

Faith Leitner, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were Deborah Downie, Candace Anderson, Alexa Garvey, Terry Stefanski, and Craig Esposito.

Members Absent: Frank Todisco

Also, present were Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Board Presentations

Secretary, Faith Leitner announced that the presentations on tonight's agenda would be switched in order to reflect the Summative Assessment and Growth Score presentation taking place first.

Summative Assessment and Growth Scores Presentation: Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent gave a presentation regarding assessment data and growth scores. Mrs. Butler spoke on the differences between Smarter Balance achievement scores and the Stonington average percentage growth target. Mrs. Butler also presented the data on student growth in math and LA by school and grade level. Craig Esposito asked how do we know if these targets are realistic. Candace spoke on what the growth actually means in some of the scores. Mary Anne also reviewed the Connecticut Mastery Test Science scores for both middle schools. (See presentation attached)

Stonington Public Schools Recognizing and Promoting Success Presentation: Mark Friese and Mary Anne Butler spoke of various recognitions throughout the district such as the recognition of Deans Mill School for being the best in the state and other student and staff recognitions. Mr. Friese spoke on opportunities in our school and programs in our schools used to promote our schools. Mr. Friese shared a PowerPoint presentation that focused on recognitions throughout the district, NEASC information, SAT Data, AP Data and CAPT Data. Mr. Friese and Mrs. Butler explained what some of the next steps should be to promote our district such as building relationships with outside agencies, celebrate student successes, increase outside recognitions and recognizing programs of distinction. Mrs. Butler spoke of the investment that the Board has made in the materials at each school that the students are using and how this helps our students succeed. Mrs. Butler feels that we can nominate teachers for the excellence award and there are things we can do to celebrate our teachers in the classroom. (See presentation attached)

Communications and Recognitions

Mary Anne Butler recognized and named each of the thirty-three students at Stonington High School that have earned AP Scholar Awards in their exceptional achievement on 2017 AP Exams. Mrs. Butler added the recognition of Laura Marseglia and Charlotte Johnston for the recognition as National Merit Scholars Commended, Abby Want who was named as a National Merit Semi-finalist. Mrs. Butler noted that she, Dr. Riley, Mark Friese, and Dr. Mitchell surprised Nick Benjamin a student at SHS in the presence of his classmates with the Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship in the amount of \$20,000. Mr. Benjamin will be recognized on October 16th with other recipients at a banquet at the Mystic Marriott. Mrs. Butler also recognized both Mystic Middle School and Pawcatuck Middle School who have been recognized by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference as Special Olympics National Banner Awardees and thanked both Emilié Cravinho from PMS and Duffy Grace from MMS for their work with the students.

Mrs. Butler also communicated that the Child and Family Agency has been awarded a grant to train their staff on the implementation of screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment, which is an evidence-based training used to identify, reduce and prevent problems with alcohol and drug use. As a part of the grant, Pawcatuck Middle School will be funded to create a Youth Advisory Group. Mrs. Butler added that information will be going home to families about his voluntary program.

Faith Leitner thanked all staff at all the schools, and Central Office for the opening of schools. Mrs. Leitner also added that it was great commencement and all the messages were excellent from Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Riley, Superintendent, student Cameron Dreher, teacher Jennifer Bausch and Teacher of the Year Dan Agins.

Alexa Garvey commented that she recently took part in the golf tournament sponsored by Mr. Sylvestre and Mrs. Wall, which raised \$10,000 and these funds were donated to the districts unified sports and activities program, and thanked them for their support.

Deborah Downie commented that she was happy to get her car washed at SHS at the car wash fundraiser to benefit the O'Dell family and added that it raised \$1,700, through some great hard working kids.

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones commented she missed the first back to school night in 15 years because she had to get her daughter into college, and added that back to school nights at SHS puts everything into perspective, great job. Mrs. Jones asked if participation was a factor in the assessment scores. Mrs. Jones also spoke in regards to curriculum changes and support for students. Mrs. Jones also asked what is available for teachers to stay abreast with technology changes. Mary Anne Butler adds that we have a Teacher on Special Assignment that works on that, but this is also something we need to work on in the further.

Cindy Nadeau spoke on the back to school night at Pawcatuck Middle School and how she liked the new format this year. Mrs. Nadeau added that by writing our own schedule it helps when you have multiple children in the school you can see more teachers that way. Mrs. Nadeau also commented on the SAT scores and thanked the faculty for their help.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes: June 8, 2017 (Regular Meeting)
July 25, 2017 (Special Meeting)
July 26, 2017 (Special Meeting)
- B. Checks and Bills (June, July & August)
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report
- E. Field Trip Approval – SHS New York City – March 13-14, 2018
- F. Book Adoption – “Mythology” by Edith Hamilton

Faith Leitner noted she was an advocate of the field trip and asked if the deposit had been taken for the trip and added that this is a great opportunity. Mr. Friese responded yes a deposit has been given for the trip. Faith Leitner also commented on the “Mythology” book adoption, which is being replacing another “Mythology” book and added that this is for grade 9.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and Candace Anderson seconded by _____ :

Motion 1: To approve the Consent Agenda A-F as presented.
All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Mary Anne reported that the Superintendent has safely arrived in Barcelona, we have been in touch several times and there was nothing else to report.

Middle School Consolidation

Alexa Garvey spoke on this issue and noted there was a handout available tonight for the community that gave more information regarding the idea of middle school consolidation. Mrs. Garvey also added that the steering committee met on June 7, which is comprised of herself, Frank Todisco, Craig Esposito and Dr. Riley. Mrs. Garvey added that a second meeting took place in August with principals, Director of Finance and Director of Special Services. Mrs. Garvey spoke on the old middle school task force group and at that time students said they like doing things with other middle school students. This drove the idea of the middle school consolidation. Mrs. Garvey added that the goal is to have parents and community have input in this idea. The committee has set two meeting dates for the staff, parents and community on October 4 for PMS and October 5 for MMS. Mrs. Garvey noted that Ana de Oliveira and Jason Jones are creating an email address that will be added to the main page of the district website for anyone who would like to share their thoughts on the consolidation idea.

Monthly Reports

Candace Anderson had questions regarding transportation for the Westerly-Pawcatuck YMCA program for students through Special Services. Allison Van Etten reported that the program will be using our district vans and added this is a good spot for the program because the students can also walk to other places around town. Mrs. Anderson asked is this a part of the day for the student. Mrs. Van Etten explained that these students do this on every Monday for their life skills day. Mrs. Van Etten also extended a thank you to Human Services for sharing their space in the past. Faith Leitner asked if they would consider using the Mystic YMCA. Mrs. Van Etten said the Westerly-Pawcatuck site offers more opportunities.

Faith Leitner reported we are acquiring a boat from Dan Meiser, a great gift and asked Bill King, whom does this boat get insured by and the other boats in the crew fleet are they being insured by the school. Bill King responded yes crew is insured by the district and this donated boat is for the sailing team.

Committee Reports

The Board had no questions regarding the committee reports.

K-12 Building Committee Update

Deborah Downie reported on the K-12 Building Committee with an update on both of elementary schools. Mrs. Downie noted a lot has happened during the summer, the contractor encountered many large boulders that required additional work but they are back on track. Mrs. Downie also added that hopefully by the end of the week walls will be added to the steel structures and start inside work. Mrs. Downie reported there were a few bumps in the road some last minute requests from the fire marshal that have been done, some parking lot concerns at Deans Mill, some issues concerning blasting at West Vine and construction crane. Gilbane has been working with the district to iron things out. Mrs. Downie gave a great shout out to a team of teachers, administrative staff that has been working with the architect to pull together the furniture and technology. There has been some communication issues and Dr. Riley is working those out with Gilbane. Mrs. Downie reported that the final big issue is the asbestos abatement some of this has been done but much of it will be done next summer. Some air testing was done, and it was fine, they will be removing all the PCBs around windows, and some might be encapsulated according to Federal Government guidelines, this will also require on going air monitoring but all this is still being discussed by the committee.

State Budget Update

Faith Leitner noted that Gary Shettle, Director of Finance is absent to speak on this topic and added there is still no budget update.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Ellen Gilbert commented on the Middle School Consolidation report. Ms. Gilbert had questions regarding splitting staff, offerings for students, facility capacity, and parking issues. Ms. Gilbert added that she looks forward to hearing what more people have to say about this and thanked administration for the report.

Items for Future Agenda

The Board had no items for future agenda.

Board Comments/Concerns

The Board had no comments or concerns.

Adjournment

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

Motion 2: To Adjourn at 8:40p.m.

All: Aye

Faith Leitner, Board Secretary