

Farouk Rajab, Board Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 6:32p.m. Members present were Heidi Simmons, Secretary, Chris Donahue, Dan Kelley, Sara Baker, Craig Esposito, and Kevin Agnello. Also present were Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent of Schools, members of the administration staff and citizens.

Communications & Recognitions

Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent congratulated the class of 2022 for their 100% graduation rate. She thanked Tim Smith, Assistant Superintendent for his work on the successful job fair recently held at the high school for paraeducators and substitute teachers. He will also be attending a regional job fair. Mrs. Butler recognized staff members, Allison Van Etten, Kristen Oliverio and Tina Eisenbeis for their work with the summer school programs. She communicated that she and Alicia Dawe have accepted an opportunity to present at a leadership summit in October. She also noted that they have both met with ChilufyaMulenga Chilufya, with the Mandela Washington Fellow from Zambia, regarding collaboration between the Girls Lead in Africa and the SHS Voice interns. Dan Kelley recognized two high school athletes who were named as national scholar athletes. He communicated that Becky Fowler, Food Service Director will be leaving Stonington Public Schools and will be missed. He recognized the long list of new hires of paraeducators on the Personnel Report. Mr. Kelley also noted that our Paraeducator of the Year has left the district for a higher paying position. He added this has happened in the past and voiced the district needs to work on employee retention. He shared information regarding the high school all night graduation party and recognized the group of parents who were involved. Mr. Kelley also voiced he liked the new set up of the Board room for meetings. Chris Donahue voiced he is excited for another productive and innovative school year. Heidi Simmons recognized and is very impressed with members on the Policy Sub Committee for their tremendous job on the policy review during the summer. Farouk Rajab recognized the new Superintendent, Mary Anne Butler, for her first meeting. She has done a tremendous job with her communications and is very proud of her.

Comments from Citizens Regarding Items on the Agenda

Ashley Toole commented she appreciates all the additional communications that have been shared and some of the good things that are coming with parent involvement. She congratulated Mary Anne Butler on her new role and her good steps forward related to community involvement. She shared her questions regarding goals on the District Improvement Plan.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes: June 2, 2022
June 9, 2022
June 16, 2022
June 29, 2022
- B. Checks and Bills – June/July
- C. Personnel Report
- D. ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs Authorized Signatures

The following motion was made by Dan Kelley and seconded by Chris Donahue:

Motion 1: To approve all items on the Consent Agenda Items A-D.
All: Aye

Welcoming Schools Update

Tim Smith gave an overview on the work that has been done for the Welcoming Schools initiative and the next steps.

Sub Committee Reports

A. Teaching and Learning Sub-Committee – Kevin Agnello gave an updated on the Teaching and Learning Sub-Committee meeting and noted there has been tremendous progress on the curriculum. He shared information on curriculum that was discussed at the last meeting.

The following motion was made by Kevin Agnello and seconded by Chris Donahue:

Motion 2: To approve the curriculum for second read; Prevocational/Volunteering, Annex Life Skills, Community Experiences, Graphic/Digital Design I, Exercise Science.
All: Aye

The following motion was made by Kevin Agnello and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 3: To forgo the second read and approve the textbook, child Development Early Stages Through 12th Grade.
All: Aye

B. Finance and Facilities Sub-Committee – Chris Donahue shared an update submitted by Peter Anderson regarding the Stonington Middle School AC and an overview regarding the remaining ESSER funds submitted by Alisha Stripling.

C. Policy Sub-Committee - Dan Kelley thanked Mary Anne Butler, Farouk Rajab and Kevin Agnello for participating in the sub-committee. He reported the committee went through several policies that were mandated and also edited policies with optional information. He added that once the policies are approved they will be added to the district website. He reviewed policies that are on the Board agenda for review. Craig Esposito asked if the district has a system where by the policies are run by the attorney to make sure they are up-to-date. Mr. Kelley noted that all policy recommendations were suggested from CABE. Farouk Rajab gave further information and history on the policy 9160. He noted the previous Board had different views on the policy therefore wanted to make sure the current Board had an opportunity to discuss before the approval. Mr. Kelley also noted that policies to be omitted are due to a revised version or replacement policy is now available. The committee will meet again on August 25th. Farouk Rajab asked the Board to take some time to review the policies noted.

The following motion was made by Chris Donahue and seconded by Sara Baker:

Motion 4: To approve Policy 9160.
All: Aye

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

District Improvement Plan - Mary Anne Butler reviewed the District Improvement Plan and how it relates to the Board Goals. She noted this is a working document and will be reporting back in November and March on the progress. The district will be looking at incentives for students, more professional development for teachers and more family engagement. She also reported there are standing meetings with the Town to uncover collaboration opportunities.

Parent Square Coaches- Mrs. Butler reported she has been working with Bryan Morrone the Athletic Director at the high school to have one platform for coaches to communicate with athletes. This would allow us to have a way to protect coaches and athletes, and also to be able to archive these messages. She recognized the technology team for their work on this.

COVID-19 Updates – She reported there is not much change from the end of school year. Masks can still be worn and the CDC has a new feature which takes the pressure out of nurses in which it tells the students when they can return after testing positive. When a student is exposed they don't have to quarantine but only need to wear a mask for 10 days.

Transportation Updates – Mrs. Butler shared that there are concerns about transportation. Our contract is for 27 drivers and we currently have 22 drivers available with three more being trained. Bus schedules will be available the third week in August or sooner and will be posted on the district website.

Summer School Report – She reported that we had 20 students participate in the summer program at the high school, 90 at the middle school, 87 at the elementary school and 67 in the special education summer program.

Chris Donahue asked when we negotiate the transportation contract. Mrs. Butler noted this will be done this year. Craig Esposito asked how we are with new teacher hires. She noted we are in pretty good shape and shared that we have a flash post on our website that lets people know we are looking for substitute teachers and paraeducators. Dan Kelley asked if we are doing the Parent Square platform districtwide for all extra activates not just coaches. Mrs. Butler voiced we have not discussed with those groups yet. Mr. Smith shared the focus was on the coaches because team night is on the 18th but all those others will be through the same platform. Mr. Kelley also shared with the Board that the Board Goals are now laminated and have been shared and will be available at every meeting. He also asked if we have COVID-19 tests available for families. Mrs. Butler reported there will be a delivery coming soon from the state.

Monthly Reports

Farouk Rajab had questions regarding the ending balance for Alisha Stripling. She answered his question, noting we were able to replenish the health account with ending balance of \$370,000, and still have some invoices coming in. Craig Esposito asked about new funding coming in that would support the Stonington Middle School AC project. Peter Anderson spoke on funding that is available.

Board Comments and Items for Future Agendas

The Board had no comments or items for future agendas at this time.

Adjournment

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Chris Donahue:

Motion 5 : To adjourn at 7:34pm
All: Aye

Heidi Simmons, Secretary