

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING March 9, 2017 - 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, Alexa Garvey, Candace Anderson, and Craig Esposito.

Member Absent: Terry Stefanski

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

Board Presentations

The Board was recognized for March Board recognition month with a performance from students of Mystic Middle School and Pawcatuck Middle School.

Mystic Middle Jazz Band Performance

Jim Hilbie introduced the Mystic Middle School Jazz Band students, added the group meets first thing in the a.m., and noted they have many performances during the year including Stone Ridge. Mr. Hilbie thanked the administration and recognized the Board members thanking them for all they do and thanked the jazz band parents. The jazz band played various musical favorites and ended their performance with "Any Way You Want It" for the Board and the community.

Pawcatuck Middle Play Performance – "Shrek Jr."

Tim Smith, Pawcatuck Middle School Principal, introduced students of the Pawcatuck Middle School drama club who performed a few scenes of the performance "Shrek, Jr."

Grade 8 Math Presentation – Mark Friese and AnneFay Sullivan

Mark Friese and AnneFay Sullivan presented a presentation of how math instruction is delivered in Stonington Public Schools and the types of shifts that will be taking place in math instruction. Ms. AnneFay Sullivan explained the thought is to move Algebra 1 to the high school and move Honors Geometry and Problem Stats to 8th grade. Ms. Sullivan said we will be trying to combine as much of the 8th grade curriculum with the geometry and problem stats curriculum. Ms. Sullivan explained that students are losing content moving from 7th grade to math to Algebra I. Ms. Sullivan spoke on current math compared to the proposed math schedule for grades 7-12 and the importance of statistic classes. Ms. Sullivan spoke on the next steps that will be taken in regards to this shift in math instruction.

Deborah Downie had questions on which math types can be taken at which grade level and how often geometry and problem stats are offered through the year; Ms. Sullivan explained problem stats is offered only half a year and geometry a full year. Mrs. Downie also asked about the gap of 8th grade math and what curriculum 8th grade students will miss. Ms. Sullivan addressed this question. Frank Todisco asked if this change would go into effect in September, Ms. Sullivan said yes. Faith Leitner had questions regarding the timeline in regards to assessment and timeline for the new curriculum. Ms. Sullivan commented that both her and Nikki Gullickson will be working with 7th grade parents and also with 8th grade teachers on what they can do at the end of the year to get students ready for the next step. Mrs. Gullickson added the roll out will take at least two years and then would need to address gaps as needed. Candace Anderson asked if there is information of progression for current 9th grade students. Ms. Sullivan noted there will be no change, they continue on the path they are on. Craig Esposito commented he thought statistics is a good thing having taught this himself and more colleges require this, even general math literacy and news consumption statistics is a good thing. Student Government Representative, Cameron Dreher, spoke on her experience and feels this would of been her preferred course to do Algebra I first then move onto Algebra II.

District Assessment Presentation – Nikki Gullickson

Nikki Gullickson spoke on the STAR 360 Assessment and the purpose for this testing, which is used as a benchmark for the district to see how well students are doing and how effective our instruction is. Nikki Gullickson explained the schedule for the STAR 360 Assessment in the fall and winter. Mrs. Gullickson showed data in reading and math. Mrs. Gullickson shared data comparisons in September and January for both math and reading and explained this is the second year for STAR 360 Assessment. The Board had no questions.

Communications and Recognitions

Alexa Garvey communicated that she was thankful for the opportunity to read to the 3rd grade class at Deans Mill School and Kindergarten class at West Vine Street School this past week, this was a lot of fun.

Faith Leitner spoke she enjoyed the day of reading at West Vine Street School where she read to Kindergarten and noted this brought back a lot of good memories, children were a delight. Mrs. Leitner also went to math and science night at Deans Mill School and added the parking lot was packed which was a good sign, it was a well attended activity and the students were so excited to explain all their projects. Mrs. Leitner also noted there is a great musical on this weekend "Anything Goes".

Frank Todisco extended his appreciation to Mark Friese, Stonington High School Principal, for all the work he put into NEASC and added the Board had a great experience. Mr. Todisco added that Mr. Friese and the students put in a lot of work and we look forward to getting good results.

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING March 9, 2017 - Page | 2

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones gave kudos to Mark Friese and Student Government Representative, Cameron Dreher, for the NEASC presentation and all the students as well for an excellent job. Ms. Jones asked if the math will be used as a high school credit and feels that we need to give those kids credit to transfer over to college and added that we need to revisit this as a Board.

Cindy Nadeau had questions about the math courses and asked if Algebra and Geometry at the high school would be split over two years. Ms. Nadeau noted there will be a performance by the high school students on stage next Friday night and April 4th is Light It Up Blue.

Bruce Yarnall spoke on his concerns regarding moving geometry to 8th grade and feels students are not ready for the change and added that if we had a accelerated math program like other districts this would help students.

Lori Taylor spoke on behalf of the Drama Club and questioned the decision about not holding the drama performance tomorrow night and feels that decision could of been made tomorrow and felt this puts a lot of pressure on the drama club, booster club and parents. Ms. Taylor added that she felt it was a premature decision and voiced her concern.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes: February 15, 2017 (Special Meeting)
March 5, 2017 (Special Meeting)
- 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

First Read of 3000 Series Policies

Frank Todisco asked if the Board had any concerns, questions, or clarification on the policies. The Board had none.

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

Motion 2: To approve the 3000 Series Policies as presented.
All: Aye

Monthly Reports

The Board had no questions.

Committee Reports

Alex Garvey reported the March District Newsletter did come out and will be posted on the Stonington Forum and if anyone has any ideas on how to get it out there to the community for free it would be great. The Board thanked Ana de Oliveira for a great job on the newsletter.

Frank Todisco reported that the 3000 Series Polices were discussed at the last Policy Committee meeting and you are seeing those tonight.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

There were no comments from citizens.

Items for Future Agendas

Faith Leitner noted there were discussions through email discussing policies concerning technology and having personal Social Security numbers and information available and what policies for personnel and procedures for sending out such things as Social Security numbers. Frank Todisco noted this will be referred to the Policy Committee for discussion.

Board Comments/Concerns

Frank Todisco reminded the Board members on March 22 we will be presenting to the Board of Finance the 2017/2018 Education Budget.

Adjournment

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

Motion 3: To Adjourn at 8:09 p.m.
All: Aye

FAITH LEITNER

Faith Leitner, Board Secretary