

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING February 14, 2019 - Page | 1

Alexa Garvey, Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were, Jack Morehouse, Deborah Downie, Candace Anderson, Alisa Morrison, and Craig Esposito.
Member Absent: Farouk Rajab

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.

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey introduced and invited the Boy Scouts, Ben Young, RJ Kelley, Logan Freitas, and Jake Linicus of Troop 9 of St. Michael's Church, Pawcatuck, who led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

Communications & Recognitions

Jack Morehouse communicated that the SEF will hold its annual event on April 6 at the Mystic Art Museum. He added there will also be an exhibit of children's art at the event.

Caroline Morehouse, Student Government Representative shared that during the week of February 25 the Student Government will be holding a wellness week to promote mental health awareness, and make sure students know of resources at the high school and Human Services. They will also be bringing in speakers and therapy animals. She asked the Board if they had any ideas or recommendations for that week to please share with her.

Dr. Riley announced three special recognitions: Duffy Grace, PE/Health Teacher at Mystic Middle School was named the 2019 Middle School Unified Sports Coach of the Year in the State of Connecticut by the CAS-CIAC. Duffy has the biggest heart for kids and we will honor him more and more as he succeeds with these students. Alicia Sweet-Dawe, West Vine/West Broad Street Schools Principal has been named as one of two finalists by the Connecticut Association of Schools for the 2019 Elementary School Principal of the Year Award. There will be a site visitation by the group in March and then we will find out. Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent, has been selected for the 2019 Fulbright Leaders for Global Schools Program along with nine other administrators from across the United States. She will depart for Finland on March 6th to begin a ten day intensive program including briefings on Finland's renowned education system, school visits and networking events and compare what we do here in the United States. Congratulations.

Comments from Citizens

No comments from citizens.

Middle School Consolidation Report/Update

Tim Smith reported the biggest step forward taken has been is that all of the staffing has been announced for the SMS in grade and level content. All the teachers know who their teammates will be. We continue working on identifying new encore classes with the help of Jennifer Bausch. He also shared Deans, Ms. Breen and Mr. Howe have put together joint advisory groups, and other activities, such as classroom door decorating contest which was reported in the Westerly Sun newspaper and we will also be using staff of the LINK Crew at the high school to help with orientation. The implementation of a new program at the middle school called WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) will take place at the beginning of 2020-2021 school year for the very first incoming 6th grade. The complete "dry run" of the proposed bus routes for next year will not occur, the plans for joint activities on March 8 is moving forward. Mr. Smith also reported that there was a walkthrough of the Mystic site to create a list of technology in each classroom. School operations continue to work with the bus company on proposed routes, bus dismissal alignments, parking and travel patterns at the beginning and end of the day. A draft of room assignments will be completed in March. Mr. Smith added based on parent feedback the Family ID program currently used at the high school will be adopted for registration and paperwork management for sports next year. A complete Middle School Consolidation report can be found on the Stonington Public Schools website.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – January 10, 2019 (Regular Meeting)
January 14, 2019 (Special Meeting)
January 17, 2019 (Special Meeting)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report
- E. Healthy Food Certification

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Jack Morehouse:

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

All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Riley shared a copy of the map that will be the new District Office, which showed where each department and Alternative Ed programs will be located in the Pawcatuck building. He explained there has been some changes from the original plan, but this plan is what will be moved forward. He explained which sections will need modifications in regards to entrances and other facility needs. He added that he met with Leanne Theodore and Richard Ward from Human Services to discuss which areas will be designated for their recreation programs. Candace Anderson asked how this new layout differs from the previous walkthrough that took place with the Board of Education members. Dr. Riley explained that initially the Alternative Ed program and recreation were going to be located on the second floor and now it will be on the first floor. Dr. Riley also noted that the Human Services will be using some of the areas on the first floor. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey asked how the public will have access to the Superintendent on the second floor, asked where the elevators and stairs for this were. Dr. Riley explained there is both stairs and elevator to the right of the offices on the second floor.

First Read Curriculum – Introduction to Piano, Grade 3, 4, 5 Science

Chairwoman Garvey, asked if the Board had questions on the curriculum and noted that it was just a first read and will come back in March for approval. Jack Morehouse asked if our schools have weather instruments where students can get hands on real time information or just use internet access. Mrs. Bausch said both middle schools did have a weather station but did not think that the elementary schools did and said that it something that could be ordered. She also mentioned that weather will now be taught in Kindergarten and Third Grade. He also asked about the piano curriculum, what do students have available for pianos or is it on their own pianos. Jenn explained that there are several piano stations around the room and each student works at their own pace. Even though it is an introductory course, students enter at all levels. Chris Stanley, the teacher begins the class as a whole group and then the students work individually. Mr. Stanley is able to work 1:1 with each student throughout the class. Chairwoman Garvey suggested if the Board had any other questions to contact Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent, before this item comes back for approval at the March Board meeting.

2019-2020 Budget Approval

Dr. Riley explained we took the proposed budget presented at the last meeting and have updated it per the Board's recommendations. There were a few minor changes in the narrative of the budget information. We are at a point where we are asking for \$5,000 less this year than last. Dr. Riley reviewed each budget line and spoke on the question of the insurance line. He explained the difference between the matrix that the Town uses regarding insurance and the District's. He gave brief history of the 1993 agreement in regards to insurance and how much funding should be added to the insurance account. Dr. Riley suggested we keep the amount as is and would be more than the matrix suggests. Deborah Downie, asked what is going to happen going forward, will there be a meeting? Chairwoman Garvey explained we will be going to our insurance broker and then bringing that back to the three Boards. Timeline for decision would hopefully be in the summer.

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Candace Anderson:

Motion 2: To approve the 2019-2020 Budget as submitted and presented.

All: Aye

Chairwoman Garvey stated we have a budget to go forward to the Board of Finance. We will be presented our budget on Tuesday, March 12.

CIP Update Request from Board of Finance -With Finance Amounts/Without Finance Amounts

Dr. Riley explained the differences between both CIP spreadsheets. The first CIP spreadsheet is with financing, which is what the Board approved when it was presented to the Board of Finance first. The second one was requested by the Board of Finance to show without the five year financing for the items that were presented.

Spring Timelines

Staffing Process and Time for Spring 2019

Dr. Riley explained the staffing changes, explained the new positions, and those positions that will be posted; 0.5 Elementary Music Teacher, Academic Interventionist, Elementary Program Facilitator, and Assistant Principal of Guidance of high school, these will be filled by the end of April. There could be some reductions in force also. (See attached for more information)

Furniture and Equipment Disposition Timeline/Policy

Dr. Riley explained the steps that will be taken to dispose of furniture and equipment. We will label what we want to keep, store, or move to a school. Once we have that completed will notify the First Selectman they will come and label and take what they want. We will then give or sell to non-profits, then open up to the Town. He explained Peter Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities has located a non-profit in Massachusetts that will take whatever is left at a cost. Chairwoman Garvey asked if we sell items could the funds be dedicated to a certain source so there is a purpose for collecting the money. Gary said those funds would need to go to the town. (See attached for more information)

Spring 2019 Move Timeline

Dr. Riley explained the timeline of each item and at each school, he explained we have one week basically to pack and move our teachers into the elementary schools. He noted the order of each move as the West Broad Street School will move into West Vine Street School, Deans Mill School will move into the new wing, then Pawcatuck Middle School will move to Mystic Middle School, with the Central Office being the last move to Pawcatuck Middle School as the new District Office. We will have a week to do these moves. (See attached for more information)

March 2018-2019 School Calendar Change/Approval

Dr. Riley explained changes to the 2018-2019. He suggested that the spring conferences be cancelled so that the teachers have time to pack and label everything, and by Monday, April 1 we will be open in our new schools. He said attached to the revised calendar is an explanation of his proposed date changes.

The following motion was made by Jack Morehouse and seconded by Candace Anderson:

Motion 3: Make a motion to approve the revised 2018-19 school calendar.

All: Aye

Monthly Reports

The Board had no questions on the monthly reports.

Committee Reports

The Board had no questions on the monthly reports.

Building Committee Update

Deborah Downie asbestos abatement of 1975 wing will start after school but because it is in separate building it has been approved by the Health Department. They are working through punch lists still outstanding items. They will be repaving areas at West Vine Street School because it was done in November and there are concerns it will not last. There are issues on furniture, we hope the correct furniture comes. Chairwoman Garvey asked have they found out if how much of the list of furniture is correct or not from Germany. Deborah Downie said they don't know.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

Dan Kelly had questions regarding the renovations and when does the public get to see the renovations at the new buildings. Dr. Riley explained parents will receive a letter about the change in the calendar tomorrow or early next week. The Building Committee will be setting the ribbon cutting for the elementary schools and Mr. Smith will be setting a date for the middle school celebration. Deborah Downie confirmed there will be celebrations for both of the schools but no date set as of yet.

Items for Future Agendas

Peter Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities will be inviting representatives from PBS to speak on the LED item at the March Board.

Board Comments and Concerns

Jack Morehouse asked Dr. Riley would it be possible to do a preliminary look at later start times for the high school to see if it is even feasible. Chairwoman Garvey explained we will wait until all settles and then add to our agenda items in the fall.

Candace Anderson commented the older students and recent alumni are really anxious to see the new schools, don't know if there is a way to program those kids that went to Stonington Middle School would like to see what it looked like.

Executive Session

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

Motion 4: To enter into Executive Session and invite Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent and Gary Shettle, Director of Finance to join the Board.

All: Aye

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

Adjournment

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

Motion 5: To Adjourn at 8:06p.m.

All: Aye


Candace Anderson, Secretary