

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

Member Absent: Alisa Morrison

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.

Chairman Garvey noted that Troup 9 Boy Scout, Gavin Jameson and Cub Scout Bryce Jameson led the meeting in the pledge allegiance

Board Presentations

The following motion was made by Candace Anderson and seconded by Farouk Rajab:

Motion 1: To add a drama presentation from the Pawcatuck Middle School to the agenda at this time.

All: Aye

Chairwoman Garvey invited everyone to the Cafeteria to see a small piece of the drama production "Tenth Anniversary Musical" by the Pawcatuck Middle School drama students.

Principal Smith explained this year marks the tenth anniversary and final production of the drama club at Pawcatuck Middle School. This is a reprise of "Annie" a production done in 2010, and they decided to incorporate a bit of all the productions that have been done in the past. Mrs. Adams wrote the script for this production, and some alumni also came to help. Principal Smith thanked Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Liguori, and Mr. Aubin for their work in this last production.

LED Presentation – Practical Energy Solutions (PES) – Peter Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities
Representatives from Practical Energy Solutions (PES) gave a presentation on LED lighting. They spoke on the audit that was done on both the high school and the middle school. The representatives gave a report on what they would be doing as a retrofit and full replacement of the existing units. Board Members asked the following questions: Jack Morehouse asked if a existing fixtures could be converted to LED. The representative answered that yes the same fixtures would be used, you would not be able to tell the difference. Craig Esposito asked what the total savings would be. The total savings at the high school would be \$70,963 and middle school total savings would be \$18,423 making a grand total savings for both schools \$89,386. Farouk Rajab asked if pay back was twenty years or months. He also asked what the amount of finance would be and for how many years. Representative said payback would be twenty years and financing would be estimated at \$605,000 over four years. Mr. Rajab asked if the field lighting could be included and what the savings would be. Representative answered this would double the cost and payment life. Mr. Rajab had questions on the life of the LED lighting, representative answered ten years, and comes with a one year labor warranty then the district would be responsible. Farouk Rajab also asked what the total maintenance savings would be; representative said an estimated \$10,000 per year. Mr. Rajab asked if our closets are equipped with motion sensors, representatives said some are some are not. He also asked about the type of sensors, if they were push button or not.

Technology Report – Jason Jones, Director of Technology

Jason Jones gave a presentation explaining changes in district technology from 2010-2018. He discussed the investments that the Town and Board have made. Mr. Jones reported we have made changes in the website, infrastructure upgrade, changes in student devices, and Wi-Fi capability. Mr. Jones explained the investment in technology, and the future needs in technology. He shared the items being considered for next year and beyond, such as projectors, lab computers, and networking. He added that the funding for technology investments started at \$60,000/year and is now we will be close to \$400,000/year. Mr. Jones finished by introducing Chris Williston the new Director of Technology. Dr. Riley noted that it has been wonderful to work with Mr. Jones, we really appreciate what you have done. You have trained Mr. Williston these past years so that we don't have a void in the transition. Chairwoman Garvey also thanked Mr. Jones for everything and added Mr. Williston we are excited to work with you.

Communications & Recognitions

Jack Morehouse recognized the high school drama production Hello Dolly it was phenomenal performance, with incredible dancing, music and acting it was fantastic. Congratulations to all the students and parents who helped out with that. He also reminded everyone of the upcoming SEF annual Education Celebration on April 6th at the Mystic Museum of Art at 6pm. Mr. Morehouse gave thanks to the high school Student Government, he had an opportunity to attend the wellness week event held at

the high school by the Student Government focusing on student anxiety, and this was well received and it was nice to see students helping students, congratulations and thank you for doing that. Chairwoman Garvey also attended the play at the high school Hello Dolly added it was fabulous and is looking forward to attending the upcoming Pawcatuck Middle drama production. Candace Anderson commented she loved the musical it was unbelievable and added the talent comes from students of both sides of town. It will be exciting to see when those pieces of drama and chorus be put together next year. She added Chairwoman Garvey and Dr. Riley did a great job presenting the budget to the Board of Finance. It makes you realize how much work goes into the budget and detail and how much it takes to run a district. It gave her an appreciation on how well this Board works in the subcommittee structure, and feels anyone of the Board could have commented on the district items and questions. We as a Board communicate well on the components of the district.

Dr. Van Riley also recognized the amazing performance of the Hello Dolly play. He added he sent communication out encouraging all to see the play. He reported he met with freshmen and Student Government to hear their questions and concerns to see what we can do to help students meet some of their needs. Dr. Riley recognized the Board for Board Appreciation Month. He added he feels very supportive with this Board and presented them with thank you cards made by our elementary students and schools also put together packages to recognize how wonderful the Board is.

Jack Morehouse shared that his daughter who is a freshmen said that the superintendent met with the freshmen and he wanted to know what their thoughts were. Mr. Morehouse thanked Dr. Riley for meeting with the freshman and added it was special to them.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from citizens

Middle School Consolidation Report/Update

Principal Tim Smith reported the first consolidation activity and building tour took place Friday, March 8th, which brought 7th graders from Pawcatuck Middle School to Mystic Middle School, all went all. He thanked the administration team for their help in this event. We will be doing the same type of activity with other grades on March 25 and 26. Principal Smith noted that during the March 8th Professional Development session teachers worked in their assigned teams, looked at schedules for next year and began working on new encore classes. We presented CIP items to the Board of Finance for Stonington Middle School, such as air conditioning, parking lot repairs, new cafeteria furniture, new signage and total gym makeover. We also now have estimates on redoing the gym floor with new colors and logo. March 25, 26 and 29 will provide time for teachers moving to the elementary classrooms to pack. On March 29th during the full day professional development teachers will work on curriculum and encore classes. Principal Smith spoke that he participated in a webinar demo of the new Parent Square app as a common platform for the home school connection, this idea has been turned over to our Technology Department for review.

Chairwoman Garvey asked if there will be a mock bus run. Principal Smith responded he was not sure we will be able to do this yet. Dr. Riley added we had one of our district staff members who previously worked at First Student look at the routes just last week but we are not ready yet maybe by May we might be able to share those routes with parents. Chairwoman Garvey asked if there will be a drama club at Stonington Middle School or drama classes. Principal Smith said he saw no reason why we could not continue the drama club, which would be a great feeder program for the high school. He added as far as classes go still to be determined.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – February 14, 2019 (Regular Meeting)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report
- E. Field Trip – Alton Jones Campus, West Greenwich, RI – Pawcatuck Middle School
- F. Wellness Policy – 6142 - Revisions

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Farouk Rajab:

Motion 2: To approve items A - F on the Consent Agenda as presented.

All: Aye

First Read – AP Economics Textbook and Algebra I Textbook

Chairwoman Garvey said those Board members who would like to take a look at the textbooks and take them home to review are welcome to they are available tonight. Chairwoman Garvey asked the Board if there were any questions specifically on these for Mr. Friese. The Board had no questions. Chairwoman Garvey noted this will be brought back to the next meeting agenda for a second read.

Second Read/Approval Curriculum

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Farouk Rajab:

Motion 3: To approve Introduction to Piano curriculum as presented.

All: Aye

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Deborah Downie:

Motion 4: To approve Grade 3, 4, 5 Science curriculum as presented.

All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Riley explained there is a copy of the Policy for disposal of furniture and equipment in the Board packet. We are making sure that the community knows how the process of disposition of old furniture and equipment will be done. He reviewed when the non-profit organizations would be able to view items and take what they would like. Once all those groups have come through each site, we will open this opportunity to the community. He added at noon on Saturday, March 30 this will process will be completed. We will be sending out announcements to all non-profits of when this will take place. We will be doing this at Dean Mill School first and then in April we plan to do the same at West Broad Street School. Dr. Riley reviewed the move calendar and explained that on March 25, 26 and 27 the elementary schools will be packing for the move. On March 29 there will be no school and the movers will be finish moving, the new schools will be open on April 1.

Budget – Update and Direction

Dr. Riley provided the Board with the CIP and outline that addressed items on the CIP. He reviewed what was discussed at the Board of Finance meeting in regards to the CIP. Dr. Riley gave an extreme but real example of what the district pays for a special education student and what percentage of this expense is reimbursed paid by the state. He also gave an update on the bus yard relocation, and its cost of what the Planning and Zoning is requiring is about \$360,000. Dr. Riley's recommendation to the Board was to wait until the Board of Finance does their deliberations and then if we have to make a reductions do them then.

Chairwoman Garvey asked the rest of the Board for their opinion on Dr. Riley's recommendation. Deborah Downie felt that his recommendation made sense, these are our priorities, move forward then if we have to reduce then see what we can reduce across the board. Farouk Rajab supported Dr. Riley's opinion to send it forward and then see what they say. The Board all agreed.

Monthly Reports

Candace Anderson asked about unpaid balances for cafeteria meals. Gary Shettle, Director of Finance reported the debit is now at approximately \$11,000. He added we do not want a child to be penalized, every student receives a meal. Mrs. Anderson asked if there is any way to hold parents accountable. Mr. Shettle explained we do follow up phone calls letters, emails, and certified letters but do not usually get a response. Principal McCurdy replied a big issue is there are free and reduced families that don't always reply because they don't realize they need to every year. She said maybe mailing the forms at the start of school would help. Principal Smith also reported he worked with Becky Fowler, Food Service Director to get some of the families qualified for free and reduced, however this does address the amounts owed before they knew they were qualified. Principal Dawe added the highest debt is not from our free and reduced families but from all others. She also explained our students do not have any idea of this issue because they are provided the same lunch as all other students, this is a very sensitive subject. Mrs. Anderson feels there should be away to hold parents accountable. Allison Van Etten, Director of Special Services offered assistant to this issue by sharing information with the Food Service Department regarding students that qualify, using the Medicaid reimbursement reports. Craig Esposito feels the district could be proactive in this issue.

Committee Reports

Deb Downie explained the accountability report that was discussed at the recent Teaching and Learning Committee meeting. She explained that Mary Anne Butler will be giving a good presentation on this report but wanted everyone to be aware and start become familiar with it. Mrs. Downie explained the twelve indicators on the report. She also explained the document shows compares the scores between years. Mr. Downie added that not having total participation can knock you down from a level one to a level two school. She explained just because there is a drop in levels this could be in part from participation from special ed students also on the tests. Mrs. Downie added if the Board had questions they could email Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent for more detailed answers. Principal Smith gave an explanation of the middle school scoring on each indicator and how participation in any testing can affect the scores. Principals Dawe and McCurdy also explained the effects of participation to scores at the elementary level. Principal Friese also agreed with other principals that participation effected the scores at the high school level and graduation cohort. He added that 2015 was a hard year, with students from other areas, and dropout rate. Participation rate at the high school was at 94.3% which was affected by various student injuries mainly concussions and who could not take the test; we were supposed to be at 95% participation rate. Craig Esposito asked if there was a way in incentivize students to participate.

Building Committee Update

Deborah Downie reported we are moving closer to getting the Certificate of Occupancy (CO). There is still a long punch list to do even after the CO. There will be a lot happening during April break. Mrs. Downie also added there was an agreement to move ahead with the playgrounds now instead of the summer.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

There were no comments from citizens related to Board action on this agenda.

Items for Future Agendas

1. Accountability Report
2. Bus Tracking System

Board Comments and Concerns

Jack Morehouse had a question that stemmed from Dr. Riley's recent meeting with students at the high school regarding if a high school student is a participant in a high school sport and misses a gym class why do they have to make that gym class up. He believes they get one pass, feels like it is an added burden for juniors and seniors when they are doing their essays and preparing for college. Dr. Riley said he told the students that is allowed in other districts in the West coast, he has discussed this with Mr. Friese a few years ago but believes the law in Connecticut did not allow that. Dr. Riley promised the students he would discuss with Principal Friese and report back. Mr. Morehouse added if you miss a Geometry class you would not make that up, just the work. Caroline Morehouse, Student Government Representative voiced why can't a student get a note from their coach to cover the makeup using the sport time. Farouk Rajab also agreed with Ms. Morehouse, it is a challenge. Farouk Rajab asked for an update on the bus tracking technology software are you going to bring this back for discussion. Dr. Riley we currently have a parent involved in this tracking system, the system is up and running but will put this time on the next Board agenda for further discussion.

Chairwoman Garvey thanked everyone for attending the Board of Finance meeting, it was very helpful and also tonight.

Executive Session

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Farouk Rajab:

Motion 5: To enter into Executive Session.

All: Aye

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:04p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 9:35p.m.

Adjournment

The following motion was made by Deborah Downie and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 6: To Adjourn at 9:35p.m.

All: Aye

Candace Anderson, Secretary