

LITCHFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 16, 2011

A regular meeting of the Litchfield Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Litchfield Intermediate School art room.

Present were: Mr. Simone, Chairperson; Ms. Carr; Ms. Fabbri; Ms. Rosser; Messrs. Falcetti, Katzin, and Shuhi.

Also present: Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; Ms. Della Volpe; Ms. Murphy; Ms. Kubisek; the public and the press.

MOTION made by Mr. Falcetti and seconded by Ms. Carr: to approve the consent agenda with the following corrections: on page 2548 change CAPS to CAPSS, CEA to CEC and strike LEA; remove .4 school psychologist reduction from Mr. Shuhi's list and add it to the next paragraph under board discussion; also in Mr. Shuhi's list .5 FTE would remain after reduction of World Language or Science position, and on page 2544, the last paragraph change "biding" to "bidding".

- a. Approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting March 2, 2011.
- b. Approve the Minutes of Special Meeting March 9, 2011.
- c. Approve the payment of invoices for 2010-2011 budget as required.
- d. Approve out of state field trip- Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. Mr. Simone abstained.

Public Comment and Correspondence

Ms. Fabbri reported on the following STPC activities: successful conclusion of the concession stand at basketball games thanks to parent volunteers; thanks to Ms. Salinger and the art students who designed a new sign for the stand; new fundraiser began today-gourmet dessert sale; and parent academy on March 28th on cyber bullying.

Ms. Moore reported on the following PTO activities: finishing up plans for the first road race in memory of Joanne McCormick on April 9th and planning book fairs at both Center School and the Intermediate School during parent-teacher conference week.

Jessica Blasavage reported on the student council activities at the high school.

Litchfield Board of Education Regular Meeting, March 16, 2011

Dr. Wheeler requested any information the student council might receive at the conference on the proposed changes to bullying regulations to be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

Wendy Snow-Crane commented on the swim meet today and the positive interaction and support from other schools the Litchfield team received.

Board members received the following correspondence: an invitation for the LEF Palooza fundraiser activity to be held on Saturday, at the Intermediate School.

Ms. Murphy reported on the following at the Intermediate School: nearing completion of the CMT testing; make ups next week; and everything shipped out the following week.

Board members commented on scheduling CMT's during the week of changing the clocks and therefore losing an hour and whether that would affect scores.

Ms. DellaVolpe reported on the following at the high school: Art students have their pieces displayed outside of school; and thanks to Ms. Murphy; Ms. Longobucco; Ms. Kubisek; Mr. Zaremski; Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Buccitelli for their efforts in building the budget this year.

Mr. Crowe commented on the very good leadership during the budget process with very good results; extremely smooth this year with information provided by Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Buccitelli.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wheeler reported on the following:

- Thanks to all the volunteers who ran the concession booth for STPC raising \$2,000 for student scholarships. Patty Butwell, Jen Zeidler, Mary Lynn Hula, Suvi Losee, Kim Lasky, Tom Arnold, Ed Fabbri, Cindy Birkins, Jeanie Sanford, Bob Gavell, Wayne Shuhi, Frank Simone, Lori Binstadt, Heidi Fagan, Paula Grabowski, Sandra Newbury, Emily Swomley, Deb Godbout, Nina Tourtelotte, Debby Elwell, Chris Hayward, Kristen Arnold, and Lori Shuhi.
- Mr. Fowler's 12th grade science class worked as peer tutors and mentors with second graders to dissect a sheep's eye.

New Business

- a. Vote to establish high school graduation date for June 2011 - Dr. Wheeler and Ms. Della Volpe discussed a possible high school graduation; two dates available at the Warner

Theater – June 15th and 21st; review of the statute and the 15th is problematic as the 180th day is on the 16th; 21st is too far after the last day.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to have graduation on June 15th pending Dr. Wheeler's research.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative except Ms. Carr who voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

- b. Receipt of and Action Upon Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools Concerning the Institution of Teacher Non Renewals Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151 – Dr. Wheeler presented the following:

In my capacity as Superintendent of Schools, I recommend that the Board of Education non-renew the teaching contract of Brooke Hazen, Amy Killiany, Matthew McDevitt, Adam Piechowski, Randi Zanesky, Jessica DeLucia, Jennifer Digliani, Rebecca Duquette, Heidi Lechich, Mark Obolewicz, Andrew Parker; Nick Primo, Caitlin Van Stone, Shoshana Armington, Carrie Gibbs, Mary Lou Hunchak, Edward Lok, Diana Melendez, Peter Perkins, Kerri Petti, Daniel Porri, Patricia Smaldone, Christine Taylor, at the end of the 2010-2011 school year in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, and the Board accept, adopt and ratify my determination that these contracts be non-renewed.

I am making this recommendation for the following reasons, any one or all of which I view to be sufficient basis for the recommended action:

Budgetary concerns, fiscal problems, student enrollment status, concerns about State financial aid, staff reorganization, administrative recommendation, classroom performance, and other due and sufficient cause.

You should know that the above-named teachers have been advised prior to this meeting that I intended to make this recommendation; and, if the Board takes action, the teacher has the right under Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-51 to request the reasons for the Board's action to non-renew his/her contract of employment and that further, depending upon those reasons, may be entitled to a due-process hearing to consider the Board's decision to non-renew the contract of employment.

I also recommend that I be authorized and instructed to communicate notice of this action in writing to the affected parties and to respond for the Board to any appropriate requests

which may be forthcoming from the teacher or his/her representatives as provided in the Teacher Tenure Law.

MOTION made by Ms. Carr and seconded by Mr. Falcetti: to move pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Litchfield Board of Education non-renew the teacher contracts of Brooke Hazen, Amy Killiany, Matthew McDevitt, Adam Piechowski, Randi Zanesky, Jessica DeLucia, Jennifer Digliani, Rebecca Duquette, Heidi Lechich, Mark Obolewicz, Andrew Parker; Nick Primo, Caitlin Van Stone, Shoshana Armington, Carrie Gibbs, Mary Lou Hunchak, Edward Lok, Diana Melendez, Peter Perkins, Kerri Petti, Daniel Porri, Patricia Smaldone, Christine Taylor, at the end of the 2010-2011 school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and ratify adopt and accept the Superintendent's determination that the contract be non-renewed.

Further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests for a hearing, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the above-named teachers and /or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes 10-151; and further move that the Superintendent be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education.

MOTION carried. All voters were in the affirmative except Mr. Shuhi who voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

- c. Dr. Wheeler reviewed the Director of Business Operations contract with recommendation to renew.

MOTION made by Mr. Katzin and seconded by Ms. Carr: to renew Pat Buccitelli as business operations manager for a period not to exceed three years.

Board members discussed concerns and success during past three years.

MOTION denied. All votes were in the affirmative except Ms. Fabbri, Mr. Falcetti, Mr. Shuhi, and Mr. Simone who voted in the negative.

MOTION made by Mr. Katzin and seconded by Ms. Carr: to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate a contract with the Director of Business Operations not to exceed two years.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative except Ms. Fabbri, Mr. Falcetti and Mr. Shuhi who voted in the negative. There were no abstentions.

Committee Reports

Facilities & Technology - Mr. Shuhi reported that the Facilities and Technology Committee met on March 14th, which was attended by Mr. Paul and Mr. Healy, and discussed: information from the meeting at the town hall with First Selectman, Mr. Paul; Chairman of the Board of Finance, Mr. Geiger; Dr. Wheeler; Mr. Buccitelli; and Mr. Healy; committee reviewed questions and concerns and the need to reach resolutions.

Curriculum and Personnel - Ms. Fabbri reported that the committee met March 10th and discussed writing instruction K-12 including methods, materials and assessments; presentation from Debbie Dove on 7-12 language arts; high school course of studies; world language program update; LIS schedule; supplemental skills position; Director of Business Operations contract; AFSME contract; Math 7-12, student feedback evaluation and course registration.

Policy Committee - The committee will meet March 17th.

Policies

MOTION made by Mr. Simone and seconded by Ms. Fabbri: to approve Policy #3310 - Purchasing Guides.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Falcetti: to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Falcetti, Secretary
Joanne Bertrand, Recording Secretary