

Alexa Garvey, Board Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were, Candace Anderson, Deborah Downie, Jack Morehouse, Alisa Morrison, and Craig Esposito.

Member Absent: Frank Todisco, Chairman

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

Board Presentations

The Nifty Fifties Drama Presentation – Alexa Garvey, Board Secretary directed everyone to the cafeteria for a short presentation by the Pawcatuck Middle School drama students of the upcoming drama production The Nifty Fifties. The production will take place at Stonington High School on March 24th and 25th.

Accountability Report - Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent, shared a report on the twelve performance indicators. She explained how the district gets credit for each of the indicators. Ms. Butler reviewed the accountability index scores from each school and the rationale to each percentage of accountability indexes. She reviewed what category each school fell into based on the score. She noted that as a district our accountability index was at 77.7%. Ms. Butler explained the action plan with redeployment of resources for math, such as math coaches, curriculum adjustments, intervention blocks with math focus, instructional time adjustments in grade 5 at MMS, professional development, data monitoring and instructional adjustments. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Middle School Steering Committee Report

Tim Smith, Pawcatuck Middle School Principal, reported that the first task for the Middle School Consolidation Steering Committee was to establish a new name for the middle school. Mr. Smith added a survey went out to both parents and students of each middle school and received a total of 1,463 responses, which were then categorized into five groups. He shared some of the names in these categories. From those, the top three name choices were Stonington Middle School at 77.7%, Nathaniel Palmer Middle School at 17% and Mistuxet Avenue Middle School at 5.3% of the vote. He reported it seems the vast majority of the parents and students feel the name of the middle school should be consistent with the high school being one school for the whole community, so it makes sense to keep it Stonington Middle School, and this is what the data also shows at this point.

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Jack Morehouse:

Motion 1: Move to name the new middle school Stonington Middle School.

All: Aye

Mr. Smith also reported that staff of both middles schools would be meeting to work together in their subcommittees on the consolidation during tomorrow's professional development at Mystic Middle School to create priorities and a calendar for these subcommittees.

Communications and Recognitions

Madison Geiger communicated that it is International Women's Day today and wanted to recognize all the woman in the district especially those in leadership roles that serve as an inspiration and as good role models to younger students.

Candace Anderson thanked the high school in particular for the sensitive response to the large shooting in terms of the lock down drill; teachers took a lot of time out of their classroom to talk to kids. This makes a big difference to help kids get a chance to process what is going on and gives a lot of credit to the high school.

Jack Morehouse reported he went to the state capital this week to attend a workshop about ECS (Educational Cost Sharing) which has adopted a new formula, which determines how and what level our district receives state funding. Mr. Morehouse stated other districts in our area similar to us seem to get more funding. He shared a website www.stschoolfinance.org where you can compare our district with others in our area concerning state funding and what is spent. He added that Board of Finance member, Danielle Chesebrough, was also there representing Stonington. Mr. Morehouse reported in Stonington we are on the middle to lower end on the household income ratio so we are now on 70/30 ratio for redistribution of funds, which will help our district. He had a pamphlet of this information available to share. He also added and thanked the three boy scouts who attend Mystic Middle School, who interviewed him and it was nice to hear about their experiences at school.