

## STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING September 12, 2019 - Page | 1

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

Absent: Deborah Downie

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

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey requested a motion be made to move item Communications and Recognitions to the first item on the agenda.

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

**Motion 1: To move item Communications and Recognitions before item Board Presentation on the agenda.**

All: Aye

### Communications & Recognitions

Kate Rotella presented a citation to Alicia Sweet Dawe in recognition for being awarded the Elementary Principal of the Year. Mrs. Sweet Dawe's family was also present to share in her recognition.

### Board Presentations

Score Reports - Mark Friese, Stonington High School Principal and Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent shared a report on SBAC, SAT and reviewed the AP scores. She reviewed the District's growth rate, the high growth at the middle schools and solid growth at the elementary schools. She shared a handout showing how the district compares with four other area districts such as Montville, Waterford, Ledyard and East Lyme. Mark Friese explained SAT benchmarks in language arts, and math. He shared the scores which compared the district to other districts in the state and ECC schools, while noting that students at the high school are performing well. (presentation attached) Chairwoman Alexa Garvey requested that the presentation be emailed to the Board.

Stonington Middle School Report – Principal Tim Smith reported the Stonington Middle School had its first back to school night on September 11. He added it was organized in two sessions, there was a warm, relaxed and comfortable feel. The parking traffic went pretty smoothly it was a very successful night. Mr. Smith recapped the facility updates that took place at the middle school, such as the work to the gym floor, cafeteria painting and new tables, new bright clean paint throughout, new classrooms in the lower level of the building, new SBHC, landscaping and parking lot ice fix and resurface. We are in the process of completing the School Health Base Center will be done sometime second week of October. Mr. Smith spoke on the extending learning time and how it is scheduled throughout the week. He explained the new geometry learning block which will assist students as they enter the high school level. He also spoke on the twenty-one new encore classes for the first semester. Mr. Smith thanked Jenn Bausch and the entire curriculum team for creating the curriculum for the encore classes. There will be a program starting tomorrow called a Book in a Day where the entire school reads a book, this first session students will be reading "Inside out & Back Again" this book promotes many items that are goals for the new school. Mr. Smith shared a small video on the first day events at Stonington Middle School.

Craig Esposito asked how many students are enrolled in the 21 encore classes. Mr. Smith answered that every student in grades 7 and 8 are enrolled in at least one class. For students in grade 6 we have created a health wellness movement class. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey had questions regarding parking for staff. Mr. Smith said there is enough parking for staff, and we have been working on traffic flow, we are still looking at other options for dismissal for ease of traffic flow.

Jack Morehouse voiced that one of his concerns all along has been the length of time a student would sit on a bus coming from Pawcatuck. He asked has this been tracked and what would that be. Peter Anderson explained we are working out a couple of long bus rides but the goal is to keep them under 30 minutes. Mr. Smith said one of the Pawcatuck buses, bus 6 is late getting students home. They are not on the bus that long but it is one of the last buses to load. The busses come from the high school in a random order, we are hoping that the new two wave system we started today will help get the buses on the road quicker.

### Comments from Citizens

Rob Marseglia spoke on behalf of the K-12 Building Committee regarding long term equity between both elementary schools. The committee's concern is of equity going forward with PTO spending due to the larger number of families at Deans Mill School compared to West Vine Street School. Mr. Marseglia asked that the Board add this item to a future agenda.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – August 8, 2019 (Regular)  
August 21, 2019 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills August 2018/2019  
August 2019/2020
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Overnight Field Trip to New York City – March 28, 2020 and March 29, 2020

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

**Motion 2: To remove the August 8th minutes from the consent agenda.**

All: Aye

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Alisa Morrison:

**Motion 3: To approve the item, August 21<sup>st</sup> minutes and items B, C and D on the Consent Agenda as presented.**

All: Aye

**Second Read/Approval – Policy 5141.213 Narcan –**

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey noted she had asked if the high school nurses wanted to implement this and yes they most definitely want to be able to administer this. The remainder of the Board had no questions regarding the policy.

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

**Motion 4: To approve the Policy 5141.213 Narcan as submitted.**

All: Aye

**First Read – Curriculum**

- A. Algebra I
- B. Beginning Guitar
- C. Social Studies K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- D. Health 6, 7, 8

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey noted we are doing some guitar at the middle school level and asked if the beginning guitar could be used for both middle and high school or does it need to be delineated. Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent explained this is only for the high school level because it has more instructional days. There will be an abbreviated version for the middle school and that information will be brought to the Teaching and Learning Committee. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey said if there are no questions this item can be brought back in October for a second read. If the Board has questions regarding the curriculum they can email Mary Anne Butler.

**Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies – West Vine Street School – September 21<sup>st</sup>

Deans Mill School – September 28<sup>th</sup>

Dr. Van Riley reminded all that there will be two ribbon cutting ceremonies. Flyers were sent out to all parents and staff regarding this event. He reported he sent out an email to all schools requiring all sports teams end practice and be off the fields by 6pm and shared this with the Recreation Department. This was a recommendation from Ledge Light as a precaution. Ledge Light suggests using insect repellent and clothes that covers the legs and arms. Dr. Riley noted as the sun sets changes, we need to be made to back up the end time of field usage. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey asked how long do we keep this in place, until the first frost? Dr. Riley answered yes. Farouk Rajab asked do we need to end football games before they actually end. Dr. Riley explained it could affect sports game times. He explained every district in the area is affected so we cannot use other fields.

**Action Regarding Relinquishing Control of the Administration Office Building, Old Mystic, CT**

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey reported the Central Office started moving last Friday and are almost all moved out. Dr. Riley said our plan is to be out a week from tomorrow and then do clean up before giving it to the Town. He added there is a lot of boxes with files that need to be shredded and currently equipment in the new District Office in the gym and cafeteria to move to the storage area in the new District Office. He explained we do have a motion to relinquish the building back to the town on October 1. Alisa Morrison stated she is on the Facility Committee and there was a recommendation that we have a walk through before the building is turned over to the Town. Dr. Riley commented he met with Paul Sartor and showed the new building, spoke about the walkthrough and a list of issues that we know about the building. Dr. Riley said that Peter Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities will set up a meeting with the committee to do the walkthrough. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey communicated she will be meeting with Rob Simmons to discuss the process and how the walkthrough will be done

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

**Motion 5: I move that effective October 1, 2019, the Stonington Board of Education relinquish control of the Town of Stonington-owned property located at 49 North Stonington Road, Old Mystic, CT and known as the Administration Office Building, including the land, grounds, buildings, facilities, structures, and improvements thereon, to the Town of Stonington. By such action, control of such property shall revert back to the Town of Stonington, and the Stonington Board of Education shall no longer be responsible for the care, maintenance, and operation of such property.**

All: Aye

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey noted she will let Mr. Simmons know tomorrow morning of the approval. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey asked Dr. Riley to explain the policy of handing off items that maybe we don't need. Dr. Riley noted we will be going through the same process. We have many items that were from Pawcatuck Middle School, West Broad Street School and Mystic Middle School at the new District Office and will be going through these next week. Anything we need to save will be moved to the storage area at the new District Office, we will then notify the First Selectman so any town department can use, then the non-profits and then open it up to the community.

#### **Monthly Reports**

Candace Anderson congratulated Allison Van Etten for her appointment to the Connecticut Dyslexia Task Force and added it is a really special honor. She also commented that Stonington is moving into a positive direction in so many different areas.

#### **Committee Reports**

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey reported on the Health Reserve Committee meeting where she add that there was a discussion on this at the Board retreat as far as the updates. We have addressed the paragraph that needed some changes made to it and will present that to the Town. We will then bring the agreement back to the three Boards.

Candace Anderson reported the Policy Committee will not meet this month and will finish up the By Laws next month and discuss any new items.

#### **Building Committee Update**

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey explained Deborah Downie has been out of town, the project is winding down and there are still items on the punch list and mechanical issues that are being addressed.

#### **Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda**

There were no comments from citizens.

#### **Items for Future Agendas**

- A. BOE/Leadership Team joint meeting – Sept./Oct. – Chairwoman Alexa Garvey asked if the Leadership Team and Board would like this meeting after the November election because it might be a better time and could be part of an of orientation. The Board agreed and asked Ana de Oliveira to touch base with CABE to see their availability in November and then look at the Board's schedules.
- B. Later School Start Time – This item will be going to the Teaching and Learning Committee. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey noted that both Candace Anderson and Jack Morehouse are interested in looking into this idea and are both on the committee.
- C. Central Office Relinquish to Town – Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey stated that after the Teaching and Learning Committee meets in October the Board Goals matrix will first go to the Teaching and Learning Committee and then be brought back to the full Board. The Board also wanted to add student safety to the Mission Statement and the new policy that was adjusted fits perfectly with the direction the Board wanted to go. This item could then be placed on the agenda.

Jack Morehouse noted the Board has discussed this in the past; the idea of when students complete a class fill out a survey at the high school. He is not sure whether that would first go to the Teaching and Learning Committee or the Board, but would like to revisit this. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey said the Teaching and Learning Committee might be a good place to start the conversation. She will send this out to Dr. Riley and Mrs. Butler who can share with the Leadership Team to bring back ideas that can come back to the Teaching and Learning Committee then back to the Board. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey added the cell phone item would also be going to the Teaching and Learning.

Candace Anderson asked to bring back the discussion of PTO equity funding to the Board. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey said this item will start with the Finance/Facilities Committee and then to the full Board. She noted that it is mentioned in each of the budgets each year that part of the Board's Goal is equity, so that can be further expanded in conversations.

#### **Board Comments and Concerns**


There were no comments or concerns.

#### **Adjournment**

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

**Motion 6: To adjourn at 8:24p.m.**

All: Aye

  
Candace Anderson, Secretary

