

Alexa Garvey, Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Stonington High School Commons. Members present were, Candace Anderson, Board Secretary, Jack Morehouse, Farouk Rajab, Alisa Morrison, Deborah Downie, and Craig Esposito. Also present were Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Communications & Recognitions

Dr. Van Riley recognized the maintenance, technology and custodial staff for their hard work under the direction of Peter Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities and Chris Williston, Technology Director for the moving of boxes and furniture, phone hook ups and computers. He added they deserve a special thanks and asked Mr. Anderson to also give them an extra thanks on his behalf.

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey communicated she, Farouk Rajab and Deborah Downie read at the "Read & Raise" event at the Stonington Public Free Library. Mr. Rajab reported that there was \$1,800 dollars in donations for the fundraiser. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey shared information on our middle school teacher Tim Flanagan and his summer travels to various places with a focus on diversity. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey will share the link to his blog for those who are interested in more information.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from citizens

Middle School Consolidation Report/Update

Tim Smith added that middle school teacher Tim Flanagan is one of our well-traveled teachers and has posted some of his amazing pictures on his blog. He encouraged people to check them out. Tim Smith reported for the last time on the middle school consolidation before its official opening. He reported on various updates to communications, facilities, personnel and technology. His full report can be found on the district website on the Middle School Consolidation page. Mr. Smith also had a brief slideshow which showed the timeline of events of the new renovated gym, with the refinished gym floor and new mascot logo.

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey had questions regarding the process for drop off and pick up at the middle school for this school year. Mr. Smith explained the new process that will ensure a smooth and steady traffic flow. Jack Morehouse voiced that the most frustrating part of picking up student was the backed up traffic, but added it sounds like you are figuring it out. Mr. Smith added we will need to get approval from public safety but we have room to have two lines of cars, and plan to have students come out on the science end of the building. Mr. Morehouse also asked if all the teachers have their own classrooms. Mr. Smith assured that yes all of the core classroom teachers have their own classrooms. Some classrooms will be used for other classes during the teachers planning periods, but all teachers will have their own.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – June 13, 2019 (Regular)
August 5, 2019 (Special)
- B. Checks and Bills June/July
- C. Personnel Report

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

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

All: Aye

Second Read/Approval Curriculum

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

Craig Esposito asked if the Music Technology Curriculum included learning to create electronic music. Principal Mark Friese explained how that will be accomplished through use of the garage band and downloading of sounds. Ms. Butler explained the logistics of how teachers will meet so they can plan what the students will have.

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

Motion 2: To approve the three Curriculums, High School PE, Music Technology and Foundations of Art Curriculum as presented.

All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Riley noted following his report Peter Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities will share a presentation and report on the progress of the elementary schools and middle school. He reported that Special Services Department has moved to the new District Office and the Annex Program classrooms will be set up in a few weeks. Dr. Riley invited any Board member to take a look and will give a tour to those interested. He also reported that the Board of Finance approved the roof for the middle school and will move forward with the planning; the future air conditioning plans will be approved the latest in November. He communicated the art teacher and elementary music teacher have been hired. We have an amazing person for music and is looking forward to having the music program in both of those schools. The Board of Finance will be returning \$145,000 to the district and we are looking at the best way to use those funds. We will meet with the Board of Ed Finance Sub-Committee to discuss and then to the rest of the Board.

Monthly Reports

Craig Esposito asked how many more years we had left to pay down the sick time account. Dr. Riley explained said he will discuss and report back after meeting with the Director of Finance. Candace Anderson commended Peter Anderson on his monthly reports, adding they are very helpful and enjoys reading them each month.

Peter Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities shared a slide show of photos of building updates to Deans Mill, West Vine Street, and Stonington Middle Schools. He had photos of the new middle school sign, student based health center, progress on the drainage issue, new gym floor with the stingray logo. At the elementary he shared photos of the Deans Mill School sign, finished gym floor, code red buttons, front office, safety wall and sidewalks; at West Vine Street School finished classrooms, front of the building, and bus circle. At the new District Office he shared a photo of the new Annex office. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey thanked Peter Anderson for all his efforts and asked that we extend an invite to the Board of Finance to tour the new Annex. Farouk Rajab asked if there is a maintenance program schedule in place for the middle school. Peter Anderson responded yes.

Committee Reports

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey reported on the Health Insurance Reserve. She added we have made significant progress and were able to come together on details. Gary Shettle, Director of Finance for the district and town Director of Finance, Jim Sullivan, will finalize the details and review the MOU with the Sub Committee. This will move forward to the Board and are looking forward to meeting with all three Boards. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey reported she recently met with George Sylvester who was involved in the details of the original agreement to get some historical information on the agreement. She added that this new agreement will now be reviewed every couple of years.

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey shared that we are working with SEC-tv a local Community Access TV provider to broadcast district event and activities in order to increase communications to the public. We will bring this idea to the Communications Subcommittee and then to the Board.

Building Committee Update

Deborah Downie reported things are moving along at the elementary schools. They are still working on a punch list which is much smaller with about 12 items. We are still dealing with the kitchen exhaust system. At West Vine they are still working on small amounts of landscaping, the sensor garden needs added work and will reach out to the town to get paving and handicap access. There will be two open houses on September 21 and 28 which will give parents and students opportunities to tour classrooms, gym and cafeteria. Invites will be mailed out.

Candace Anderson asked if college students could get into the buildings before they go back to school this fall. Dr. Riley answered there is a lot going on, best thing is to have them come on the open houses. Mrs. Anderson said this would be something to discuss at the Communication Subcommittee and maybe have a time in January where the students can visit. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey suggested maybe post a video on the website. Mrs. Downie commented maybe film the open house events and put them on line.

Comments from Citizens Relative to Board Action on this Agenda

There were no comments from citizens.

Items for Future Agendas

Jack Morehouse shared his research on the Wait Until 8th where parents pledge to not give students cell phones with a data plan, they can have cell phones until the eighth grade. He would like to look further into this idea, which will help eliminate obsession with cell phones in younger people. Chairwoman Alexa Garvey said it is a great idea and suggested bringing this to the Teaching and Learning Committee. Candace Anderson agreed the program sounds fantastic and ties in with the Climate Surveys in which parents requested more information on technology. She feels that it is something the middle school team and social workers should be involved in and doesn't think it is something the Board should take over on their own. Mr. Morehouse feels this should be a system wide thing and will oversee this idea as Board member.

Chairwoman Alexa Garvey will be setting the agenda for the Board Retreat on August 21. She added the format of last year's meeting seemed to work, and will also have Dr. Riley and Mary Anne Butler join to help develop goals. She updated that Director of Special Services Allison Van Etten was able to speak to the attorney regarding Title IX and will discuss the process at the August 21 Board Retreat meeting.

Board Comments and Concerns


There were no Board comments or concerns.

Adjournment

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

Motion 3: To adjourn at 7:44 p.m.

All: Aye


Candace Anderson, Secretary