

Litchfield Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2022

1. Call to Order The regular Board of Education meeting held at Litchfield Intermediate School and via teleconference was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Terzian.

Members present: Mr. Terzian, Chair, Mr. Malo, Secretary, Mr. Morosani, Mr. Breslin, Ms. Murphy, Mr. Shuhi, Ms. Reardon, and Ms. Stone. Also present: Mr. Leone, Superintendent, Ms. Della Volpe, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Kennedy, Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Pascento, Principal Litchfield Middle/High School, Mr. Valerio, Principal of Litchfield Intermediate School, Mrs. Deltano, Principal Litchfield Center School, Mr. Robillard, Accounting Manager, Mrs. Baranauskas, K-12 STEM Coordinator, Mrs. Vecca, K-12 Humanities Coordinator, Mrs. Smith, K-12 Humanities Coordinator, and Mrs. Hodges, District Liaison, LPS & RSD6.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Terzian invited everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Points of Pride

Mrs. Kennedy introduced Judge Charles Gill and read his biography. In addition to Judge Gill's various accomplishments, of note, his three children, two lawyers, and a doctor are graduates of the Litchfield Public School system. Judge Gill recognized several students as part of the annual arts awards. Students received a personalized piece of art created by Judge Gill along with a monetary gift. Recipients of these awards from Litchfield Center School are Rohan Nevers, Emma Levesque, Alexander Polozov, and Madison MacDonald. Recipients from Litchfield Intermediate School are Teagan Gagnon, Jehsinia Deleston-Weiss, and Henleigh-Belle Reeder. Recipients from Litchfield Middle School are Madeline Saunders and Jack Reynolds. Recipients from Litchfield High School are Elisa Gianfagna, Jenna Sobek, Jamison Dyer, and Katharine Orr.

Joanne Moore was also recognized as a Points of Pride recipient. Mrs. Moore is retiring this school year and was thanked for her 28 years of dedicated service to the district. Additionally, a little free library will be installed at Litchfield Center School in her honor.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Review the minutes of the regular meeting of May 12, 2022

Mr. Morosani made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 12, 2022. Mr. Malo seconded the motion. Ms. Stone abstained. The motion unanimously.

5. Public Comment

Lynn Rice Scozzafava spoke as an ELA teacher from LHS. On June 8th Ms. Scozzafava and her colleague Sandy Carlson took 35 freshmen to Lenox, MA to author Edith Wharton's home, The Mount, and Shakespeare & Company Theater to see the *Iliad* the retelling of Homer's epic. She was happy to report the students were amazing and it wasn't long before the compliments about the students starting coming in. Adults at every venue whether staff or other patrons were totally impressed with the student's engagement, attentiveness, kindness and sheer joy. She was thankful for the generous support of the LEF who fully funded the trip, the Board of Education and the district and building administration. At Shakespeare & Company they were told they were the first student group back to their venue. Ms. Scozzafava said, more than anything, while we still have a lot of challenges ahead, the kids are going to be all right.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. 2021-2022 Finance Report

There is no change to revenue as of the June 1st update. There is a \$5k transfer request to cover \$2,500 for the light board replacement in the Litchfield Intermediate School auditorium and \$3,000 for air duct maintenance at Litchfield Center School. These items are covered by the realized savings in Learning Programs.

b. Personnel Report

Mr. Leone reviewed the June Personnel report and thanked Lisa Deltano as they have a recommendation for a Library Media Specialist to replace Joanne Moore at Litchfield Center School.

c. Enrollment Report

Mr. Leone reviewed the June Enrollment Report and commented along with all other schools in the state the district will get cited for chronic absenteeism as everyone continues to deal with COVID.

d. School Security Update

Mr. Leone provided the Board with a handout that outlined the following. Mr. Leone held a Community Forum on Safety and Security on June 1, 2022, with over 50 people attending. Based on feedback from the forum, emails, and calls he has received, the next steps are to meet with the SROs. One of the changes will be that the SROs are going to report directly to the Superintendent. Additionally, a job posting for another SRO for Litchfield Public Schools will be posted. Mr. Leone will establish a Safety and Security Task Force by the end of June to work on continuous safety and security improvements. He anticipates at the July Board of Education meeting to bring forward a revised SRO job description and Board policy that may include wording on the option to arm each SRO.

e. Temporary Regional School Study Committee Update

Mr. Leone opened by commenting the referendum date has been set for June 28, 2022, for registered voters in the towns of Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, and Warren. Ballots have been printed and absentee ballots are available through each Town Clerk. Ms. Reardon asked if part-time residents who can vote for the budget can vote in the referendum. Mr. Leone responded that registered voters, just like those who vote in elections in November, are eligible to vote on the referendum question.

Mr. Leone shared a memo with the Board on referendum expenses by town and commented unless there are any objections; the district will encumber the funds to pay these expenses. He outlined the percentage to be paid by each district. There was no objection made by the Board.

Mr. Leone asked the Board to make a motion to add *Item 10.a First Read iii. Policy 6177.1 Reading Assignments and Other Instructional Material*.

Mr. Breslin made a motion to add *10.a First Read iii. Policy 6177.1 Reading Assignments and Other Instructional Material*. Ms. Reardon seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

7. New Business**a. Budget Transfer Request - June**

Mr. Shuhi made a motion to approve the Budget Transfer Request – June. Ms. Reardon seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

b. Approval of Plumb Hill Playing Field Agreement

Mr. Malo made a motion for the Approval of Plumb Hill Playing Field Agreement. Mr. Morosani seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

c. Approval of Singular IT/Facilities Ticket System

Mr. Breslin made a motion for the Approval of the Singular IT/Facilities Ticket System. Mr. Shuhi seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

d. Approval of the AFSCME Contract

Mr. Morosani made a motion for the Approval of the AFSCME Contract. Ms. Stone seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

e. Approval of Non-Resident Tuition

Ms. Reardon made a motion for the Approval of Non-Resident Tuition. Mr. Shuhi seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

f. Approval of Little Free Library – Litchfield Center School

Mr. Breslin made a motion for the Approval of Little Free Library – Litchfield Center School. Mr. Morosani seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

g. Approval of Superintendent Evaluation

Ms. Reardon made a motion for the Approval of Superintendent Evaluation. Mr. Morosani seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

8. Old Business

None

9. Committee Reports

Ms. Stone commented the last meeting she attended there was a review of the financial health of EdAdvance and it is doing quite well. EdAdvance is also having challenges hiring and finding the best candidates. This year in regard to raises, they are not giving everyone the same percentage. They are looking to deviate to be competitive in the market so they are thinking out of the box. They are expanding food service. Ms. Stone closed by sharing EdAdvance extended the Executive Director's contract.

Mr. Shuhi provided the Facilities and Technology Committee update that met earlier in the evening. Three of the items that were discussed were just covered at the Board meeting, Plumb Hill Playing Fields, Little Free Library, and the Security Update. The fourth item was visitor identification technology – Raptor as a safety measure to screen people prior to allowing them in the school buildings.

Mr. Morosani commented the Long Term Planning Committee did not meet but was wondering if the district was able to establish a date for the Joint Board Retreat with Region 6. Mr. Leone responded on the two dates proposed the district was unable to get enough Board members for a quorum so it will likely be held in early to mid-July.

Ms. Reardon shared that Curriculum, Programs & Personnel Committee met earlier in the evening saying Mr. Leone provided the committee with a number of legislative changes impacting education. EDI goals will be discussed at the July meeting. Mrs. Kennedy gave a Curriculum update and the committee also discussed *Policy 6177.1 Reading Assignments and Other Instructional Material*.

Mr. Terzian covered the Finance Committee update with a review of the 2021-2022 Budget, Budget Transfers for June, and the 2022-2023 Budget.

Mr. Malo shared the Policy Committee met very briefly earlier in the evening and discussed Policy 6177.1 that has also been added to the agenda for First Read.

10. Policy Review

a. First Read

- i. Policy 3542.42 Charging Policy
- ii. Policy 5118 Non-Resident Attendance
- iii. Policy 6177.1 Reading Assignments and Other Instructional Material

b. Second Read

- i. Policy 6146.11 Grade Weighting/Class Ranking

Mr. Morosani made a motion to approve *10b.Second Read i. Policy 6146.11 Grade Weighting/Class Ranking*. Ms. Reardon seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Shuhi made a motion to enter Executive Session for a Personnel Matter and invited Mr. Leone and Ms. Della Volpe. Mr. Morosani seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

11. Executive Session (Anticipated)

Entered Executive Session: 7:55 p.m.

Exited Executive Session: 8:07 p.m.

12. Adjournment There being no further business to come before this meeting, Mr. Morosani made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Shuhi seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Escobar
Secretary, pro-tem