

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING November 14, 2019 - Page | 1

Alexa Garvey, Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the District Office Board Room, Pawcatuck, CT. Members present were, Candace Anderson, Board Secretary, Jack Morehouse, Alisa Morrison, Farouk Rajab, and Craig Esposito. 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

Student Recognition AP/National Merit - Margo Crowley, Assistant Principal-Guidance at Stonington High School recognized the following students

National Merit commended Students:	AP Scholars:	AP Scholar with Honors:	AP Scholar with Distinction:
Will Cannella	Emmett Breen	Abby Gibson	Filip Aubrecht
Leila Robarge	Will Cannella	Rhys Hammond	Kaira Wiltshire
Liam Martley	Alexandra Kapell	Hanna Hong	
Hanna Hong	Liam Martley	Sam Light	
Abby Gibson	Audrey Mejza	Bryn Morgan	
	Dan Robinson	Hope Sowle	

Eversource Project Presentation – Peter Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities introduced representatives from EMCOR (New England Mechanical Services) who spoke about a new incentive program available through Eversource and how it can benefit the district. Jack Morehouse asked if there is any kind of ego feedback component, adding he recently read an article that if you let people know real time how much energy they are consuming they will consume less like 5% to 10%. He recently visited a college that when you walked in to the building they had energy orbs that in real time would let the occupants of the building know how much power was consumed in relationship to the average. Students there would get together and find ways to save energy. He asked if there was something similar available in Connecticut. EMCOR representative explained we can put something in place similar to that either adding a display in the lobby so they can see how they are doing on energy consumption or have the students work on this themselves.

State of the District Part II – Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent presented Part II of the State of the District covering Staffing and Retention. He added this is the second part of a five part series. Part one presented at the October Board meeting covered Academics and Programming. All presentations will be posted on our website after each Board Meeting. In his presentation he spoke on personnel, highly qualified staff, climate and culture, how we treat employees, professional growth and opportunities, recognitions and grant awards and supplemental supports.

A complete presentation can be found on the www.stoningtonschools.org website.

Communications & Recognitions

Alexa Garvey, Chairwoman recognized Heidi Simmons the newest Board of Education member who has been sworn in. Chairwoman Garvey explained due to the new charter Ms. Simmons cannot be seated at the Board table until after November 19th. Ms. Simmons will be attending the CABA conference tomorrow with Mrs. Anderson, Dr. Riley and myself. Chairwoman Garvey explained she has given Ms. Simmons a small orientation and she will also be meeting with District Office Cabinet staff to get a tour of each department and meet staff on Monday morning.

Chairwoman Garvey communicated that the high school opening night for the play will start this evening, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., there are no matinees. She also mentioned the Lagrua Center has a video and display of the Pawcatuck Remembers which is there through December 15th. Many people contributed to this event and did an amazing job, we should take the time to visit, watch the video and take a look at the book that is also available.

Candace Anderson communicated she attended the dinner for the Principal of the Year honoring Principal Alicia Dawe, which dove tails very nicely with what Dr. Riley presented in his presentation tonight, finding the best people and keeping the best people. She added Dr. Riley in his tenure has found such great administrators that will take care of our kids. We are so fortunate to have made so much progress in such a short period of time in the past couple of years. She also commented on the goals and progress that have been made in a four year period. She added she feels fortunate to be part of this community and is proud of the district. She noted the dinner brought all that together and she didn't want to lose the opportunity to communicate this.

Chairwoman Garvey thanked Peter Anderson, his staff for the work they did in this short amount of time and Ana de Oliveira for getting all the details set up and everything together for the new Board Room to be ready, thank you we appreciate that.

Comments from Citizens

Faith Leitner commented on how she is glad to have attended tonight's meeting to hear all the great things that are happening in the district, we really have such wonderful things going on in this district and she is always looking to see about the good things. She thanked all Board Members for serving and taking time to commit to the Board. She also spoke about a recent article on the front page of The Day newspaper in which it mentioned the Board of Education being divided on the Chokas incident. She feels that it is disturbing and feels for the girls that were affected by this issue that is still not been resolved. She added she feels that we owe it to the 30 girls that told the administration that this is not ok. She hopes that the Board will consider an individual investigation at least we could say to these women we did all we could do to investigate their claim.