

## STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING July 9, 2015

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

Absent: Craig Esposito  
Terry Stefanski  
Alexa Garvey

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

### **Communications & Recognitions**

Dr. Van Riley asked SHS Principal Mark Friese to introduce the new Director of Guidance, Margo Crowley. Ms. Crowley thanked the Board for the appointment and noted that she is excited to start her new position.

Dr. Van Riley also communicated the district rehired Tom Bousquet as the new assistant principal for Deans Mill School. Dr. Riley commended administration for hiring incredible new teachers, and noted the district has made great strides in personnel.

### **Board Presentations - Reading Wonders Program Update**

Nikki Gullickson gave an update on the Reading Wonders program and changes in assessment scores from last year to this year. Mrs. Gullickson also noted that Start 360 assessments will be implemented in the fall. Nikki says teachers are more familiar with the program in their second year.

The Board had questions on scores, and which grades are using the Wonders program. Mrs. Gullickson reviewed the scores and noted the program is only being used by K-6 students.

### **Comments from Citizens**

Cindy Nadeau commented on the Reading Wonders program and how it relates to student reading habits.

Candace Anderson asked if all elementary levels would be doing the Start 360 assessments; Nikki Gullickson responded yes.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Minutes – June 11, 2015 – Regular Meeting  
June 25, 2015– Special Meeting
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Approval of Assistant Superintendent Contract Renewal

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

**Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda A-D.**

**All: Aye**

### **Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Van Riley reported he will be attending the Zoning Board hearing next Tuesday night seeking approval of the variance for the installation of the WVSS portables and is hopeful that it will be approved in order to move forward with the project.

Dr. Riley also noted the Board has requested a report from the nurses; this report will be presented at the September meeting.

## **Stonington Board of Education Regular Meeting, July 9, 2015 – Page 2**

Dr. Riley made the Board aware of a staffing issue that has been going on for several years which is the world language position at the middle school. Dr. Riley reported the district is having difficulty filling the world language position because of the need of a dual certification and split assignment and added that we have been advertising but we have no applications and will keep the Board updated on the progress. Dr. Riley also reported that the Courier position was removed from the agenda, since that it is now vacant. Dr. Riley distributed a memo and list of contract negotiations to the Board, and suggested we keep the Courier position vacant until the September meeting and put it on that agenda.

### **Business/Facilities Reorganization Discussion and Direction**

Dr. Riley explained the history of the business office structure and tried combining these positions, but it has been difficult. Dr. Riley recommended splitting the position into two positions; one as Director of Operations and Facilities and one as Director of Finance. Dr. Riley distributed to the Board a memo as backup showing the salary ranges in our DRG for the Director of Finance position and his suggestions for funding the position.

Alisa Morrison asked if there was any movement in the merging of the Town and BOE Finance Department. Frank Todisco reported that would not happen for probably 1-2 years from now, but both the BOF and BOE will discussing this in the future. Alisa Morrison also asked about the sick leave donation funding. Frank Todisco responded this would be on the agenda for another time

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

**Motion 2:** To split the position into Director of Operations and Facilities and Director of Finance and fund the Director of Finance at \$120,000.

**All: Aye**

### **Monthly Reports**

All monthly reports were presented in written form as part of the Board packet.

Deborah Downie had questions on the DMS Roof project reported on the operations monthly report. Bill King reported on the state funding of this project.

### **Committee Reports**

No comments.

### **Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda**

No comments

### **Items for Future Agendas**

- Courier position will be on future agenda
- Retreat discussion items
- District open houses

### **Board Comments/Concerns**

Faith Leitner added that she really liked the new SHS website and if there will be some kind of meshing with the district website in the future.

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

**Motion 3:** Motion to move into closed session for the purpose of discussing the superintendent's evaluation and contract renewal and invite Dr. Van Riley.

**All: Aye**

**Stonington Board of Education Regular Meeting, July 9, 2015 – Page 3**

Board entered into executive session at 7:55 p.m.

Closed Session –Superintendent’s Evaluation

No actions were taken.

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

**Motion 4: To move into open session at 8:35 p.m.**

**All: Aye**

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

**Motion 5: To approve the Superintendent’s evaluation with a 2.5% increase effective 7/1/2015 and an additional one year on the contract.**

**All: Aye**

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

**Motion 6: To adjourn at 8:40 p.m.**

**All: Aye**

  
Deborah Downie, Board Secretary