

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, Deborah Downie, Alexa Garvey, Terry Stefanski, and Craig Esposito.

Member Absent: Alisa Morrison

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

Wilson Presentation – Special Services

Allison Van Etten, Director of Special Services, explained that two years ago the Wilson program was introduced to target dyslexia and other reading disorders. Mrs. Van Etten introduced the Special Ed teachers who have completed the Wilson certification and are now Wilson certified instructors, Holly Hachey, Emily Carvinho and Heather Harris and those teachers who are now going through the training Amanda Magliari, Jessica Palumbo, Shannon Cummings, Melissa Chimento and Tina Seraluca. These teachers shared videos of students during Wilson lessons, the positives of the program, how students respond to the program, and student data, which compared students' growth, and how it is influencing students' reading. A hardcopy of the data was shared with the Board. Mrs. Van Etten noted that five more teachers will be going through the training in the fall and by spring of 2017, we will have fourteen Wilson certified teachers.

Dr. Van Riley thanked the teachers for their hard work and sharing information on the program.

Frank Todisco shared his personal experience regarding the Wilson program. Mr. Todisco commented on how his daughter had difficulty in reading but being part of this program has helped improve her reading and she is now excited to read. Mr. Todisco thanked Holly Hachey for her work with his daughter in this program.

Unified Sports Essay Award Winner – Elizabeth Cavaliere

Greg Keith introduced Mystic Middle student, Elizabeth Cavaliere, the Unified Sports Essay Award winner. She was one of three students in the state to be recognized. Elizabeth Cavalier read her essay to the Board and community members.

Junior Project – SHS Students

Mark Friese introduced the Junior students who presented their Senior Project on a PowerPoint presentation. The students explained their project, which involves adding such items as floating benches, a sail for shade, artwork, and landscaping to the existing courtyard at the high school. The students explained the timeline, how they will fund the project and use of existing resources at the high school such as help from students in the Tech Ed and Art classes to finish the project.

Alexa Garvey commented on how the students did a nice job with the presentation and answered all her questions. Mallorie Geiger, Student Government Representative noted that she feels it will be a great addition to the courtyard and for the students. Frank Todisco commented that it was a great presentation and great idea.

Communications & Recognitions

Faith Leitner thanked Allison Van Etten, Eileen Fiore, Deidre Toole, and the all students who participated in the Unified Talent Show and added it was a great show.

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Alexa Garvey shared she attended the National Honor Society induction banquet and noted that it was a nice location and a nice time.

Dr. Van Riley communicated he attended the Pawcatuck Middle School band concert and congratulated Mr. Dumas the band teacher who will be retiring this year and students for an amazing job. Dr. Riley also noted that he attended the Unified Talent Show and how moved he was with the students who sang "What a Wonderful World". Dr. Riley also added he attended the elementary unified event this week and commented on how wonderful our unified programs are. Dr. Riley communicated the retirees will be recognized at the next month's Board meeting.

Comments From Citizens

Collin Turner, a high school student, commented on the time allocated for lunch block and voiced that there is not enough time to get lunch and finish it, and feels the students need more time for lunch.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – April 14, 2016 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Transfers
- E. IDEA Grant

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

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

Food Service Recommendation

Gary Shettle explained the Food Service recommendation. Mr. Shettle explained that all the RFPs received were reviewed by him, Bill King, and an outside independent company, and after considerable discussion between all it was decided to continue with the current program. Mr. Shettle's recommendation to the Board was to reject all bids and continue with the current program and the current Food Director, Becky Fowler. Mr. Shettle noted the program would be evaluated periodically.

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

Motion 2: To reject all the Food Service bids and to accept the Food Service program in place right now.
All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Van Riley reminded everyone how important it is to vote next week. Dr. Riley reported he met with Abby Dolliver regarding our Adult Ed program, and added there will be a savings to the program and how the program will take place locally starting in the fall. Dr. Riley also reported he has received a couple of calls regarding the graduation date, and noted this issue will go to the Teaching and Learning Committee on Monday for discussion then will be brought back to the Board at the June meeting. This was not on the agenda tonight.

Monthly Reports

The Board did not have questions on the monthly reports.

Committee Reports

The Board did not have questions on the committee reports.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Becky Fowler, Interim Food Service Director, thanked the Board and administration for having the confidence in her to do the job and noted she has received a lot of support from the administration and cafeteria staff, and looks forward to the future to where this program will go.

Items for Future Agendas

The Board had no items at this time.

Board Comments/Concerns

The Board had no comments or concerns at this time.

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

Motion 3: To enter into Executive Session.
All: Aye

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.

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

Motion 4: To exit Executive Session at 8:18 p.m.
All: Aye

Adjournment

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

Motion 5: To Adjourn at 8:18 p.m.
All: Aye

Faith Leitner, Board Secretary