

Alexa Garvey, Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were, Jack Morehouse, Farouk Rajab, Deborah Downie, Alisa Morrison, and Craig Esposito.

Member Absent: Candace Anderson; Caroline Morehouse, Student Government Representative

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

Board Presentations

Alexa Garvey, Chairwoman honored the previous Board of Education Chairman, Frank Todisco with a brick recognizing him for his dedicated service on the Board.

Music Presentation – West Vine Street School Students - Alicia Dawe, West Vine Street School Principal introduced music teacher, Emily McClenahan and 4th grade students who performed a few songs while playing the recorder. The students finished by singing a song with lyrics they created about West Vine Street School with Ms. McClenahan on the ukulele.

Retiree Recognitions - Allison Van Etten, Director Special Services, Becky Fowler, Director of Food Service; Principals, Mark Friese, Tim Smith, Alicia Dawe and Jennifer McCurdy honored retirees from their respective schools on their retirement. All retirees were presented with a copy of the resolution below and gift. Chairwoman Garvey invited all for a small reception. The following are the 2018-19 retirees:

Resolution

The Board of Education of Stonington, Connecticut, at its regular meeting on May 9, 2019, adopted this resolution in respect to:

Laurie Hartnett – Mystic Middle School Grade 7 Language Arts Teacher

Eleanor Dunn – West Vine Street School Grade One Teacher

Bonnie Cusack – Deans Mill School Grade One Teacher

Gail McLeod – Deans Mill School Grade Two Teacher

Sherry Castodio – Deans Mill School PE/Health Teacher

Danielle Copper – Pawcatuck Middle Schools Grade Six Language Arts

Deidre Toole – Stonington High School Special Ed Teacher

Nancy Wanat – Stonington High School Special Ed Teacher

Geri Wright – Deans Mill School Special Ed Teacher

Gina Bowman – Deans Mill School Reading Specialist

Kathy St. Rock – Central Office Speech Pathologist

Kathy Sanford – Deans Mill School Grade Four Teacher

Stephanie Akers – Pawcatuck Middle School Grade Seven Teacher

Robin Aubin – Pawcatuck Middle School Chorus Teacher

Karen Chapman – Pawcatuck Middle School Nurse

Giovanna Cordone – Stonington High School Food Service Worker

WHEREAS, This individual has completed seven years of faithful and conscientious service as an employee in the Stonington Public Schools and has now retired and

WHEREAS, This individual has devoted much effort in his/her job assignment to the extent that he is held in high admiration for his/her dedication and personal contributions to the varied needs of the Stonington Public Schools to the extent this person is held in the greatest esteem by all.

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education in a regular meeting assembled on this date attest to the valuable service rendered by this individual to the cause of education in the Town of Stonington, and

Be it further RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread on the minutes of the Board of Education, and that a copy be presented to this honored individual as a testimonial of the Board's sincere appreciation of loyalty, character, and service.

Communications & Recognitions

Farouk Rajab communicated he attended the Mystic River House committee there were no major updates. We have established an Education Committee with the CEO of the Seaport, Mr. White and Judge Kepple to look at creating a plan to put an educational piece and to have our students more involved in the park.

Deborah Downie spoke on how excited she was to serve soup at the Empty Bowls event, where over \$1,200 dollars was raised to go to Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.

Dr. Riley thanked Ana de Oliveira his administrative assistant for putting everything together for tonight's retiree recognitions. He also recognized that on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, students and staff from both Pawcatuck and Mystic Middle Schools were recognized by the CIAC for their participation in Unified Sports. The students were presented with teammate award at the Michaels Cup Unified Sports® Banquet at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. The students receiving this award were Theresa Pont and Mohamad Salha from Mystic Middle and Emmett Peel and Justin Rodriguez from Pawcatuck Middle. He also recognized Mystic Middle School PE teacher Duffy Grace who was also honored at this event as the Middle School Unified Sports Coach of the year award.

Dr. Riley spoke briefly on the Title I funds in regards to the Dean position. He shared information with the Board and asked they review to then bring back to the Board for decision and discussion. Jack Morehouse asked if funding can be used for regular busing. Dr. Riley and Principal Alicia Dawe explained it can be used for field trips, summer programs and transportation other than regular transportation during the school day.

Monthly Reports

There were no questions on the monthly reports.

Committee Reports

There were no questions on the committee reports.

Building Committee Update

Deb Downie reported contractors are making great progress on the playgrounds despite the rain. We are looking for four days with no rain to start the placement of the rubberized surface, hopefully before the end of school. Work on punch list and communication between parties is improving. The abatement is nearly done in the 1975 wing at Deans Mill School and there is still site work to do at Deans Mill School. She noted there was a reporter at the K-12 Building Committee meeting and an article was in the Westerly Sun. She spoke on the HVAC, there is still testing that needs to be done on it even though it is up and running. Peter Anderson and Wes Greenleaf will be working with the company on this issue. Dr. Riley noted the buildings are beautiful but there are still things that need to be worked on but noted they will be resolved.

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

- A. Gym make up class moving to the Policy Committee for review
- B. Presentation on the encore classes at Stonington Middle School

Dr. Riley communicated he hopes to bring a presentation on the encore classes for the Stonington Middle School and are also working on a video commercial presentation.

Board Comments and Concerns

Alisa Morrison noted she is on the Stonington Facility Committee and shared they had three different open houses of the West Broad Street School building, where alumni brought old pictures to share. The committee voiced concerns regarding the security at West Broad Street School. She added there have been kids on the playground, in dumpsters and on the fire escapes. She asked maybe we need to secure that better. Principal Alicia Dawe reported she has met with Chief Darren Stewart of the Stonington Police Department and he is aware of the security issue. Ms. Morrison said there were many questions of where things had gone to that were in the school and added she directed those questions to staff at Central Office. Dr. Riley explained a few years ago we had a few boxes of old pictures and items donated to the Stonington Historical Society. Principal Dawe explained she will be meeting with Gilbane to talk about where all the old items will go.

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

Motion 7: To Adjourn at 8:47p.m.

All: Aye


Candace Anderson, Secretary