

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Faith Leitner, Secretary, Deborah Downie, Alexa Garvey, Terry Stefanski, and Craig Esposito.

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

West Vine Street School Sensory Garden:

Alicia Dawe, WVSS/WBSS Principal, introduced students from WVSS who shared a presentation with the Board on the Sensory Garden and its benefits. The staff also shared a slide show of the Sensory Garden events. Mrs. Dawe thanked Mrs. Holland and Mrs. Pratt for their help with the sensory garden. The Board asked the students a few questions regarding the Sensory Garden and commended the students for a great job on the presentation.

Special Education Transition Services:

Deidre Toole and Allison Van Etten spoke about the Special Ed transition services. Mrs. Van Etten thanked Mrs. Toole, who serves as transition counselor and special education teacher. They presented a presentation on secondary transition services for our students and spoke on the three major items in the transition services, 1) post-secondary education training, 2) employment, and 3) independent living skills. Mrs. Toole gave examples and history on The "TLC" the community classrooms that the students are enrolled in such as Stoneridge, Westerly Hospital, and the Global Child. She gave an overview on the differences and funding challenges that parents and students are facing concerning DDS and BRS. Mrs. Toole thanked the Board and told them any support they could give to the program would be greatly appreciated.

Communications & Recognitions

Alexa Garvey commented on the Thanksgiving Day football game and recognized the wonderful play at the high school.

Deborah Downie commented she is looking forward to all the school activities coming up.

Frank Todisco stated that he had an opportunity to attend the holiday band concert at Pawcatuck Middle School in which the students did a phenomenal job.

Comments from Citizens

Cindy Nadeau addressed the proposed graduation requirements, questioned how extra activity hours accumulated and what can be used towards the graduation requirements. Frank Todisco noted this would be addressed later in the meeting.

Sue Jones questioned if the Graduation Requirement policy would be approved tonight, and if approved could it be modified afterwards. Ms. Jones also had questions regarding accepting Algebra I credits towards the high school credits.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – November 12, 2015 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Transfers
- E. Approval of Policy 1000 Series
- F. Approval of Education Specifications for PMS Roof Replacement Project

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

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda A-F
All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Riley commented he attended both middle schools band concerts and both were outstanding and congratulated the groups. Dr. Riley also spoke on issues with parking during these events, noted that Pawcatuck Middle School's spring concert will be held at the high school to facilitate parking; Mystic Middle School's will stay as is at their school.

Dr. Riley also reported that the budget development is being prepared and is going quite well. Dr. Riley shared handouts with Board members regarding the Special Ed analysis on the proposed new van usage, the savings associated with this new van, a memo to Chief of Police Darren Stewart and Todd Olson, Captain related to video and camera updates in school buildings and a memo to Prek-5 staff regarding new building project design. Dr. Riley reported that by Monday the district would have all new cameras that PD can tie into these cameras in case of an emergency. The district has also ordered new server to archive videos for at least 30 days and by January, we will have full connection with the PD. Dr. Riley also spoke on a memo sent out to Pre-K through 5th grade staff regarding the recent meeting with DRA regarding design and process of the building of the two elementary schools. Dr. Riley also added that both principals would be putting together a committee from each elementary site to look at the design phase. Dr. Riley spoke on the aggressive schedule over the next 14 months, which include, design phase, bidding and then construction. Frank Todisco asked that the van analysis document be added to the CIP request when submitted to the Town.

Facilities Report/Major Building Component Analysis

Dr. Riley explained that Ken Donovan has kept this document up to date, which shows the life expectancy of major systems in the schools, based on the professional program that Mr. Donovan uses.

Chinese Student Program

Dr. Riley spoke on this program, which is similar to a foreign exchange program. Dr. Riley added that Mark Friese, Nikki Gullickson, Margo Crowley, and him were contacted and met with a company that currently places students, in Woodstock, CT. Dr. Riley noted the group decided there is a lot to consider before starting this program, so Dr. Riley suggested looking at this in the next six months and see how this will work but added that this sounds like an interesting opportunity. Alexa Garvey asked how long Woodstock Academy been doing this? Dr. Riley said he thought a couple of years.

Approval of 2016-2017 CIP

The Board discussed items on the CIP. Deborah Downie spoke on funding for the PMS roof, whether it will be part of CIP or part of the building project. Frank Todisco asked when the district would know from the state if funding were available for this project. Bill King and Dr. Riley gave their suggestions on the funding for the roof. Dr. Riley explained that we had bonding for the roof but now the coping stones are cracking so the building committee reallocated the funding to cover both issues of the PMS roof and are awaiting state approval. Bill stated there were two suggestions from the Board for the CIP list, one would be to add the quantity to each item and which has been done where possible, the second is to put a value on the 21 items to be removed, and the value on those was 1.2M.

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

Motion 2: To approve the 2016-2017 CIP
All: Aye