

## STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING September 8, 2016 - Page | 1

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 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.

Chairman Frank Todisco started the meeting by asking for a moment of silence in honor of Board of Finance member Dudley Wheeler who passed away on Saturday. Mr. Todisco introduced the new student government representative Cameron Dreher and the newest member of the Board Candace Anderson who will fill the remaining term of Alisa Morrison who resigned from the Board.

### **Board Presentations:**

Nikki Gullickson introduced Lea Kennedy, world language teacher at Stonington High School who presented a presentation regarding the Seal of Biliteracy Permissive Pilot regarding world language. Mrs. Kennedy distributed a flyer and magazine that outlined how the state has already approved legislation, and those students who participate in this pilot program will have a seal on their diploma and an indicator in their transcript that measures their participation in a second language. Mrs. Kennedy asked for Board approval so Stonington could be part of this pilot program in which 23 other states have already adopted. Mrs. Kennedy went on to add the test costs twenty dollars and will be administered to the seniors at the high school and eventually be offered to other grades. Mrs. Kennedy asked, with Board's approval, this program could start as early as October.

Deborah Downie shared her thoughts about the program. Mrs. Downie said she thinks it is a great program and asked how this information would be communicated to the families. Mrs. Kennedy said the information has already been distributed at Back-to-School night. Mrs. Gullickson noted that the other district in Connecticut that is considering this pilot is Glastonbury.

Nikki Gullickson also did a presentation regarding results from all the state assessments. Mrs. Gullickson handed out a hard copy of the presentation. Mrs. Gullickson shared the test scores for the 168 students that were released mid-August. Mrs. Gullickson shared the average scores in Language Arts and Math and noted they were above goal average which administration is very happy to see. The PowerPoint presentation is attached for more information.

Faith Leitner had question regarding high needs groups. Mrs. Gullickson explained how those types of students are counted in the scoring.

Terry Stefanski asked if any of this information is being shared with the state, and noted that he heard or read that Stonington came in number 8. Nikki Gullickson explained that Stonington as a whole for LA are in the top third and Math are in the top 20% with the areas schools.

Dr. Van Riley said copies will be provided to the Board and this topic will be back for discussion once it is discussed at the Teaching and Learning Committee.

### **Communications and Recognitions**

Alexa Garvey commented on the wonderful Convocation and added the teachers did an amazing job at back to school night at the high school. Candace Anderson echoed Mrs. Garvey on the Back-to-School night and added it was phenomenal and how lucky her students are to be at the high school. Faith Leitner also commented on the fantastic Convocation and said it was a great Back-to-School night that kept us going until 8:45pm.

### **Comments From Citizens**

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No comment comments from Citizens at this time.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes: July 14, 2016  
August 17, 2016
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report

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

### Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Riley congratulated our schools and administration for an amazing and smooth opening day. Dr. Riley added that Convocation was very nice and asked that the Mary Lou Devin, Teacher of the Year, come back so that we can record her wonderful speech. Dr. Riley also commented on how exceptional our Link Crew was that out of 172 students 165 showed up to freshman orientation and that everyone had a great time. Dr. Riley also reported that Bill King, Operations and Facilities Manager, is out and in his absence, we had to activate our emergency plan, thanked all maintenance, principals, and Gary Shettle, Director of Finance, and noted that it went well. Dr. Riley also shared an article regarding Serrano v. Priest regarding the difference in state funding for education throughout California, which is now being discussed here in Connecticut.

### Review of Board Goals 16-17

Dr. Riley spoke about the adopted Board Goals, while reviewing each one with the Board. Dr. Riley also spoke on specific goals and their status and dates of completion. Dr. Riley noted making progress on the goals. Dr. Riley also mentioned that the plan is to set growth goals with the Teaching and Learning Committee and will bring these back to the Board in October. Dr. Riley reported on the Wilson training that has been going on this week, and the district reorganization that has been able to be fully funded with existing funds. Dr. Riley explained that our Pristine and Park Like motto has been accomplished this summer with additional custodial staff.

### Approval of Classified Staff Conditions of Employment

Dr. Van Riley explained that this reorganization at the district level has been needed for some time in this district and explained that is pleased to say all this is now done.

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

**Motion 2:** To approve Classified Staff Conditions of Employment and Employment Agreements items A, B, E and F and remove Items C and D tabling for discussion on those items until October meeting.  
All: Aye

Deborah Downie noted that we were looking for additional answers to questions on these contracts and because we did not have an August meeting this put us behind for further discussion and just wanted all of us to be clear with this issue. Dr. Riley asked the Board what kind of information they would like to bring back to the next meeting. Alexa Garvey asked for more information and clarification on the job descriptions and wanted more time taken on this and how all the funding will work now that it is the middle of the budget year. Mrs. Garvey would like more clarification on those specifics.

### Monthly Reports

The Board did not have questions on the monthly reports.

### Committee Reports

The Board did not have questions on the committee reports.