

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING November 10, 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.

Board Presentations:

Fall Play Preview – SHS Students

Following the call to order Sally Hinckley a SHS student invited everyone to the auditorium for a preview of the fall play performance "Radium Girls" by the drama students at Stonington High School.

SHS 21st Century Skills – Mark Friese

Mark Friese, Stonington High School Principal, spoke on 21st Century Skills, Core Values, and Beliefs at Stonington High School. Mr. Friese presented a PowerPoint presentation that spoke on various strategies, beliefs, core values, and 21st Century Skills that are being demonstrated currently at the high school. Mr. Friese shared the high school's Mission Statement. Mr. Friese also explained the expectations at the high school, which are now called the 4Cs (Convince, Communicate, Consider, and Connect). The 4Cs is represented by a lighthouse designed by one of the students at the high school. Mr. Friese explained the students will be doing an assignment based on the 4Cs each year. Mr. Friese also noted this year the school has instituted a community service project for freshmen, sophomore, and junior year to connect with community. The presentation is attached for more information.

Dr. Van Riley asked Greg Keith, Mystic Middle School Principal to speak on a special recognition for a Mystic Middle School teacher. Mr. Keith called upon some of the Mystic Middle School students to do the presentation to a special person in their lives. Mystic Middle School students recognized a special teacher, whom they noted is so dedicated to the students. The students presented Ellen Gilbert with a plaque. Mrs. Gilbert recently received an award by the state for the 2016 "Choral Director of the Year". Mrs. Gilbert thanked everyone and added that her most joyous thing is hearing children sing.

Instruction – Middle School Presentation of STAR 360

Tim Smith and Greg Keith shared a presentation on how the middle schools are using the STAR360 assessment tool. Mr. Smith explained this is an on line standard assessment for students of 34 questions which is used several times a year to assess where students are. Mr. Smith noted they use data points throughout the year to see growth in students and grade level. Mr. Keith explained they hold data team meetings, where they review the data and decide if interventions are needed for the students based on this data. Mr. Keith spoke on high needs students and how they are closing the gap, and increasing the performance of students up high. Mr. Keith spoke on Ice Block at Mystic Middle School that includes intervention, research groups, stem groups, and enrichment activities. Mr. Smith explained, at Pawcatuck Middle School they use the data to group students by specific needs. Mr. Smith and Mr. Keith both acknowledged the STAR 360 program is giving them a better way to identify every student and thanked the Board for this tool to assess the students.

Terry Stefanski commented to keep up the good work.

Communications and Recognitions

Faith Leitner mentioned the Fall Feast, which is next Thursday, and asked everyone to invite any veterans for this event and noted that flamingos are coming to a driveway near you.

Van Riley thanked Mr. Keith, Mr. Smith, and Nikki Gullickson for the presentation on STAR 360, the presentation of the play, the recognition of Mrs. Gilbert, 21st Century Skills and noted we will be continuing these types of presentations. In December, we will have a calendar for the upcoming presentations. Dr. Riley noted that we would be starting the Board meeting with these types of presentations focusing on how our students are succeeding and their challenges.

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Cameron Dreher, Student Government Representative reminded all about the Fall Feast next Thursday.

Comments From Citizens

There were no comments from citizens.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes: October 13, 2016
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report

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

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

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Van Riley spoke on the world language program, particularly the French program and noted there was a positive meeting on Monday with teachers, which covered a look on how to maintain this program at our high school and middle school. Dr. Riley also spoke briefly about the 2017-18 school calendar in regards to starting after Labor Day due to the recommendation of the Elementary Schools Modernization Project, Construction Manager, Peter Manning. Dr. Riley will have a draft of the calendar for the December Board meeting.

Review of CIP 2017-2022

Dr. Van Riley invited Gary Shettle, Director of Finance, and Bill King, Operations and Facility Manager, to give a presentation of the CIP 2017-2022. Dr. Riley noted this is not up for approval tonight but asked that the Board to bring any questions or suggestions back to administration so it will be ready for approval at the December Board meeting. Mr. Shettle explained that the list of items is prioritized, with student safety and security as a goal for the upcoming year. Mr. King added the three items of top priority are necessary for a one-time purchase of chrome books. Mr. Shettle and Mr. King explained the need for each of the CIP items by priority. Van Riley explained the format of the list of CIP items. Frank Todisco stated the underground storage tanks on the list are a result of them expiring. Mr. King explained which storage tanks need to be replaced at which building. Deborah Downie asked the life expectancy of the tanks. Faith Leitner explained the items in red on the list such as install security cameras do not need to be red and Mr. King agreed. Ms. Leitner spoke on the athletic fields, which also include the organic fields; Mr. King explained this item is back on the list due to the need of the infield replacement.

Approval of Board of Education 2017 Meeting Calendars

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 2: To approve the Board of Education 2017 meeting calendars as presented.
All: Aye

Approval of SEA 2017-2020 Contract

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

Motion 3: To approve the SEA 2017-2020 Contract as presented.
All: Aye

Frank Todisco, Chairman, commented on the process and thanked his committee, who he worked with, for their time and effort and appreciated all their work. Mr. Todisco also thanked Michael Freeman and his negotiation committee and noted it was a fantastic process, a good dialogue and a lot of collaboration and sharing of ideas.