

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Deborah Downie, Candace Anderson, Terry Stefanski, and Craig Esposito.

Members Absent: Faith Leitner, Secretary
Alexa Garvey

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

Gratitude Campaign – West Broad/West Vine Street School Principal Alicia Dawe and Assistant Principal Kathy Irvine introduced teacher Meghan Breen and students from Grades 3 and 4 from West Broad Street School. Ms. Irvine explained that the students participated in an elementary school leadership conference sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools. Students spent a day with other schools and came back with the idea of a gratitude campaign. Ms. Irvine added this campaign is making a difference in school climate and culture. The group of students explained the various activities they participated in when they attended the conference. The students shared a PowerPoint presentation showing the activities implemented at both West Vine and West Broad Street Schools. The activities include, a gratitude wall where students and staff write what they are grateful for on a sticky and place it on the wall for all to see, a gratitude spot in each of the buildings where students step on a designated spot and share what they are grateful for, kindness cards, and letters of what matters to them, students read those letters out loud to other students. Teacher Ms. Breen added that all these activities have brought students together. (PowerPoint presentation attached)

SHS Students Teaching Languages to Elementary Students - Lea Kennedy, the advisor to the Spanish Honor Society at the high school introduced students from the Spanish and French National Honor Society. The students spoke about ways that they have been sharing languages with the fourth grade students. Ms. Kennedy also shared a world language newsletter with the Board that gave information about activities and lesson plans that high school students are doing with our elementary students. The presidents of the Spanish and French Honor Societies explained how the program began and how they organized some high school students to go to the elementary schools and teach the foreign languages. The students taught at both West Broad and Deans Mill schools, with interactive activities, games, lesson plans, and cultural activities. The students also showed a PowerPoint slide show showing students doing some of the activities and games that both language students shared and taught the elementary students.

YouBlock - Jennifer McCurdy, Deans Mill School Principal introduced Assistant Principal Tom Bousquet along with teachers Caitlin Rovell, Molly Watson, Dan Barth, and Ryan Durham from each grade level. Ms. McCurdy explained that they used the idea of "We Believe in You" to come up with YouBlock, which is 30 minutes a day of focused instruction used as a time to work with individual students and focus on their individual needs. Ms. McCurdy explained that the goal is to provide enrichment and intervention supports, more direct instruction and to learn new and interesting things. Mr. Bousquet explained that the goal this coming year is to be at 80% of families that feel our students are getting assistance when they need it. Each teacher explained what type of activities and instruction are done with the students at each grade level. The teachers explained what a typical session of YouBlock at each grade level would be. The teachers also shared that all students are meeting with a teacher in small groups at some time during the week. Teachers added that some groups also rotate to other groups within their grade level and students are assigned groups based on assessment data and school work, and noted they use technology, students create their own board games using math skills and in language arts they work on skills and concepts to make their own PowerPoint presentations. (PowerPoint presentation attached)

Junior Project - Students from the Class of 2018 presented the 2017 Junior Project, "Paint Your Own Parking Spot". The students explained that seniors that participate would have to pay an extra charge for their parking space if they wish to paint their own spot. There will be a cost of \$20 to cover paint and cleanup cost of the design at the end of the school year. The students noted that this is open to all students not only those with parking spots, students are welcome to help other students and teachers paint their spot. The students are asking for chaperons to oversee the painting and anyone interested in participating will need to fill out a form. The painted parking spots will be washed and ready for future classes to paint again at the beginning of each school year. The students added that other schools in the area are currently doing this, and feel the main idea of the project is to promote school spirit and bring everyone together. The students reviewed the timeline of the project. (PowerPoint presentation attached)

The Board asked if the students would be supplied brushes. The students explained that students will need to bring their own brushes but some rollers will be provided. Student Government Representative Cameron Dreher, acknowledged the students by saying she was very proud of all of the students and added the students are excited about this project. A community member added that perhaps families could donate the brushes.