

## **STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING December 19, 2016 - Page | 1**

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, Candace Anderson, and Craig Esposito.

Also present were Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Student Government Representative Cameron Dreher, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

### **Board Presentations:**

Pawcatuck Middle School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA and Grade 7/8 Science – Tim Smith, Principal, introduced 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Elaine Temel, and science teachers Kristina Torres, and Jennifer Bausch. Ms. Temel and a few of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students presented their ideas on how language arts comes to life for them. Ms. Temel shared that Pawcatuck Middle School will be having their third school wide spelling bee. Students are working on a project called “Where I’m From” connecting students through poetry in which they will be working with a Pawcatuck Middle School teacher on sabbatical in Vietnam and his students. Ms. Temel also mentioned she was awarded a grant through Westerly Community Credit Union to help fund family literacy take home bags, spoke on SEF grant funded story teller, Tom Lee, the language arts and social studies connection integration project funded by the Career Incentive grant and shared pictures of students in class showing experiences in their language art studies.

Ms. Jennifer Bausch and Ms. Kristina Torres spoke on the five-day environmental education program for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students in collaboration with the Children’s Museum of Southeastern Connecticut. Ms. Torres and Ms. Bausch explained that on day one students studied enviroscares and soil permeation; day two, Dr. Jolly-Ballentine came in to the classroom and spoke to students about Barn Island; day three, covered Barn Island exploration where the focus of their visit was to study human impact on salt water marshes, and day four and five students defined problems and designed solutions. Ms. Bausch presented a video on Stonington’s solar system, in which students learn about the solar system while capturing different locations in town and their distance to planets in the solar system. Ms. Torres also added she has started a science club after school where the attendance has been overwhelming and noted this gives students opportunity to work on experiments giving them more time than in class. Ms. Torres also mentioned that there is now a Coding Club for girls at PMS.

Student Data/Financial Literacy – Mark Friese, Stonington High School Principal, spoke on general school wide data and standardized assessments scores. Mr. Friese added the high school graduation local rate is at 98% versus the state rate of 94%. Mr. Friese reported there has been a decrease of discipline issues at the high school. Mr. Friese also shared comments on topics such as career exploration, career day and career talks, CAPT science scores, SAT student data and AP scores. Mr. Friese noted he has requested help from the superintendent to fund the 9/10 grades PSAT test. Mr. Friese also shared he is going to revisit how we teach math at the high school. Mr. Friese added new course requirements will be proposed for the Class of 2021, which might include general banking and personal finance but first will bring his proposal to the Teaching and Learning committee for review. The Board had questions on CAPT testing and if current teaching staff would be able to cover the new courses.

### **Communications and Recognitions**

Alexa Garvey shared she attended the West Vine Street School Winterfest and added it was beautiful and also attended the Sunday fundraising breakfast which went very well. Faith Leitner commented she attended the recent high school drama production, which was outstanding.

### **Comments from Citizens**

Sue Jones asked if the enrollment spreadsheet mentioned in Dr. Riley’s enrollment memo would be available for the public.

Cindy Nadeau commented on the high school and Pawcatuck Middle School band concerts, and added there was such an overwhelming attendance at the middle school students were asked to sit on the floor to accommodate visitors. Mrs. Nadeau asked the Board come to the high school concert in February.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Minutes: November 10, 2016
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report

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

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

All: Aye

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Riley reported on the 2017-2018 school calendar adding we are still working with our elementary schools construction manager and we will bring this item back in January but added that students will start school after Labor Day. Dr. Riley also spoke on enrollment projections and shared with the Board his enrollment report and projections. Dr. Riley added the reason for this report is to make the Board aware of the impact on staffing and budget due to projected decrease in enrollment in future years. Dr. Riley also shared a spreadsheet with the Board showing two types of enrollment projects, a straight move ahead projection, and the cohort survival enrollment projection. Candace Anderson asked questions about redistricting, and Dr. Riley spoke on the redistricting idea. Faith Leitner requested historical enrollment numbers; Dr. Riley will supply this information to the Board. Candace Anderson asked for the number of homeschooled students in the district, Dr. Riley will get that information to the Board.

**Approval of April 6, 2017 Board Meeting Date Change to April 20, 2017** – Dr. Riley explained Deans Mill School will be holding its annual spring concert and will be using the commons and other areas of the high school on April 6 which was set for the regular Board meeting, therefore Dr. Riley suggests the Board approve to move that meeting to April 20.

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

**Motion 2:** To move the April 6, 2017 Regular Board Meeting to April 20, 2017.

All: Aye

**Approval of CIP 2017-2022**

Dr. Van Riley distributed to the Board an analysis on the need for an extra van for the special services department requested by the Board. Dr. Riley reviewed this data and how this extra van impacts the budget. Dr. Riley added that he feels that we can put this van to use for special ed transportation.

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

**Motion 3:** To approve the CIP Plan for 2017- 2018 as presented.

All: Aye

**Approval of Policies**

There was no further discussion on this item.

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

**Motion 4:** To approve the 4000, 5000 Policy Series and Policy 6146.1 as presented.

All: Aye

**Monthly Reports**

There were no comments on this item.

**Committee Reports**

There were no comments on this item.