

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, Deborah Downie, and Craig Esposito.

Absent: Alisa Morrison, Farouk Rajab

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.

Board Presentations

Encore Classes - Tim Smith, Stonington Middle School Principal started by thanking Jennifer Bausch for her work on the curriculum for the Encore classes. He showed a video of students in action during each Encore class. He shared a presentation on the Encore classes offered at the middle school. Teachers Richard Manning, Olwen Chin and Tim Flanagan shared information on each of their Encore classes; music technology, biomedical engineering and photography. See presentation attached. Mr. Smith also shared communication from the University of Arizona Center for Middle Eastern Studies noting that teacher Tim Flanagan has been selected for authoring a lesson which was part of the sixteenth lesson plan competition. His lesson was chosen for publication on the university's website where it is accessed by other teachers. Mr. Smith added we are very fortunate for having Mr. Flanagan working in our district and thanked him for his work. Jack Morehouse asked how often do the Encore classes meet. Mr. Smith said they meet every other day for a semester for half a year. Chairwoman Garvey asked how the grading end up for these classes. Mr. Smith explained they are graded classes.

State of the District - Dr. Riley noted this year represents a year of milestones for the district; opening of two elementary schools, consolidation of the middle school, consignment of the two properties back to the town and the relocation of the district office. He added over the next few months we will be sharing a series of reports and communications that will give highlights and aspects of our schools. We will put all this background material on our website so that the community can access this information. Dr. Riley reported on the academics and programming as the first report of the series. The following are future reports he will be presenting: staffing and teacher retention; facilities and infrastructure; budget and resource allocation; and looking to the future. A link to the presentations can be found on the main page of the district website.

Communications & Recognitions

Alexa Garvey communicated that tonight is Board Member Deborah Downie's last meeting. She added she has served on the Board for eight years and is the liaison for the K-12 Building Committee. Chairwoman Garvey thanked Mrs. Downie for her service and wished her all the best. She noted there will be a brick in her honor placed in the brick pathway.

Jack Morehouse reported he attended the SEF meeting on Monday night and plans on attending all the meetings this year. He added he will report back to the Board what he learns at each meeting. The SEF is planning on having their annual gala sometime in March details to come. Chairwoman Garvey asked if there were any specific goals for SEF this year. Mr. Morehouse shared that they would like to form a stronger relationship with our administration. They would like to make sure they spend their money that they raise in the best way that they can so they are hoping that they can form a better partnership with administration.

Deborah Downie gave a call out to the art department; Sally Motycka, Teresa Bonillo and some of the unified art students and art club students, who painted the sets for the Salt Marsh Opera they are beautiful we should be really proud that they did that. Mrs. Downie also thanked all those who came out to the two open houses for Deans Mill School and West Vine Street School it was fabulous, we are so proud to show off our new schools. She added she met alumni and neighbors that go back many years who were excited to see the new schools. She commented on community service requirements in our schools. She also spoke that the district currently does not have a policy that supports military families and suggested that the district revisit this issue so in the future we can be supportive of active military families.

Candace Anderson reported she attended the Deans Mill School ribbon cutting ceremony which was very exciting. She also noted that Rob Simmons remarks complimented the Board nicely. She added he and June Strunk are finishing their terms and have been great supporters of the Board of Education and great partners, she appreciates their service and support.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from citizens.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – August 8, 2019 (Regular)
September 12, 2019 (Regular)
- B. Checks and Bills – September
- C. Personnel Report
- D. Transfers

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

Motion 1: To approve the consent agenda items A-D as presented.

All Aye