

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING February 20, 2014

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Deborah Downie, Secretary, Faith Leitner, Alisa Morrison, Craig Esposito, Alexa Garvey, and Terry Stefanski.

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

Board Presentations

Jennifer McCurdy and Jennifer Bausch presented a PowerPoint presentation that gave an overview of some of the different programs at Mystic Middle School such as, Safe School Climate, Leadership Team, Dens, and Student Success Plan. Ms. McCurdy and Ms. Bausch showed examples of the new activity called "Together We Can Change the World...We're All In This Together."

The Board thanked them for a wonderful presentation.

Communications & Recognitions

Communications

Alisa Morrison communicated that parents have communicated their thoughts on the proposed budget items.

Recognitions

Faith Leitner reminded all of the SEF fundraiser on Friday, February 28, 2014 at the Mystic Aquarium.

Comments from Citizens

Tori Gimple addressed the 2014-2015 School Calendar regarding February vacation and spoke about calendars of neighboring schools regarding February vacation week. Ms. Gimple is not in favor of having February vacation.

John Flaherty who was representing the Stonington Crew Team spoke about fees for the program. Mrs. Flaherty distributed to the Board a packet of information on the program and asked for the Board's suggestions and comments.

Mike O'Neill, head coach of the Stonington Crew Team spoke about the purchase of a boathouse and noted that more information on this is included in the packet distributed to the Board.

Grace Murray asked that the Board reinstate the DMS librarian position in the proposed budget.

Sarah Lewandowski asked that the Board reconsider putting the full-time position of the librarian back into the proposed budget. Ms. Lewandowski thanked Board member, Craig Esposito for responding to her email.

Sue Jones spoke on the budget; the number of other parents in attendance at the meeting and asked that parents also have a presence at the BOF meeting next week.

Tricia Lance a teacher at DMS, commented on the school's need of a Library Media Specialist.

Amy Hambly spoke on the need and supports the Library Media Specialist for DMS and asked that the Board reinstate that position in the proposed budget.