

Frank Todisco, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Pawcatuck Middle School Cafeteria. Members present were, Alexa Garvey, Board Secretary, Candace Anderson, Jack Morehouse, Alisa Morrison, and Craig Esposito.

Absent: Deborah Downie

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

Middle School Steering Committee Report

Pawcatuck Middle School Principal, Tim Smith gave an update on the progress of the middle school consolidation. Mr. Smith reported that all sub committees met on Friday, April 13 and shared some of the items discussed. Some of the topics discussed in the Programs subcommittee were social and emotional learning strategies, increase interdisciplinary opportunities, high school readiness, develop a community service model, student and parent involvement, curriculum, team structure and late start on Wednesdays to give an opportunity for teams to meet. The Operations group main focus was to create a handbook for the middle schools, plan a parent event in May to tour the school, share their concerns and what new experiences they would like for their students, and discussed school mascot. The Communications subcommittee discussed announcing the colors and mascot in mid-May. The Facilities subcommittee looked at different parking issues, a new traffic pattern, policy for student pick up, color code and stripped parking areas to assist with traffic flow and crossing guards for safety. The Technology subcommittee discussed Chromebook handling, standard classroom technology, integration with technology and student led conferences. Mr. Smith added that Special Services Director, Ms. Allison Van Etten would be touring the building with staff from the School Health Based program to look at placement of the clinic in the building.

Communications and Recognitions

Mark Friese, Stonington High School Principal, recognized teacher Kaitlin Johnson, who received the 2018 Funds for Teachers Grant. She will be going to Costa Rica to become certified yoga instructor and her goal is to use this skill in her science classes and in other classrooms.

Tim Smith, Pawcatuck Middle School Principal, recognized the Fund for Teachers Grant award winners, Elaine Temel, Grade 5 teacher who will be going to Ireland and UK. Her field of study is using place as part of the writing process and will bring this back to the classroom. Diane Gallo, art teacher was awarded a Fulbright Award, will spend a week in San Francisco with teachers from Japan, and in July will be going to Japan to work with those teachers as part of an exchange program. Tim Flanagan is also a Fund for Teacher award winner, and as part of the Transatlantic Outreach Program, he will be taking a trip to Cuba to learn photography skills and come back and teach a photography class. Mr. Smith also mentioned that on May 3, Mr. Flanagan will be presenting his photographs taken during his journey to Southeast Asia at the Westerly Public Library at 6pm. Mr. Smith recognized both middle schools for receiving the Michaels Cup Award for Unified Sports and applauded teachers Duffy Grace and Emilie Cravinho for doing a great job with the unified sports program.

Jack Morehouse recognized those who were responsible for the Beatlemania event and added it was nice to see the community come together, it was a really nice time.

Dr. Van Riley recognized and thanked Mark Friese, Margo Crowley, and Neale Curland who went to the hospital with one of our students to visit their ill parent and present the student with her diploma, since we are unsure the parent will make it to the regular graduation. Dr. Riley thanked administration for doing this caring gesture.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from citizens.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – March 8, 2018 (Regular)
March 8, 2018 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Personnel Report
- D. First Read of Curriculum: Music Appreciation
Grade Nine English
Senior Probability and Statistics
- E. IDEA Grant

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Candace Anderson:

Motion 1: To approve items A - E on the Consent Agenda.

All: Aye

Approval of Transportation Contract with First Student

Chairman Frank Todisco noted the Board was provided with a copy of the contract and asked if there were any questions. The Board did not have any questions.

The following motion was made by Alisa Morrison and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 2: To approve the transportation contract with First Student as presented.

All: Aye

2018-2019 School Budget Update and Action

Chairman Frank Todisco explained there is no action needed on this item. He explained there is a budget vote on May 8 if the budget passes the administration will come forward with the reeducations that we were asked to make. If it does not pass, the Board will need to discuss where we go from there. This item will be moved to the May 10 agenda.

Approval of Stonington High School 2018 Graduation Date/Revised 2017-2018 Calendar

Dr. Van Riley explained graduation is set for June 22 and two days of Professional Development the following week, and recommended the Board's approval of the calendar as presented.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Candace Anderson.

Motion 3: Move to accept the 2017-18 school calendar as presented.

All: Aye

Summer Programs

Allison Van Etten, Director of Special Services communicated as a side note, that the Unified Sports Banquet will be on June 7 at 5:30pm at Stonington High School and will be sending invitations for that event. Mrs. Van Etten reported we will be offering a summer program for students with special education plans that have this stated in their IEP and will host this at the high school. There will be a summer program for grades K-12 involving Wilson reading lab, speech services, social thinking services, life skills program in month of July for three days a week for four weeks. Students will be given a free lunch this will take place at the high school. We will also be hosting a social skills camp the first week in August for grades 5-8 at Mystic Middle School, Monday through Friday.

Principal Jenn McCurdy, added the elementary schools are offering summer academy for non-special ed students who need reading and math support for two weeks in August, three days a week, a half-day, K-4 grade. We will be also offering preschool readiness program will also be offered, held at the same time at the high school.

Principal Tim Smith, also reported Pawcatuck Middle School will have a summer program for extra support in reading, math and hands on STEAM activities, which will take place starting August for three weeks, four days a week.

Principal Mark Friese also mentioned there will be a program at the high school the week of August 13 targeting current 8th graders in math and is open to all students to get ready for high school in September.

Second Read/Approval – Policy 6172 Alternative Education

The Board had no questions regarding Policy 6172.

The following motion was made by Candace Anderson and seconded by Alisa Morrison.

Motion 4: Move to approve Policy 6172 Alternative Education as presented

All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools - Staffing and Program Update - Dr. Riley, Superintendent explained that a number of teachers have asked about assignments for 2019. He will be working with administrators on putting a list together of staffing for 2019 after the elementary transition is done and for the middle school consolidation to see what the staffing will look like. He will have that out before the end of this school year. He also sent a survey out last week to all K-8 teachers and asked teachers what they would like to teach, and will put together a tentative staffing for the 2019 year which will drive what will happen next year in the transition. Dr. Riley also explained the issue with split classes and positions at the high school. He noted we are putting back two art positions at the high school and eliminating the STEEM classes due to enrollment, some of those classes will go back to the art classes. He also reported that Mystic Middle School had an interesting year, the STEEM program was not working at Mystic Middle School, and so we moved part of program back to the art program. We hired a great art teacher and students are excited about art. He explained we still have issues with getting highly qualified math teachers at the middle school levels and will be looking at that for next school year and 2019. We will also look at moving teachers around so we do not have same issue as this year. We have staffing issues at Mystic Middle School; Mr. Hilbie will be leaving, a PE teacher, and a teacher from Pawcatuck Middle School. With the merging in 2019, some of these positions will become interim positions. Dr. Riley reminded the Board that at the May 10 Board meeting he will have presentation on the elementary schedule for 2019. He explained another important item is a teacher handbook for the middle schools that will be done this September. He also spoke on the upcoming configuration for school year 2018 regarding administration at the middle schools. Mr. Smith will assume the role of principal at both middle schools, we will have the current two assistant principals and will hire two dean positions, one for each middle school, which will provide support for the current assistant principals, and principal who will go between the two schools. Both schools will have equal staffing. We will advertise in and out of district for the new positions. The two dean positions will be paid for out of the current funding of Mr. Keith's position who will be leaving and some grant funds.

Alisa Morrison asked if interim dean positions were one-year positions, and Dr. Riley confirmed that yes they were.

Monthly Reports

The Board had no comments on the monthly reports.

Committee Reports

The Board had no comments on the committee reports.

Building Committee Update

Dr. Riley, Superintendent explained he has met four times this week with different groups. We are dealing with budget short falls at West Vine Street School but Colliers will be coming up with ways to postpone purchases and move around funds so that we are able to accomplish work that needs to be done, final decision on this will be up to the Building Committee. The Building Committee will be meeting Tuesday before the regular meeting with their finance committee to discuss these issues. The PCBs at West Vine are at the EPA and will know in a few weeks.

Chairman Todisco asked do we know what is driving the short fall, Dr. Riley said much is to do with the ledge; they had to put another \$300,000 to drill holes to put in a fence, blasting, ledge, PCBs and rebuild are the items driving the short fall.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

There were no comments.

Items for Future Agendas

1. May Retirements/Recognitions
2. Elementary Program Report
3. School Calendar for 2018-2019

Board Comments/Concerns

The Board had no comments or concerns.

Adjournment

The following motion was made by Alexa Garvey and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 5: To Adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

All: Aye


Alexa J. Garvey, Board Secretary