

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING January 28, 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, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments at this time.

Approval of Budget Transfer

Gary Shettle, Director of Finance, explained that the approval of this transfer would enable the district to purchase Chromebooks.

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

Motion 1: To approve the budget transfer as presented.

All: Aye

Approval of Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements

Frank Todisco noted that Alexa Garvey did a great job making sure all the revisions on Policy 6146 and thanked Mark Friese for his work making the revisions.

The following motion was made by Alexa Garvey and seconded by Terry Stefanski:

Motion 2: To approve Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements as presented.

All: Aye

BOE Discussion/Direction for 2016-2017 Budget

Van Riley had a summary memo available of the budget and noted there were no recommended changes, since the last meeting. Dr. Riley also addressed the question regarding increasing the substitute teacher pay rate from \$80 per day to \$85 per day. Dr. Riley recommended keeping the current rate of \$80 per day. Faith Leitner thanked administration for looking into the current rates of other districts in our region, and shared her concern that in 2010, the district went from \$85 to \$80 per day and this has not been raised since. Alisa Morrison stated this is a really good budget.

Frank Todisco asked Allison Van Etten to speak on the district's mental health and behavioral needs. Allison Van Etten gave an overview on the need for a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). The Board had questions on the promptness of the existing agencies that are used, the cost of hiring someone with these credentials and how difficult would it be to find someone to fill this position. Mrs. Van Etten gave an estimated cost of what the district now spends on outsourcing this professional and the pros of hiring a staff member, the cost savings for the district and the lead-time that currently exists when an agency is called in to service a student.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Frank Todisco opened up the meeting for public comments.

Sue Jones had questions on classroom books as to why this line item has been decreased in the budget. Nikki Gullickson explained the reasoning behind the decrease in funds for buying books by stating a lot is being done with on line subscriptions rather books in their hands.

Cindy Nadeau commented she would be much in favor of hiring the BCBA and feels students would benefit from these services.

Board Comments/Concerns

Frank Todisco asked for direction from the Board for the substitute teacher pay increase. Craig Esposito agreed with Faith Leitner a five-dollar increase would be good since it has been awhile since we had an increase. Deborah Downie was not in favor of the increase in substitute teacher pay in order to keep the budget at a reasonable increase. Dr. Riley noted that he would rather apply that increase to the behavior specialist and would revisit the teacher sub pay in the fall. Alisa Morrison agreed it would be nice to give more pay but would rather hold the money in our pocket for a while. Frank Todisco stated the majority of the Board would like to hold on the pay increase for now and as far as the BCBA, feels we should see how we fair with the health benefits before a decision is made on the BCBA. Mr. Todisco also agreed that administration did a great job with the budget preparation.

Approval of 2016-2017 CIP

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

Motion 3: To move to approve the 2016-2017 CIP as presented.

All: Aye

Adjournment

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Terry Stefanski:

Motion 4: To Adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

All: Aye



Faith Leitner, Board Secretary