

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING January 14, 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, Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, Alexa Garvey, 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

Deans Mill School Student Senate:

Jennifer McCurdy introduced a group of DMS students who are the Student Senate at Deans Mill School. The students explained the group meets after school to discuss how to make their school a better place. The students also gave a PowerPoint presentation. (see attached). Alexa Garvey asked if the students could serve more than one year on the senate. A student replied "No, only one year to give other students an opportunity to be on the senate."

Communications & Recognitions

Alexa Garvey recognized Tim Flanagan, a Pawcatuck Middle School teacher, for an article about him that who appeared in the Westerly Sun recently.

Terry Stefanski spoke on the upcoming SEF Education Celebration scheduled for March 19 from 6pm – 10pm at the Inn in Mystic.

Faith Leitner spoke on her appreciation of the voicemails regarding half-day school sessions on Friday and noted she received emails asking notifications be at least 24 hours' notice.

Dr. Van Riley recognized the presentation from the Deans Mill School Student Senate and remarked that the students did a great job. Dr. Riley also introduced the new Director of Finance, Gary Shettle. The Board welcomed Mr. Shettle.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments at this time.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – December 10, 2015 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Transfers

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Faith Leitner:

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

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Van Riley asked that all put on your calendar the SEF event, and he was looking forward to the event. **Building Committee Architect:** Van Riley noted that as of this morning, DRA architects signed the contract for the Elementary Modernization project. They are officially our architect and the first order of business will be meeting with our elementary teams.

Approval of Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements

Frank Todisco and Alexa Garvey spoke of the changes that were made at the last BOE meeting on Policy 6146 and noted they were not changed on the Policy attached to the agenda. Mr. Todisco noted we will postpone action on this Policy until February and will bring it back to the Board.

Update on Assessment Penalty Issue

Nikki Gullickson reported that no changes have been received.

Monthly Reports

Jason Jones addressed the Board on the CIP item for technology. Mr. Jones asked the Board to support our ability to increase the funding for school equipment and explained the reason behind request. Deborah Downie asked if this could be transferred to the new building. Mr. Jones explained some of the things we would be able to include, mostly the wiring. Frank Todisco noted that he and Mr. Jones have met with Bryan Bentz to share some of this information and get a feel for his thoughts. Mr. Bentz gave us some favorable feedback but no promises or guarantees. Mr. Todisco will bring the CIP back in two weeks for approval.

Committee Reports

There were no comments on the Committee Reports.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Sue Jones spoke on the algebra and the foreign language for the middle school students, gifted and talented program, the 8th grade class credit issue, and asked if parents have been informed about the late start at the high school.

Items for Future Agendas

- Graduation requirements
- Foreign language update
- Art department needs and success from the elementary to the high school

Board Comments/Concerns

There were no comments or concerns at this time.

Executive Sessions:

Pending Litigation Walsh vs. Board of Education

Discussion with respect to strategy regarding collective bargaining with the SEA

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

Motion 2: To enter into executive session to discuss Pending Litigation Walsh vs. Board of Education and discussion with respect to strategy regarding collective bargaining with the SEA and invite Van Riley, Mark Friese, and Nikki Gullickson.
All: Aye

Frank Todisco noted the Board would be coming back into public session for the purpose of voting on the executive session items only.