

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, Candace Anderson, Alexa Garvey, Terry Stefanski, 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**

There were no Board presentations at this time.

**Communications and Recognitions**

Chairman Frank Todisco commenced the meeting by inviting the administration team to recognize and present their staff retirees with a resolution statement and gift. Tim Smith, Pawcatuck Middle School Principal recognized Teacher, Jo-Ann Pierpont with twenty-three years of service; Mark Friese, Stonington High School Principal recognized Library Media Specialist, Sharon Mueller with twenty-one years of service, and Secretary, Carol Zurcher with 29 years of service; Dr. Van Riley recognized Assistant Superintendent Nikki Gullickson with seven years of service. The administration said a few words of recognition about each retiree.

Chairman Todisco announced an intermission for a small reception at 7:14 pm to honor the retirees and asked the community members to join. The Board of Education meeting resumed at 7:24 pm.

Chairman Frank Todisco recognized Student Government Representative, Cameron Dreher, for her work on the Board and wished her well in her next endeavor.

**Comments from Citizens**

There were not comments from citizens.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Minutes: May 11, 2017 (Regular Meeting)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Occupational & Physical Therapist/COTA Conditions of Employment
- E. Healthy Food Certification 17/18

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

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

**Approval of 2017-2018 School Calendar**

Chairman Frank Todisco explained there were two changes to the 2017/2018 school calendar to reflect the Kindergarten conferences and start date.

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

**Motion 2:** To approve the 2017-2018 school calendar as presented.  
All: Aye

**Middle School Update (Scheduling and Instructional Minutes)**

Dr. Van Riley spoke on the differences between the two middle schools in the scheduling and instructional minutes. Dr. Riley explained the district has been talking about this issue for a number of years and now has met with school administration, Nikki Gullickson and Allison Van Etten and came up with a consistent and equitable scheduling for both of our middle schools for the first time. Dr. Riley shared a document detailing this update. The Board had no questions regarding this item.

**Middle School Consolidation Study**

Chairman Frank Todisco reported a steering committee has been formed to discuss the middle school consolidation. Chairman Todisco noted that the members are himself, Craig Esposito, was named Secretary and Alexa Garvey was named Chair. Chairman Todisco added that the group met for first time yesterday, Wednesday, and will meet on a regular basis with an update on this topic in the fall and regular updates as the committee moves forward.

**Board Retreat**

Chairman Todisco explained this retreat typically takes place at the end of June beginning of July and will get some dates out to the entire Board in the next week or so and make a decision on when this can be held.

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Van Riley announced the Teacher of the Year was surprised today at his school and asked Assistant Superintendent, Nikki Gullickson, to explain how the Teacher of the Year program and process works. Nikki Gullickson explained every year around April a nomination form is put out to the district electronically, in which this year we ended up with 13 candidates; these candidates are then invited to apply and have a series of questions to answer. Mrs. Gullickson added there is a committee made up of former TOY teachers who reads the applications and then a voting process starts and a selection is done, the individual is invited to apply to the state process. The Stonington Public Schools 2018 Teacher of the Year is Pawcatuck Middle School teacher Dan Agins.

Dr. Van Riley spoke on an update of the state budget and added there is nothing new from the state and it could be a while. Dr. Riley added he meets every week with the administration team to discuss staffing and we still have eight non-renewals still pending, and it does not appear we will have a state budget. Dr. Riley explained his thoughts concerning using the funds from a middle school library media specialist resignation to hire back a teacher back from those eight non-renewals. Dr. Riley explained how the district would cover classes using existing teachers in art and technology. Dr. Riley added that he will need to hold off on the eight non-renewals but will let the Board know every time a decision is made on the rehiring of these teachers and will be hiring the part-time family consumerism teacher back with funds from the library media specialist resignation. Dr. Riley also added that he would be sending out a letter to parents next week with the elementary report cards letting them know that fall assignments are not known. Chairman Todisco asked if the net savings of \$350,000 is not impacted by these decisions. Dr. Riley answered yes; correct, we will have at least that much for an option for the Board.

**Monthly Reports**

Chairman Frank Todisco had questions regarding if the softball scoreboard was completed. Bill King, Director of Operations and Facilities, reported that it was completed two months ago.

**Committee Reports**

The Board had no questions regarding the committee reports.

**Building Committee Update**

Deborah Downie gave an update on the project reporting that the ground breaking at both elementary schools took place earlier in the week to kick off the construction and work will begin in earnest in the next week or so. Ms. Downie also added that most of the contracts are in place and Gilbane will present the (GMC) Guaranteed Maximum Cost at next week's K-12 Building Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 13. Ms. Downie noted that she will not be able to attend the meeting but will make sure someone from the Board attends. Ms. Downie stated that the state and federal regulations require certain testing and a significant amount of testing has been completed. These test results have been sent to the EPA and after they review results, they might ask for additional testing that would be done this summer. Chairman Frank Todisco noted that as more information comes it would be shared with the Board.