

## STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING December 13, 2018 - Page | 1

Alexa Garvey, Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were, Deborah Downie, Jack Morehouse, Farouk Rajab, and Craig Esposito.  
Member Absent: Alisa Morrison and Candace Anderson

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.

### **Presentation – Google Expedition – SHS Junior Class**

Rachel Limberakis, Integrated Technology Specialist, gave a short demonstration on the Google Expedition. The Board had hands on experience of this project.

### **Communications & Recognitions**

Jack Morehouse communicated he recently attended the band concert at the high school, and added that it was phenomenal and thanked all the band students and Mrs. Gottlieb.

### **Comments from Citizens**

No comments from citizens.

### **AP District Honor Roll**

Mark Friese shared that Dr. Riley received a letter from the College Board, which stated Stonington district is one of 373 schools in the United States and Canada who have been placed on the College Board District Honor Roll for AP performance. He explained this award is based on the students in AP courses and their success over a three-year period that has shown an increase. We have increased the number of students in the past three years who take AP courses from 120 students to 155 students presently. In Stonington 85% of our students who take AP courses, pass with a three or higher. Mr. Friese thanked the Board and teachers for their support, and guidance so that students can get this type opportunity. He ended by saying how he could not be prouder of our students.

### **Board Goals**

Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent shared with the Board the Accountability Matrix of Board Goals, which she also presented at the Teaching and Learning Committee, and lists goals that were developed at the Board retreat. She stated it is color coded to show which items have been completed, those still being worked on and those needing more information. She explained this would help in keeping track of the progress of each goal. Mrs. Butler invited the Board to email questions or concerns regarding the goals.

### **Curriculum and Instruction Update**

Mary Anne Butler gave an update on curriculum and instruction. She shared a PowerPoint presentation while reviewing changes in curriculum and instruction development for the past six years to present. She explained curriculum is linked to standards. She shared what is presently being done in curriculum development. Mrs. Butler explained the district is doing trend visits so we can monitor that the curriculum is actually being used, curriculum meetings are being held, and outside organizations are coming in to speak on curriculum. She added every time new curriculum is developed and approved it is dated and then reviewed again within five years. She reviewed the next steps in curriculum development. See attached presentation. Alexa Garvey, Chairwoman asked when curriculum is developed is there a spot on our websites to access it. Mrs. Butler explained the two areas where one can search curriculum on the district website. Curriculum can be searched by subject or grade level.

### **Middle School Consolidation Report/Update**

Tim Smith reported on the middle school consolidation update and explained the primary focus has been on communications. We have held two informal parent coffee meetings, to give parents an update and an opportunity to ask questions and express concerns. On Tuesday, December 11, we had a parent night and some presentations on safety and vaping and had almost 40 people in attendance. We created two new sub committees to focus on climate and communications. The goal is to support both schools in current buildings and primarily to start planning activities to involve students from both schools together. Mr. Smith shared students now use google docs to co edit and work on the google documents across schools, which has helped make solid connections. We will continue to do online opportunities, and will plan activities to bring students together. We have also had joint faculty meetings. We had people from Safe Futures come in and work with staff to speak about how and what they are feeling about the consolidations and have done the same thing with the parents. Mr. Smith reported the big item of concern for parents with the consolidation is bus rides. We will be working with the bus company sooner than later on bus runs. Parents suggested doing a dry run of the bus runs in the last month of school to put fears aside of bus runs. There was also a consensus from parents to get kids together to do activities before the consolidation. Mr. Smith will share as much as possible of the logistics before the end of the school year. He also added there will be a collaboration with Ms. Houle's class at the high school and students at the middle school to create a better middle school experience.