

Alexa Garvey, Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were, Candace Anderson, Jack Morehouse, Alisa Morrison, Farouk Rajab, and Craig Esposito.

Members Absent: Deborah Downie

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

Alexa Garvey, Chairwoman, explained the first comments from citizens would be anything that does not relate to the elementary music program. Once the report of the elementary music program is completed, we will open up to public comments with no more than 5 minutes per person and no more than a total of 20 minutes of comments.

Board Presentation

Student Recognitions AP/National Merit – Mark Friese, SHS Principal – Principal Friese recognized the following students past and present for various awards (current students in bold):

- National AP Scholar (Average of 4 or higher on all exams taken, 4 or higher on eight or more exams)
 - Abby Wang
- AP Scholar with Distinction (3.5 average on all exams taken, 3 or higher on five or more exams)
 - Regan Anderson, Halle Anderson, Riley Casadei, Blake Edwards, Adam Gibbs, Charlotte Johnstone, Jason Kilcoyne, Laura Marseglia, **Caroline Morehouse**, Abby Wang, Jessica Weber
- AP Scholar with Honor (3.25 average on all exams taken, 3 or higher on four or more exams)
 - **Caroline Andrews**, Maddie Britto, John Bury, **Julia Chomowicz**, Charles Fornara, Brielle Frantoni-Jaskiew, Jessie Gentilella, Alexis Gomes, Ainsley Johnstone, Pat Nowak, **Lindsey Orr**, Emily Rundlett, Katja Sieling, **Daisy Williams**, Hallie Wiltshire, Nicola Wood, Elizabeth Yarnell
- AP Scholar (3 or higher on three or more exams)
 - William Hardy, **Joseph Hinkley**, **Hannah Lamb**, Trinity Lennon, Hannah Middleton-Kranc, Luke Monteiro, Jake Mueller, Max Mueller, **Justin Paoloni**, **Emma Sabbadini**, Samuel Snediker, Emily Tieu
- National Merit Scholarship
 - National Merit Semi-Finalist - **Caroline Morehouse**
 - National Merit Commended Students - **Daisy Williams**, **Christian Donovan**, **Julia Chomowicz**

Communications and Recognitions

There were no communications and recognitions.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from citizens.

Elementary Music Program

Dr. Van Riley gave a summary of the proposed elementary music program. He explained the financial differences between a 0.4 music teacher and a 0.5 music teacher. A 0.4 music teacher would cost \$19,024/yr and a 0.5 teacher costs \$46,000/yr this includes a full benefit package. He spoke on potential enrollment issues. Dr. Riley gave his recommendation of providing voluntary band instruction in the 5th grade in the 2019-20 school year.

Public Comment

Heidi Ferrier commented on the consolidation and the promise of more opportunities for students, instead opportunities are being eliminated. She voiced she is frustrated and disappointed that comments that were said by parents in the last Board meeting did not have an impact on what is being presented for the music program.

Christina Fullerton said she attended the open dialogue last week between the Board, teachers and administration regarding the music program and feels this is a move in the right direction. She also commented on the scheduling of the instrumental band lessons and suggested that we give instrumental band lessons in 4th grade. She added it is important to have equality in all the arts. She commented on the financial impact and savings with the consolidation and would like to see a Board member take part in managing the deadline of the music curriculum deadline.

Allison Marseglia spoke of her personal experiences in band in middle school and how participating in an ensemble setting helped her in many ways. She advocated for music and instrumental instruction in 4th grade. She added, the savings from the consolidation could be used to help fund instruments for the 4th grade. She stressed the importance of vocal music and would like students to be allowed to choose between chorus and band and not general music in 5th grade.

Rob Marseglia shared an informational document with the Board regarding specifications of the music rooms in the new elementary buildings. He added that both buildings will provide adequate space for the music programs and also shared information of number of classrooms at each