

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING March 10, 2016-Page | 1

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Alisa Morrison, Alexa Garvey, Deborah Downie, Terry Stefanski, and Craig Esposito.

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

Board Presentations

Aladdin Junior Musical Performance – PMS Students

Tim Smith, Pawcatuck Middle School Principal, gave an overview of the performance and thanked the teachers for their work with the students on this production. Mr. Smith introduced Pawcatuck Middle School teacher, Robin Aubin who introduced some of the students of the Aladdin Junior Musical. The students sang and performed a short version of songs that will be performed during the performance, which is scheduled for April 2 and 3 at Stonington High School.

New State Accountability System (Pending Availability of Final Report)-Nikki Gullickson

Nikki Gullickson, Assistant Superintendent, shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding Next-Generation Accountability Report for 2014-15. Mrs. Gullickson explained the numbers and assessment reporting is based on last school year data. Mrs. Gullickson noted that administration is to tracking student progress. Mrs. Gullickson reported on the accountability indicators for each of the schools and the significant differences. (Presentation attached)

Mrs. Gullickson congratulated and asked the administrative teams from DMS and WVSS/WBSS to speak on the recent Connecticut State Department of Education recognition where the state identified WBSS as a School of Distinction for Highest Performing Subgroup, West Vine Street School as the K-2 sister school to WBSS shares in the recognition of WBSS. Deans Mill School as a School of Distinction for Highest Performing Overall and Highest Performing Subgroup.

Communications & Recognitions

Board of Education Recognition

Dr. Van Riley announced that March is Board recognition month and administration from the high school and middle schools have a few things of appreciation for the Board members. Jennifer Bausch, PMS Assistant Principal shared an appreciation video from students of each middle school to the Board.

Faith Leitner recognized the event, Read Across America, going on at WV/WB. Mrs. Leitner also recognized the recent performance of the Addams Family by adding that she is proud of our students and the people the involved in it. Mrs. Leitner also commented on the Shine a Light on Heroin Forum that took place at the high school commending the presenters and the attendance from SHS alumni.

Alicia Morrison and Alexa Garvey thanked the administration for the Board recognition.

Frank Todisco said he received a number of inquiries about opening up our high school to North Stonington students. Mr. Todisco added, as Board Chair, he has a responsibility to bring this idea to the Board and residents. Mr. Todisco noted he has had conversations with Dr. Van Riley. The Board will bring this topic back for discussion at the April Board meeting. Dr. Van Riley shared with everyone a report regarding this topic. (See attached report)

Comments from Citizens

Cindy Nadeau handed the Board an invitation to "Light It Up Blue" being held on April 5th at Twisted Vine, sponsored by Human Services and the Autism Parent Support group monies get split here locally and Autism Speaks. Mrs. Nadeau also invited the Board to March 23 high school concert night.

Allen Gilbert commented on the statics on the arts being a greater part of the core curriculum as it is now recognized as a core subject according to the new ESSA law. Mrs. Gilbert also asked how will the state and Stonington Public Schools going to be treating the students and parents choosing to opt out of SBAC in light of the new federal legislation. Nikki Gullickson will address this question with Mrs. Gilbert.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – February 11, 2016 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Transfers
- E. Field Trip Approval - Virginia Beach - SHS Chorus Adjudication

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

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda A-E as presented.
All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Volunteer Drug Testing – CA Model – Dr. Van Riley spoke on the program that was put in place in California and how it worked. Dr. Riley asked if the Board would be interested in doing this same type of program at the high school. Alexa Garvey asked if there was any way to get more information to the parents. Craig Esposito asked if the students are feeling pressured. Dr. Riley answered yes students are feeling pressured and will bring more information to the Board. Student Government Representative, Mallorie Geiger remarked this would be beneficial to many students and felt it would be a great thing and a way to help students. Frank Todisco explained this is voluntary and would need to be a decision between parent and student. Dr. Riley noted the school would have nothing to do with the testing or results only the lab would.

March District Newsletter – Alexa Garvey spoke on the draft of the newsletter, which was handed out to all the Board members for their review. Mrs. Garvey explained the Communications Committee is trying to reach out and find ways to present this to the community. This particular edition of the newsletter focuses on finance and budget. Faith Leitner asked how many times it would be published and Mrs. Garvey noted about two or three times a year. Mrs. Garvey noted the newsletter does not follow the brown and white theme since not all the schools use these colors, and feels the school colors is something to look at in the future. Mrs. Garvey also spoke on renewal of the Finals site contract for the school website. Dr. Riley noted the contract now offers new pricing and timeline, which is more beneficial for the district.

Monthly Reports

Frank Todisco had a question as it relates to the RFP for Food Service. Dr. Van Riley explained that the RFP was sent out and hopes to have three or four vendors including our existing one to choose from the group.

Committee Reports

No comments.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

No comments.

Items for Future Agendas

- North Stonington students
- High school drug testing

Board Comments/Concerns

Frank Todisco reminded the Board of Monday, March 14 there is a presentation of the education budget to the Board of Finance, and noted he will not be able to attend but the Board Secretary will present the budget in his absence.

Adjournment

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

Motion 2: To Adjourn at 8:17 p.m.
All: Aye


Faith Leitner, Board Secretary