full Day K Update by: Alicia Dawe and Doug Hammel

Doug Hammel, Alicia Dawe along with some of their kindergarten staff, Patricia DeLapp, Kristen Morehouse, Kathy Sanford, and Krysta Dessereaux presented a presentation on full day K. The staff gave an overview of the new implementation of the full day K at both DMS and WVS. Some of the items presented were Implementation, Programming Comparison between half day and full day sessions, and teacher observations.

Frank Todisco asked the kindergarten teachers if there was anything that was lacking or needed, in order to enhance the kindergarten experience.

The teachers commented that there is a lot of support from administration but technology is lacking in the Pawcatuck side of town. The teachers also mentioned that there is a need to have more time with the OT/PT staff in order to help design and implement more things that would be helpful to children in the classrooms.

SHS Athletic Eligibility Request by: Mark Friese and Dr. Stephen Murphy

Mark Friese and Steve Murphy presented on athletic eligibility request. Mr. Friese and Dr. Murphy explained that this program has now been put into place and that students' eligibility is reviewed and monitored various times during the year. Administration explained that students need a 2.0 to be eligible to do athletics and other extracurricular activities. Administration noted that various tutoring sessions and resources have been put into place for students to reach their goals.

The Board asked what resources are used to identify these students and which winter sport was most affected.

Administration noted that rosters are used to identify students and that indoor track and basketball were the two winter sports most affected by this eligibility program.

Comments from Citizens

Ellen Gilbert thanked Faith Leitner for playing her harp so beautifully for MMS. Mrs. Gilbert commented on the proposed 14-15 school calendars and believes that February vacation should be put back on the calendar. Mrs. Gilbert also spoke about the need of a full time music teacher at PMS and feels that this is the right thing to do for the students of PMS.

Sue Jones commented on the athletic eligibility request and the possibility of bringing that idea down to the eighth graders. Sue Jones also believes that PMS needs a full time music teacher.

Maureen Steinhoff recognized and thanked Dr. Murphy for his years of leadership at SHS.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – November 14, 2013 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Craig Esposito:

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

All: Aye

Pre-planning for 2014-15 Budget /Discussion

Van Riley discussed the process of the budget development and handed out an outline with items that will be covered during the budget process. Dr. Riley gave a brief summary of each item on the outline. (See attached)

Faith Leitner asked about the proposal of additional administrative staff at SHS and middle schools.

Approval: Salary of Non-represented Employees

Dr. Riley recommended that the Board approve increases of 2.5% increase for part-time and lunch paras whom are not represented or covered by contracts.

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

Motion 2: To approve a 2.5% salary increase for the non-represented employees, part-time and lunch paras retroactive to July 1, 2013.

All: Aye

Approval/Action: Mobile Food Pantry Program – United Way

Van Riley reported that Nikki Gullickson, Ed Haberek and himself met with United Way representatives to discuss the program and the need for this program in our town. United Way representatives were present to give an overview of the program and the resources available through United Way. Dr. Riley said that the plan is to have the program available on the first week of each month at the Human Services parking lot. Dr. Riley continued to explain that there will be a truck full of food and volunteers from each school present to help distribute the food.

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

Motion 3: To approve the application for the Mobile Food Pantry Program of the United Way.

All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Van Riley reported on the following items:

- Archive files - Jason Jones has implemented a weekly backup.
- Traffic signage around town – each principal has identified the areas of concern and are working with Chief Stewart to address this issues.

Approval/ Action: 2014-2015 School Calendar (Versions A & B)

Dr. Van Riley presented two versions of the proposed 2014-15 school calendar. Dr. Riley noted that both calendars parallel the regional calendar in regards to PD days and insured that both have 182 school days. Dr. Riley reviewed the differences between both versions and recommended Version A which includes a February vacation week.

The Board and administration exchanged dialogue on the following:

- March testing
- Advantages of having half-day staff development days in at the beginning of the school year rather than mid-year
- Christmas break

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

Motion 4: To approve Version A of the 2014-2015 School Calendar as presented.

Craig Esposito - Yes	Deborah Downie – Yes
Faith Leitner – Yes	Alisa Morrison – No
Alexa Garvey – No	Frank Todisco – No

Motion not carried.

The Board recommended to bring the 2014-15 school calendar back next month for further discussion and approval.

Approval/Action: CIP Presentation

Bill King presented the CIP and distributed the Proposed CIP FY 14-15 list of items with backup information.

The Board discussed safety issues at each school. The Board came to a consensus to move item, “Construct wall for access to office only” at DMS from a “C” priority to a “B” priority level on the Proposed CIP FY 14-15.

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

Motion 5: To approve the BOE Proposed CIP FY 2014-15 as amended with the move of the item “Construct wall for access to office only” at DMS of \$36, 000 to a “B” priority item.

All: Aye

Monthly Report

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

Board of Education Committee Structure – Discussion

The Board discussed ways to communicate future meeting dates by possibly setting a meeting schedule for the entire year. The Board agreed to have one member of each committee report out to the Board. The Board also discussed ways in which to report to the Board and decided both minutes and discussion would be the best form of communicating committee reports.

Committee Reports

Teaching and Learning: Deborah reported that discussion focused on the athletic and extracurricular eligibility presentations that were presented at tonight's meeting. Nikki Gullickson provided a handout to the Board on CT School Performance data and explained the results of the data.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones commented on committee reports and suggested to limit discussion to a couple of minutes for each report. Ms. Jones also commented on the 2014-15 school calendar and suggested an email blast to parents would be a good option for input before final approval. Ms. Jones commented on the PMS school sign needing repair. Ms. Jones also thanked Dr. Riley for the early notification of snow days.

Items for Future Agendas

- 2014-15 School Calendar
- Graduate survey


Board Comments/Concerns

There were no comments or concerns at this time.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 6: To adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Aye: All


Deborah Downie, Board Secretary