

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING December 8, 2022-Page | 1

Farouk Rajab, Board Chairman called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Chris Donahue, Sara Baker, Dan Kelley, Craig Esposito. Attended Virtually - Heidi Simmons, Secretary. Member Absent: Kevin Agnello. Also present were Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent of Schools; Student Government Representative, Diya Patel; Recording Secretary, Ana de Oliveira and members of the administration staff and citizens.

Communications & Recognitions

Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent recognized Deidre Toole, special education teacher who awarded the first ever Just one Chance Award to the Mystic Aquarium for their current and past contributions to Stonington Public Schools students for providing inclusive learning and employment opportunities for them. Mrs. Butler also recognized Julian Hasson, a middle school student for receiving the Antonio Mastroianni Scholarship, Stonington High School students, Clay Walker, received the Pride Flag Scholarship, Helen Gross received the Angela Smith Memorial Scholarship; and Sergio de Oliveira who received the Konicki Family Scholarship. All students were recognized at an event held by the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce. The Westerly Community Credit Union and the Westerly Community Credit Union Teacher Grant funding was awarded to SHS art teacher, Sally Motycka for "Empty Bowls"; SHS teacher Jennifer Norcross received for the Brown and White Newspaper; SMS teachers, Elaine Temel, Marika Heughins, and Noreen Elliot for the Nutmeg Book Club. Mrs. Butler also recognized West Vine Street School as a Level One School of Distinction, Deans Mill School as a Level Two School of Distinction for Academic Performance and Growth in Math.

Dan Kelley communicated he recently attended the CAFE conference at the Mystic Marriott. He attended the Thanksgiving football game and helped in the concession stand. He shared that the Boosters are always looking for volunteers to help in the concession stand. He attended the Shrek Jr. Play, which was a fantastic performance. He added kudos to the students, parents and teachers. He visited the recent Winter Garden Stroll at West Vine Street School, which was also an awesome event.

Comments from Citizens Regarding Items on the Agenda

Ashley Tewell communicated questions regarding what direction administration is taking on Pride Flag status. She will also share an email regarding questions on a policy.

Board Presentation

STEM Deans Mill School – Rachel Limberakis a teacher at both elementary schools shared a presentation on her work with students in the area of STEM. (see attached presentation) Students from grades Kindergarten through fifth grade were on hand to demonstrate their projects and experiences with STEM.

Budget 101 Presentation

Alisha Stripling shared her document that reviewed and explained the budget process.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Community Zoom – Mrs. Butler shared information for the upcoming community zoom scheduled for December 20th at 9am.
Elementary Playground Use – Mrs. Butler communicated regarding the recent inquiries about community use of the elementary playgrounds. She reviewed her proposal of hours that the playgrounds would be open for outside use.
Future Focus – The Superintendent reported on the recent activities for staff surrounding the Future Focus program.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – November 17, 2022 and November 28, 2022
- B. Checks and Bills – November 2022
- C. Personnel Report

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-C.
All: Aye

Teaching and Learning Sub Committee – Chair Farouk Rajab reported that due to a lack of quorum the committee was not able to meet tonight. The Child Development Curriculum has been shared with the Board for first read and will come back at the next meeting for approval.

Finance and Facilities Sub Committee - Chris Donahue explained the committee met and received cost of \$850,000 for the boiler replacement at the high school. Peter Anderson noted the elementary and middle school cost came in at \$246,000 each.

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING December 8, 2022-Page | 2

Policy Sub Committee – Dan Kelley reported the committee met last week to work on various policies that will come to the Board in January for first read.

The following motion was made by Dan Kelley and seconded by Sara Baker:

Motion 2: To approve policies under item Policy Sub-Committee Item Ci.
All: Aye

The following motion was made by Dan Kelley and seconded by Sara Baker:

Motion 3: To approve policies for omission under item Policy Sub-Committee Item Cii.
All: Aye

Legal Council Timeline RFP – Vote Required

Chair Farouk Rajab explained the RFP process. Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent shared her information on the timeline and process for determining the new Legal Council.

The following motion was made by Sara Baker and seconded by Dan Kelley:

Motion 4: To give the power to the Superintendent to put out an RFP to get Legal Council and adhere to the timeline.
All: Aye

Chair Farouk Rajab will set up a special meeting for the Board to review and approve the RFP.

CIP Approval

Peter Anderson and Chris Williston answered the Board's questions regarding items on the CIP. Chair Rajab had suggestions regarding the SMS HVAC expenditure. Dan Kelley had questions regarding security cameras.

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

Motion 5: To approve the CIP for \$1,119,953.00.

Vote: Dan Kelley – Abstained

Sara Baker – Yes

Farouk Rajab – Yes

Heidi Simmons – No Vote

Chris Donahue – Yes

Craig Esposito – Yes

Motion: Passes

Monthly Reports

The Board had no questions on the monthly reports.

Board Comments and Items for Future Agendas.

Dan Kelley recognized paraprofessional's attendance at the meeting. Mr. Kelley shared his continued concern regarding morning drop off traffic at the high school and his suggestions to remedy the situation. He would like this on a future agenda. He also requested a copy of the Security Plan submitted to the state on November 1st by Peter Anderson, Director of Facilities and Operations and would like to see a presentation on that item. Farouk Rajab, Chair will refer both issues to the Superintendent.

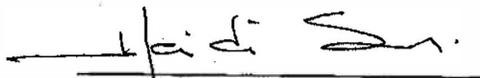
Adjournment

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

Motion 6: To adjourn at 7:41p.m.
All: Aye

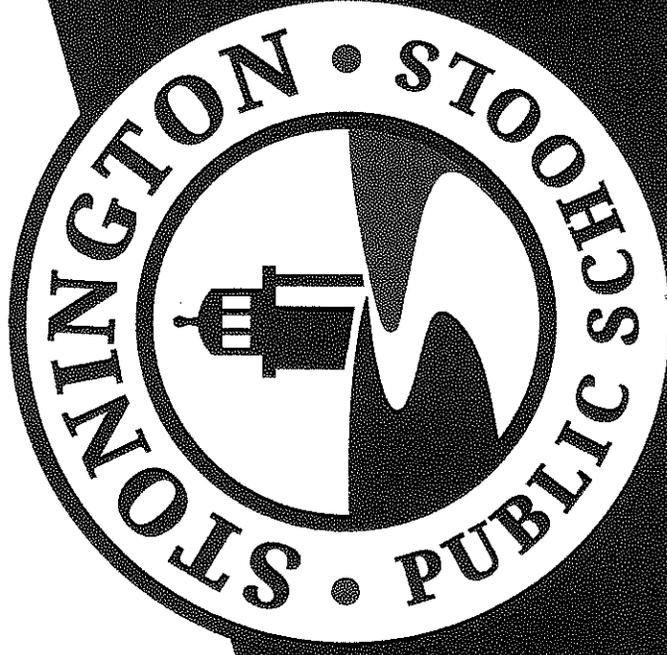
Complete Board Meeting can be heard on the Stonington Public Schools YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFXjoLyIU1KT9YnO3SQSryQ/>


Heidi Simmons, Secretary

S.T.E.M. Program

Deans Mill School
West Vine Street School



Overview of Program

- STEM is part of the Special Areas rotation for Kindergarten through 5th Grade students
- The class meets every 4th school day for 50 minutes (35 minutes for Kindergarten)
- 47 Classes - 780 students
- Semester Class - approximately 20 sessions per school year
- Second consecutive year

Class time consists of:

S.T.E.M. Lesson
Keyboarding (2nd - 5th Grade)
Library Book Check Out

Semester consists of:

Coding / Robotics
Digital Citizenship
Engineering Design Mindset



- Technology



- Engineering



- Mathematics



International Science and Technology Education (ISTE)



1.1d Empowered Learner

Students understand the fundamental concepts of technology operations, demonstrate the ability to choose, use and troubleshoot current technologies and are able to transfer their knowledge to explore emerging technologies.

1.2 Digital Citizen

Students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world, and they act and model in ways that are safe, legal and ethical.

1.5 Computational Thinker

Students develop and employ strategies for understanding and solving problems in ways that leverage the power of technological methods to develop and test solutions.



Grants Received

Stonington Education Fund

Set of 20 Virtual Reality Headsets



Pfizer Community Grant

10 Lego Robotics Kits



Career Focused Presentations

Stonington Public Schools

5th Grade



Chris Williston
Director of Technology



Peter Anderson
Director of Operations and
Facilities

General Dynamics Electric Boat

4th and 5th Grades



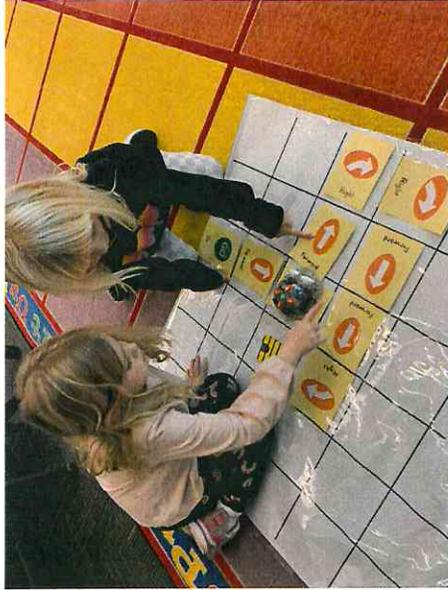
**“Welding”
Augmented
Reality welding
machine**

**Cheese and
Crackers**



Kindergarten

BeeBot Programming



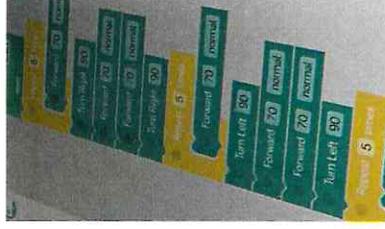
First Grade



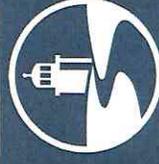
Coding with Awbie by Osmo

Second Grade

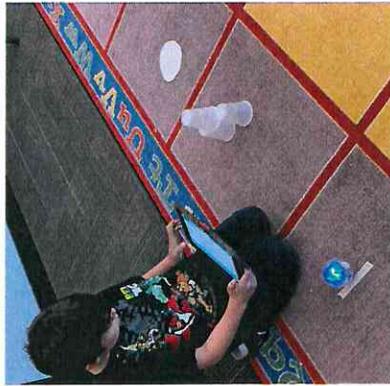
“Balloons Over Broadway” with Dash Robots



Coding in each grade level

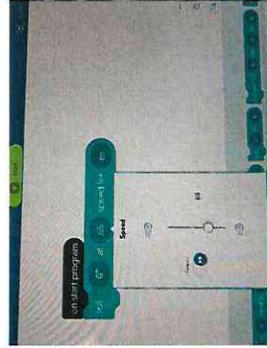


Third Grade



Sphero Robot Programming

Adjusting the variables to complete the task.



Fourth Grade

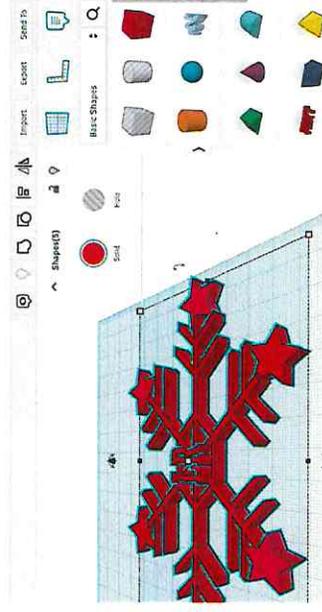


Coding with Little Bits

Erin's Sunrise -
7 pictures in a loop
with 400
milliseconds
between each one



Fifth Grade



Tinkercad
for
Designing
MakerBot
for 3D
printing



Coding in each grade level

