

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, Candace Anderson, Alexa Garvey, and Craig Esposito.
Absent: Terry Stefanski

Also, present were Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Student Government Representative, Madison Geiger, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Board Presentations

Response to Intervention (RTI) Presentation: Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent, and Allison Van Etten, Special Services Director presented together a presentation regarding the Response to Intervention (RTI) model. Mrs. Butler explained that RTI gives all students the temporary support when they need it and with student growth monitoring. Mrs. Butler also added it is targeted instruction in either small groups or individual. Mrs. Butler spoke on the staff members who give this intervention. Mrs. Van Etten spoke that the district is working with a coach from LEARN who is helping the district with the RTI model and working on behavioral supports for students. Mrs. Van Etten noted some of the work that will be done this year in the district such as working on a system to provide district-wide interventions, match interventions to the student need, begin interventions in the elementary level, and move to the secondary level this spring. (Presentation Attached)

Communications and Recognitions

Alexa Garvey commented she attended the community gathering on September 26 at Deans Mill School, which was a lot of fun and added great job.

Candace Anderson shared it was fun to see the cross country meet and also attended the Middle School Consolidation meeting.

Faith Leitner thanked administration for the Board of Education Candidate Workshop, adding it was very impressive and she learned a lot about the duties of the administration.

Chairman Frank Todisco shared this is the last Board meeting for two of our Board members, Faith Leitner and Terry Stefanski. Mr. Stefanski could not be here tonight. Chairman Todisco added that Mrs. Leitner has served on the Board for eight years with passion, and added that he is appreciative of her friendship while on the Board. Chairman Todisco went on to read the Proclamation of Appreciation that was presented to Mrs. Leitner in recognition for her years of service to the Board of Education.

Faith Leitner added it was her honor and pleasure to serve with an amazing group of volunteers of the town who have also put in their time. Mrs. Leitner also added that she feels she is leaving the Board with an amazing staff; Dr. Van Riley and his amazing Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Leitner commented she will not be far away because wants to stay up with the ongoing events such as if Bill King will get the bus depot, Gary Shettle regarding the state budget situation and Mary Anne Butler with raising student scores and the list goes on and on. Mrs. Leitner also thanked her spouse of 32 years noting it is important that there is always someone home waiting for you.

Comments from Citizens

Sue Jones thanked Mrs. Leitner for everything along with putting up with her questions at all the meetings and wished Mrs. Leitner good luck. Mrs. Jones thanked the Board and administration for the Middle School Consolidation meetings and added it was nice that there was more than one meeting. Mrs. Jones asked if it is possible, there will be a midyear transition, and how will that affect teachers and administration contractually.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes: September 19, 2017 (Special Meeting)
- B. Checks and Bills (September)
- C. Personnel Report

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

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

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Riley thanked Faith Leitner for her work on the Board during his five years at Stonington Public Schools; for her caring of all students and for supporting every child in the schools, this is much appreciated. Dr. Riley thanked the Central Office Cabinet group of administrators for attending the Candidate Workshop. Dr. Riley added that he is very proud of his administrative team and explained the administration shared their challenges while keeping it focused on student success. Dr. Riley reported this afternoon we had our entire union group representatives meet to go over the evaluation process where every classified employee will start being evaluated. Dr. Riley noted he would like to reinstate the Technology Committee and would like to have a Board member on the committee. Dr. Riley added Jason Jones has set four dates for this year November 2, December 14, February 15 and March 22 at 2:30p.m., the committee will be made up of teachers, and other staff members. Chairman Frank Todisco addressed the Board asking that if there is anyone interested in taking part in the committee to please email him.

Monthly Reports

Frank Todisco asked Bill King about the Town retirement. Mr. King reported that the Town's Retirement Attorney has recommended that the district have someone as a third party review the current retirement plans to make sure everything is accurate.

First Read/Approval of Board of Ed Policies

- A. Policy 4118.5 - Acceptable Technology Use
- B. Policy 6141.321- Computers: Responsible Student Computer, Network and Internet Use
- C. Policy 6141.328 – Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Faith Leitner reported that the Policy Committee, at the last meeting reviewed the policies and felt comfortable with the policies as they are and added the Committee had no questions. Alexa Garvey stated that Mark Friese was present at the meeting and also reviewed them.

The following motion was made by Alexa Garvey and seconded by Candace Anderson:

Motion 2: To approve Policy 4118.5 Acceptable Technology Use, Policy 6141.321 Computers: Responsible Student Computer, Network and Internet Use, and Policy 6141.328 Bring Your Own Device (BOYD) all as presented.
All: Aye

Committee Reports

The Board had no questions regarding the committee reports.

Middle School Consolidation

Dr. Riley reported there were four meetings held at the middle schools with staff, parents, and community members. Dr. Riley added we will be working with Central Office Cabinet staff and the administrative team on the Middle School Consolidation idea, while putting together the answers to the questions that have been emailed. Dr. Riley stated there would be a Middle School Steering Committee meeting on October 30 to discuss what ideas would be brought to the Board at the November Board meeting.

K-12 Building Committee Update

Deborah Downie gave an update on the K-12 Building project. Mrs. Downie reported there has been some progress in construction and it is on schedule. Mrs. Downie added the hazardous and abatement discussions are moving ahead, the project is moving along well and there is no change on the December/January timeline. Craig Esposito asked if the project is on schedule. Mrs. Downie stated they were behind schedule but now are on schedule, timeline is still the same. Dr. Riley added the new building is set to be completed in June and we will be purchasing furniture, the list of furniture will be going the K-12 Building Committee this coming Tuesday and to the Board of Ed for approval at the November Board meeting. Dr. Riley also noted that the timeline at this time due to PCBs is still December/January timeline and added that is very unlikely that we will move anyone mid-year. Dr. Riley reported that things are going really well with communication between the district and the K-12 Building Committee and added it is better than it has been in the past. Dr. Riley communicated that he is meeting with Colliers representatives every week to stay up to speed on construction project.