

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, Terry Stefanski, and Craig Esposito. Member Absent: Deborah Downie

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

MMS School Community: Principal Greg Keith introduced students who shared a presentation on the Mystic Middle school community. Mrs. Hartnett spoke on a few topics demonstrating how the students are reaching out in the community called H.O.W. "Helping Our World". The students help out in the local community, such as, visiting Avalon where the students meet with the seniors and do activities with them. The school also has a Student Council group where the students organize fundraisers for area centers and DENS who meet once a week on Fridays to create a monthly theme.

SHS Interact Club

Two high school students who are members of the Interact Club spoke about the meal packing events where staff and students come together to package meals. This year the students have raised enough money for more than 3,000 meals with this year's event planned for March 15. Faith Leitner said it is a great activity. Alexa Garvey asked who was involved in the Interact Club. The students answered it was configured of different grade levels.

Mental Health Team

Allison Van Etten, Special Services Director, introduced the Mental Health staff and school guidance counselors. Different staff members spoke on different areas of service. Mrs. Van Etten explained the different components of PAD (Preschool Assessment Development) screening and its importance in early intervention. Alex Moniz shared the day to day events and schedules of mental health and psychology services at the elementary school level. Ms. Moniz also spoke of out-of-district services. Paula Agins discussed the importance of the IEP and 504 paperwork being submitted on time. Ms. Agins shared how the team meets regularly to discuss the student plans, the many supports groups, attendance, and truancy. Evelyn Bridges, representing the high school, spoke on the services provided such as one-on-one counselling, student projects, transition plans, and attendance and truancy. Faith Leitner inquired if there was good communication between St. Michael's and Pine Point? Ms. Van Etten explained how Stonington provides services to their students attending those schools and how the relationship was strong between those schools and Stonington.

Communications & Recognitions

Terry Stefanski reminded everyone of the upcoming SEF event on Saturday, March 19.

Faith Leitner spoke on the upcoming musical drama production on March 3, 4, 5, and 6 at the high school.

Comments from Citizens

Cindy Nadeau reminded all of the fundraiser Light It Up Blue at Twisted Vine on April 5.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – January 14, 2016 (Regular)
January 28, 2016 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Transfers
- E. Memorial Day Bearathon Race

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

Discussion/Approval of 2016-2017 Budget

Van Riley spoke on the budget and shared a memo addressed to the BOE on two issues: the first one is BCBA position and the second was the increase on the sub teacher pay to \$85. Dr. Riley asked they approve the budget monies be moved from one line to another line for the BCBA. Van Riley spoke on the sick day payout costs and how this could be funded in the upcoming years. To accomplish the increase in sub teacher pay, Dr. Riley offered suggestions. He asked the BOE to have the sub line stay the same until the fall and requested they approve the budget with the one change of the BCBA position. Mr. Todisco asked \$80,000 was enough for the position? Dr. Riley affirmed this was the cost.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

Motion 2: Move to approve the 2016-17 Proposed Budget at a 2.88%, \$36,373,708 with the change of adding the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

All: Aye

The BOE discussed other budget issues as well. Faith Leitner voiced she did not want to reduce other budget line for the substitute pay increase. Alexa Garvey agreed and said it could be revisited later. Frank Todisco said the discussion will be brought to the April meeting. In the meantime to check with the Central Office regarding availability of substitutes.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Riley shared there is an update 2015-2016 school year calendar with the new graduation date of June 10 (moved from June 8). Dr. Riley asked Mark Friese to speak to the BOE about the "Shine a Light on Heroin" public forum to be held at Stonington High School on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. This event, held in conjunction by Stonington High School and Stonington Human Services, is in direct response to the heroin crisis in our region.

There will be community presentations on the Elementary Modernization project held by DRA. Dr. Riley distributed the schedule for the meetings. There is a combined presentation on March 8 and May 3 to be held in the Stonington High School Commons

Discussion/Approval of 2016-2017 School Calendar

Mr. Todisco reminded everyone the regional calendar needed be followed. Dr. Riley explained the district could have five changes from the regional calendar and the only difference in our calendar was the inclusion of the November 7 and November 8 dates.

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

Motion 3: To approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar as presented.

All: Aye

Adult Ed Update

Dr. Riley has explored the different options for the adult education program and would like to continue with the current program that is in place but will continue to explore other options.