

Alexa Garvey, Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. 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.

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey asked to amend the agenda to add the items for approval of salaries for 2019-2020 for the Director of Finance, Director of Special Services, and Assistant Superintendent. She also asked to add an item after the Executive Session to approve the Superintendent's evaluation and salary increase.

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

Motion 1: To approve to add the agenda item for approval of salary increases for the Director of Finance, Director of Special Services and Assistant Superintendent.

All: Aye

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

Motion 2: To approve to add the agenda item after the Executive Session for approval of Superintendent's evaluation and salary increase.

All: Aye

Board Presentations

Junior Project – Students presented and explained their project which encompasses planting flowers on the grounds in front of the high school building. They explained the timeline, and how they were able to get local companies to donate materials for the project. They added that they made sure the project encompassed the 4C's. They hope to have this project carry throughout the years with other classes.

Stonington Public Schools Learning Annex - Mark Friese, Stonington High School Principal and Allison Van Etten, Director of Special Services spoke on the new Learning Annex Program that will be housed at the Pawcatuck Middle School. He added this program will provide a safe environment for students and will contain both general ed and special ed students. He explained the program will also be a transition program for some 8th grade students starting high school. The program will follow the middle school hours and will be a five day program. Mr. Friese explained a typical day schedule. Allison Van Etten explained this will be a blended learning model, with classes such as art, physical education, cooking and on line learning courses through Edgenuity a 6-8 grade on line learning courses. She added students can enter the program at any time during the year and exit at any time. They shared a video of the Edgenuity on line program. Students will be working with the Mystic Seaport for the entire school year to build a boat from scratch. Mrs. Van Etten explained how the student referral process will work to join the program. Modifications will also be available for students in order to participate in other sports or courses at the high school. They shared a handout with information on the program with the Board members which goes into more detail. We are the first referral point for the student and then the parent to see if a student would be joining the program.

Jack Morehouse asked if a student is recommended but the student is not interested do you just leave it at that. Mrs. Van Etten explained they will work with the parent and student to see what they would like to do. Deborah Downie spoke on the staffing and one to one student ratio, number of students in the classroom and asked if the program will be used for expelled students. Mrs. Van Etten spoke on how the staff will be arranged, which includes a full time teacher, a part time tutor, and para. Mrs. Downie added that the hope is to bring students back into district. Mrs. Van Etten added at this time one student is returning. Caroline Morehouse, Student Government Representative asked how would you promote those kids to get interaction with other kids. Mrs. Van Etten explained they can come in the morning and go back to the high school in afternoon. They can also opt for the Mystic Seaport option, or have a separate program in the community. There will be a mixed grade of students. Mr. Morehouse asked how will we measure the success of the program, are you going to get feedback from the parents? Mrs. Van Etten explained we will be collecting data on how many are attending, attendance record, why did the student need to come, and where will the student go after the program. Candace Anderson explained she works in an elementary school that has a similar program and feels kids figure out ways to get together. She voiced she is concerned we will get more kids that want it than not. She said she would be interested to know why the kids are going to the program.

Encore Presentation - Tim Smith, Pawcatuck and Mystic Middle School Principal shared a presentation on the new encore classes. Mr. Smith ran down the list of encore classes that will be offered which were created from a survey that students took. Teachers made a short video explaining some of the encore classes so that students could not only read about them but hear an explanation from the teacher who will be teaching the class. Mr. Smith will send a link to the Board for their review of each video. He added that teachers Rachel Limberakis and Jennifer Bausch helped create the video. Mr. Smith mentioned he received a lot of great feedback from students not only for the number of options but for the videos of the teacher who will be teaching the course.

Caroline Morehouse asked if all 27 classes are being taught, or only the ones that got better responses. Mr. Smith said all will be offered. Miss Morehouse asked how big the classes are. Mr. Smith reported approximately 20 students. She asked how does this fit into the schedule. Mr. Smith explained how the schedule would work. Miss Morehouse asked if it is only for 7th graders. Mr. Smith replied yes. She also asked if the encore class will take away planning time from the teachers and if it is a typical a,b,c schedule. Mr. Smith said no it will not take away planning time and yes this is a,b,c schedule. Deborah Downie asked are the encore classes a quarter or full semester. Mr. Smith added it is every semester. Jack Morehouse asked what is lost because of moving things around and do students have a private music lesson on the 5th day? Mr. Smith noted nothing is lost and yes they do have a private music lesson. Candace Anderson asked about language as a fifth block. Mr. Smith explained the fifth block.

Perkins Grant - Mark Friese gave an update on the Perkins Grant Federal Program to promote career education. He explained these funds can only be used to purchase equipment, training, or school counselor training. This year we will be sending eight kids to the Westerly Ed Program with this funding. We will start our own manufacturing course and will have a new metal shop with funds from this grant. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey asked will these students take this program all day. Mr. Friese explained it will be one double class second semester.

Communications & Recognitions

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey thanked Caroline Morehouse, Student Government Representative for joining the Board this year, and wished her good luck. The Board presented Miss Morehouse with a gift of appreciation for her service on the Board.

Jack Morehouse communicated he attended the Summer Pops Concert and recognized the students that participated and teachers, who all did a great job.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from citizens

Middle School Consolidation Report/Update – Update was given during the Encore Presentation item of the agenda.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – May 9, 2019 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills
- C. Transfers
- D. Personnel Report
- E. Policy 5141.21 Administering Medications
- F. Policy 4212.42 Drug and Alcohol Testing for Bus Drivers
- G. 19-20 Employment Contract Renewals: Director of Food Service

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

Motion 3: To approve items A - G on the Consent Agenda as presented.

All: Aye

Approval of Salary Increase for the Administrators Contracts for the 2019 Contract Year - Dr. Riley explained there were some minor discrepancies in the administrators contracts but asked that the Board approve the salaries for the Director of Finance, Director of Special Services and Assistant Superintendent. He added the entire contract will be brought back to the Board for approval in a couple months.

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

Motion 4: To approve the increase of salaries for 2019-2020 for the Director of Finance, Director of Special Services and Assistant Superintendent.

All: Aye

First Read – Curriculum – 7:50 p.m.:

- A. High School PE
- B. Music Technology
- C. Foundations of Art

The Board had no questions on the curriculum. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey added if the Board had any questions to reach out to Mary Anne Butler.

First Read on Policy Narcan:

Deborah Downie noted she would like to read the policy again and send questions to Mary Anne Butler on the Narcan Policy.

Notice to Withdraw from the Town of Stonington and Board of Education Self-Funded Health Insurance Reserve Account Agreement as of June 30, 2020 – Dr. Riley explained the history of the Health Insurance Reserve Account Agreement and gave his recommendation to the Board that we are giving the town a year's notice for the Board to be removed from the MOU. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey explained there are a couple of drafts ready for review for a meeting in July with the Board of Selectman, our desire is to get into a new agreement. Deborah Downie asked that before the Board remove from the MOU that a joint meeting with the other town Boards take place to communicate the Board's idea. She feels joint meetings in the past have been a positive thing. Dr. Riley voiced there is a time constraint and we might miss the opportunity to do this next year. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey will reach out to the other Boards to present the draft with the entire Board. Farouk Rajab is in favor of the motion. Mrs. Downie agreed to go ahead with the motion but then follow-up with a meeting with the three Boards. Jack Morehouse asked what the main reason and goal for this was. Dr. Riley explained the MOU is not based on current standards. Based on our broker the 1993 matrix does not make sense any longer. Craig Esposito explained it is an invalid agreement, because it violets CT Statutes, therefore for that reason should be redone. Mr. Rajab explained by removing ourselves we are forcing the issue to look at this old MOU and make it more current. Mr. Esposito asked if it is necessary to put in the motion how funds are dispersed. Dr. Riley explained this is a legal advised motion.

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

Motion 5: To approve the withdrawal from the health insurance reserve account agreement as presented.

All: Aye

Move to withdraw from the agreement titled "Town of Stonington and Board of Education Self-Funded Health Insurance RESERVE ACCOUNT AGREEMENT" that was effective on January 1, 1993. The withdrawal from the Reserve Account Agreement shall be effective June 30, 2020, and the Board of Education shall provide written notice of such withdrawal to the Board of Selectmen (c/o the First Selectman) and the Board of Finance (c/o the Chairwoman Board of Finance) no later than June 30, 2019. And as of its withdrawal date of June 30, 2020, the Board of Education's share of the Reserve Account balance on that date shall be the average of the Lockton Matrix under the heading "Appropriations", "Net appropriation Required for FY ____ - ____ " under the "Board of Ed" heading for the fiscal years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20. Following its withdrawal from such agreement, the Board of Education shall retain and continue to have all of its rights to its share of the Reserve Account balance as of its withdrawal date of June 30, 2020, including but not limited to using, drawing down or accessing for the processing and payment of claims of the Board of Education's health plan participants and their covered dependents, and for the payment of the Board of Education's stop-loss insurance premiums, and for the payment of other fees and expenses of service vendors or other providers to the Board of Education's health plan, and for any other permitted purpose under the Board of Education's health plan, until its share of such balance equals zero dollars.

Approval of Pawcatuck Middle School Roof Project 137-0049 as Complete

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey explained this item and motion came from the K-12 Building Committee for approval of the Pawcatuck Middle Roof Project.

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

Motion 6: The Stonington Board of Education formally accepts the Pawcatuck Middle School roof project, State Project #137-0049rr, as fully complete and acknowledges that all invoices have been paid in full.

All: Aye

2019-20 Budget Revision Approval

Gary Shettle, Director of Finance has taken the reduction of \$255,000 from the insurance reserve money. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey explained our rates have decreased also due to negotiations of insurance.

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

Motion 7: To approve the 1920 budget revision.

All: Aye

Report and Recommendation from Finance/Facilities Committee

Proposed Bond/Bus Yard Option – Farouk Rajab explained there are several items for the bond; HVAC for Stonington Middle School and high school, high school field lighting and Stonington Middle School roof. The direction of the committee was to set up a meeting with the Board of Finance and Board of Selectman to try to review these projects and get the approval then come back to the Board for a motion.

Dr. Riley noted the parking at Stonington Middle School needs some attention, and add spaces. We will be moving larger events to the high school. Deborah Downie asked if the HVAC for the high school includes air conditioning in the gym. Dr. Riley explained this includes replacing parts and adding air conditioning to the gym and getting the current systems to work properly.

Farouk Rajab explained the current plan for the bus yard option had presented some legal issues. Dr. Riley presented three ideas, and the committee suggested that we discuss these options with the Board of Finance and other options that our Board presented from that meeting will then come back to the entire Board. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey asked why we are not going forward with the bus lot we originally were going with. Dr. Riley explained the history of the original plan for the bus yard. Deborah Downie asked if the Board had other ideas should they be brought to the Finance/Facilities Committee. Mr. Rajab asked that any idea be sent to him for further discussion.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Sick Leave Donation Program – Dr. Riley reported that the Sick Leave Donation Program for employees without sick time has been used by 16 staff members and well over 2,224 days have been donated and 401 used. We are very proud of this program.

Child Care for Staff Members - Dr. Riley noted we are moving forward with this idea and it looks like it would save half of the cost of a private daycare. We had 18 parents come to a meeting regarding this.

Title I – Dr. Riley said his plan is to fund the dean position which would free up one position in general fund. He added some had questions if this is the best way to use funds, and yes it is. This is only a one year position.

LED Lighting – He reported there were three ideas presented; the field lighting which will take 12 years to break even, gym lighting at the high school and middle school which we are moving forward with. The third idea was the LED sign in front of the high school, which was shot down by Planning and Zoning. Candace Anderson asked why they shot the sign down. Dr. Riley explained because they had refused a similar item to someone else.

Jack Morehouse ask for further discussion as to why we want a fourth administrator in the middle school. He would like to see money spent on something that benefits students directly. He wanted it noted that adding a fourth administrator seems excessive to him. Deborah Downie also agreed with Mr. Morehouse on the dean position idea. Farouk Rajab asked if we can go back to Planning and

Zoning for the sign and added he is in support of the dean position. Craig Esposito is in support for current dean arrangement. Candace Anderson feels there is only one time to get it right and is in support of the dean position. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey said next year is a unique year but any year going forward would not approve of another administrator. This would give the Pawcatuck Middle School students a familiar bond and anything is going to help for this coming year. She is in favor of this position and it does save the general fund money also.

Monthly Reports

There were no questions on the monthly reports.

Committee Reports

There were no questions on the committee reports.

Building Committee Update

Deborah Downie reported the best news is that the playgrounds are open. West Vine Street School playground opened on Monday. There continues to be struggles understanding the HVAC system, still many issues and testing is ongoing. She feels they eventually will get it right. They promised if something is not working they will stick around until they get it right.

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

BOE/Leadership Team joint meeting Sept./Oct. - Chairwoman Alexa Garvey suggested the Board could do a September or October meeting of the Board and Leadership Team to look at goals. Dr. Riley added it would be good to up the calendar for the Board Goals to May in the future.

Summer Schedules/Cancel July Meeting/BOE Retreat – Chairwoman Alexa Garvey asked the Board if they would like to cancel the July subcommittee meetings and regular Board meeting. She added the Board will be doing their retreat in early August. The Board agreed to cancel all subcommittee and Board meetings in July.

Board Comments and Concerns

Candace Anderson commented on the school budget vote for Preston schools, which was voted down by nine votes. Mrs. Anderson voiced she is grateful to our leadership team who had our budget ready to go. She added the vote turn out for own town was weak and feels we need to do a better job of inviting the Board of Finance to the end of the year school events so they can see all the achievements. She noted it is a challenge to put a zero increase budget together. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey noted she usually does reach out to the Board of Finance communicating the school events.

Executive Closed Session – Superintendent’s Evaluation

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

Motion 8: To enter into executive session to discuss the Superintendent’s Evaluation.

All: Aye

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:03 p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at 9:24 p.m.

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

Motion 9: To approve the Superintendent’s contract and evaluation with a 2% increase in salary for 2019-2020 and a contract extension to 2022.

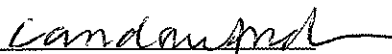
All: Aye

Adjournment

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

Motion 10: To adjourn at 9:26 p.m.

All: Aye


Candace Anderson, Secretary