

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

Late Arrival: Alisa Morrison – 7:08 p.m.

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

Swearing In of New Board of Education Members

Dr. Van Riley began the meeting by announcing that Bill King would be swearing in the new members of the Board of Education. Bill King sworn in the following Board members: Frank Todisco, Deborah Downie, and Craig Esposito.

Election of BOE Officers

Dr. Van Riley stated that the first officer to be elected would be the Board Chair and asked that the Board of Education members to nominate a Board of Education Chair.

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

**Motion 1: To nominate Frank Todisco as Board of Education Chair.
All: Aye**

The following motion was made by Alexa Garvey and seconded by Faith Leitner:

**Motion 2: To close the nomination for Board Chair and for Frank Todisco to be Board Chair.
All: Aye**

Frank Todisco asked if there were any nominations for Board Secretary.

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

**Motion 3: To nominate Faith Leitner as Board Secretary.
All: Aye**

The following motion was made by Alexa Garvey and seconded by Deborah Downie:

**Motion 4: To close the nomination for Board Secretary.
All: Aye**

Presentation and Action – Strategic Plan

Dr. Van Riley announced the members of the Strategic Planning Committee and thanked all the members for their participation in developing the new Strategic Plan. Dr. Riley shared the Motto, Vision and Mission statements that the committee developed, Motto -*"We Believe In You"*, Dr. Riley noted this statement came from one of our students on the committee. The Vision - *Stonington Public Schools, Forward thinking, Fostering passions, Developing responsible citizens and Preparing for tomorrow's opportunities*; The Mission - *Stonington Public Schools – where we believe in all students. Through partnerships with family and community, we will provide an innovative and inspirational educational environment where students succeed with confidence and develop a love of life-long learning.* Dr. Riley asked the Board for discussion and approval of the Strategic Plan.

The Board commented and gave suggestions on the Strategic Plan for the future. The Board members all agreed everyone did a great job. Dr. Riley noted the plan is to review it each year.

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Alexa Garvey:

Motion 5: To approve the Strategic Plan and Mission statement as presented.
All: Aye

Board Presentations -Teaching and Learning: *Van Riley and Nikki Gullickson*

Dr. Van Riley and Nikki Gullickson reviewed the document Middle School and High School Program Reviews and Recommendations document shared with the Board and community. (see attached document) Dr. Riley noted he and Mrs. Gullickson met with administration and union representatives and it became apparent that review of our educational programs was necessary. Mrs. Gullickson brought administrators' recommendations to the Teaching and Learning committee. Dr. Riley reviewed his recommendations for the middle schools illustrated in his handout (attached). Dr. Riley explained the timeline and process and asked the Board for their consensus or recommendations.

Frank Todisco, Chair, asked for the Board's consensus to move forward with this process. The Board was in consensus to move forward with the studies.

Communications & Recognitions

Alexa Garvey congratulated the boys' soccer team for their win and girls' field hockey team who was playing at the time. Faith Leitner commented on the Veterans Day celebration in which there was a big turnout of over one hundred people, where the student government served lunch and an excellent guest speaker also attended, kudos to the group and staff that helped put this on. Deborah Downie thanked parents and community members for the fall clean ups at the schools.

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones commented on the middle school program recommendations and said she would like to see equality on both sides of town. Mrs. Jones also commented on the 1000 Policy series especially Policy "1120a" in regards to public comment during Board meetings and would like this policy revisited.

Cindy Nadeau told Dr. Van Riley we used to have those programs way back and it would be nice to see programs like home economics and shop back again. Mrs. Nadeau also spoke on the recent unified soccer game in which the students had a good time and on the great performance from the SHS band at the Veterans Day parade.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – October 8, 2015 (Regular)
October 26, 2015 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report
- E. Field Trip Approval – SHS Washington D.C./CloseUp! Washington

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

Motion 6: To approve the Consent Agenda A-E
All: Aye

MOU with the BOF to undertake a study as to the feasibility of consolidating the Finance function with the town:

Frank Todisco noted the search for a Finance Director for Board of Education has been very difficult; we have gone through three separate pools of candidates and we do not have a new hire. Mr. Todisco noted there have been some changes, Bill King is focused strictly on the finance function at this point and is not handling the operational tasks that he had before, and Dr. Riley has taken on other responsibilities. Frank Todisco noted the Board is going to focus on consolidation with the town. Mr. Todisco presented an MOU between the BOE and BOF and requested that the Board give permission for Mr. Todisco to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board to undergo a study that will determine the feasibility of the consolidation. Mr. Todisco stated the cost will be covered by the town through the special audit line.

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

Motion 7: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the consolidation of the financial management functions.

All: Aye

Approval - Contract for Interim Food Service Director

Dr. Van Riley explained we do not have a contract at this point; we are in discussions with an interim director. Tim Paquette has resigned effective December 31, 2015. We will move this to the next meeting.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Response to Site Reports – Dr. Riley commented he hoped these reports are meeting the needs and suggestions of the Board. The Board had no questions and said they were very helpful.

Facilities Report

Update on Portables - Bill King gave an update on the portables noting the teachers are in but are still waiting for some chairs and tables, which will be coming in soon. Bill King also spoke that there are cost over runs that Ken Donovan's budget can handle and will do transfers if this budget runs low.

2016-2017 Proposed CIP

Bill King explained the CIP follows same format as previous years. Bill King spoke on the two things added, one: the portable classroom lease and two: the boost pump for water pressure at PMS and the majority is the same items that have been requested for the last couple of years.

Deborah Downie had questions on the booster pump and its priority level and on the addition of the two minivans. Frank Todisco commented that during the BOE Finance Committee meeting it was reported that one minivan would save approximately \$90,000. Mr. Todisco asked the Board to get any question on the CIP to Mr. King, since we will be moving this forward in December.

Board of Education Sub-Committee Membership

Frank Todisco asked the Board to get back to him on what the Board's preference of sub-committee membership is so we can address those accordingly and will get something back out to the Board.

Approval – 2016 Board of Education Regular Meeting Calendars

- A. Board of Education Regular Meeting Calendar
- B. Policy Committee Regular Meeting Calendar
- C. Teaching and Learning Regular Meeting Calendar
- D. Communications Regular Meeting Calendar

The following motion was made by Alexa Garvey and seconded by Craig Esposito:

**Motion 8: To approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting Calendars A-D.
All: Aye**

First Read/Approval Policies 0000, 1000, 2000 and 7000

Alisa Morrison reported that a group reviewed them all and agreed there is nothing controversial in any of them that the committee found.

Frank Todisco requested that the 1000 Policy series be pulled so that the Policy Committee can review what Sue Jones commented on tonight. Alisa Morrison will add the 1000 Policy series to the next Policy Committee agenda held next Tuesday.

The following motion was made by Faith Leitner and seconded by Deborah Downie:

**Motion 9: To approve Policy series 0000, 2000, and 7000.
All: Aye**

Monthly Reports

Deborah Downie had a question on the last item under the other section of the Operations Report monthly report regarding the baseball field. Bill King commented we sent out a bid spec but the one bid came in a bit higher than we expected and the budget could not support it. Mr. King reported that Ken Donovan is working on getting a couple other quotes. Faith Leitner had a question on the enrollment at the high school, she was surprised to see 32 less students than the projected. Mark Friese explained the reason for the change.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee Meeting Draft Minutes – Alexa Garvey asked about the December Policy Committee meeting regarding the 6000 series. Mrs. Morrison noted it is the third Tuesday at 7pm. Teaching and Learning Committee Draft Minutes - No comments were made.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

No comments.

Items for Future Agendas

There were no items for future agendas.

Board Comments/Concerns

Mallorie Geiger, Student Representative commented on giving credit for the math course credits during middle school and taking more classes that are more beneficial to their needs. Frank Todisco asked Dr. Riley for discussion on this during the December Policy Committee meeting.

Adjournment

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Terry Stefanski:

Motion 10: To adjourn 7:58 p.m.

All: Aye

Faith Leitner, Board Secretary