

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING October 13, 2016 - Page | 1

Frank Todisco, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:01 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:

STEM Opportunities – Alicia Dawe, WVSS/WBSS Principal

Alicia Dawe, WVSS/WBSS Principal and Kathy Irvine, WVSS/WBSS Assistant Principal introduced teachers Katie Southard and Joseph Burns and students Anna Sundman and Shay Burnside from West Broad Street School who spoke on STEM opportunities and intervention opportunities at WBSS and also shared a presentation that gave an overview of STEM in the third grade at WBSS. Ms. Southard noted that after both her and Mr. Burns attended the Connecticut Science Day at the Connecticut Science Center they started a Lego Robotics Club at WBS because decided it would be a great opportunity for our students to do some engineering work. Ms. Southard, Mr. Burns and the students spoke on their research focusing on STEM. Mr. Burns also spoke on afterschool programs such as the Math Club, which is geared for students who need the extra help in math and the Tech Enrichment Group which focuses on technology and social media, where students learn how different forms of social media and how it affects their life. Katie Southard noted that WBSS had the best testing scores ever this past year. (Presentation attached)

Stonington 2016 Youth Survey – Leanne Theodore, Human Services Director

Leanne Theodore, Director of Human Services, Kristen King, Youth and Family Services and Christine Miskell, Southeastern Regional Action Council were present. Ms. Theodore spoke on the youth surveys that have been conducted in the past and are conducted in order to learn more about risky behaviors and positive issues with students in the community. These surveys are funded through grants, and help the town determine new programs for the community. Ms. Theodore explained that there is funding to conduct another survey with students from grades 6-12 and will conduct other surveys within two to three years to apply for grant funding to provide positive programs within the schools.

Craig Esposito asked when the Youth Survey is scheduled for and results of the 2009 Survey. Ms. Theodore responded that a date has not been set yet for the new survey and will also bring back the results of the 2009 Survey to the Board at a later meeting. Faith Leitner asked which schools will be involved in the Youth Survey. Ms. Theodore noted that it will include Pawcatuck Middle School, Mystic Middle School, and Stonington High School.

Academic Challenges – Nikki Gullickson, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Van Riley explained that tonight would be part of a series of presentations that we will be doing in the upcoming months about student achievement, will also talk about how we measure student progress and about actions that we have taken to help in the focus areas. Ms. Gullickson shared a presentation on 2017 state assessment calendar, student test results from September on ELA and Math, STAR360 assessment, Eureka Math and Wilson Training. Dr. Van Riley reported that administration would present more information to the Board in upcoming meetings once the Teaching and Learning Committee have reviewed it. Dr. Riley noted that the district would be receiving about \$52,000 more in state funding. Dr. Riley asked principals what their needs are and all suggested that the district hire math tutors with the extra funding.

Terry Stefanski asked about the ELA scores and the rationale behind them. Nikki Gullickson explained the various factors that affect these scores. Candace Anderson asked if the WBSS Math Club program was a funded program and noted that she was so impressed with the presentation and this is a great way to bring kids in and bring them up. Alicia Dawe, WBSS Principal explained some funding came from a grant other was teacher volunteers after school. Nikki Gullickson also explained that SEF mini grants funds help our teachers to do things in their classrooms. Deborah Downie had questions on the data presented and the differences and consistency in grades for the different schools. Ms. Gullickson explained the data.