

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING October 13, 2022-Page | 1

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

Communications & Recognitions

Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent welcomed Diya Patel the new Student Government Representative. The Superintendent communicated that on September 29th the district was notified by Dr. Melissa Hickey from the Connecticut State Department of Ed that our Wonders reading program was approved and that we are one of twelve districts with the program. Mrs. Butler also shared email correspondence from the photographer of Channel 8 who covered the event at the high school on HBI commending the staff and students for running a great event. She also gave a shout out to two students, Harper Frazer a middle school cross country athlete who after finishing the run went back to cheer on the last athlete in the meet, noting this is what Stonington Public Schools is all about. She also shared that she received a letter from an opponent's grandmother recognizing Julian Keena a Stonington High School football player who during a recent game made sure throughout the game the players he tackled were ok and that the opponent team felt welcomed. Mrs. Butler recognized Tina Eisenbeis for her work in the summer program. The program was also one of the programs recognized by Miguel Cardona at a reception. Mrs. Butler gave a shout out to the Stonington Education Foundation and President, Christina Korinek for their help in providing programs, and instruments for students. The Blue Monday's program has donated over \$15,000 to the music programs and SEF has also donated \$25,000 to teachers through the Apple Grant. She also thanked kindergarten teachers Mrs. Hetu and Mrs. Turgeon for allowing her to adopt one of their kindergarten classes, where she helps once a month in the classrooms.

Kevin Agnello communicated he spent a morning with Principal Irvine and got a tour of West Vine Street School. He added the school is a state of the art school and commented on how clean the school is. He was blown away with the dedication of the teachers and the support of the administration were all on display and the care for the students was so obvious. Sara Baker communicated she completed her Welcoming Schools tour at Stonington Middle School. She was able to witness various activities going on such as the Shrek Musical rehearsal, band practice, and basketball practice. The school is a hub of activity both before and after school. She added she appreciated the warm welcome at Stonington Middle School. Chris Donahue recognized how good of a job the Student Government students did and teachers, Dean Rocha and Victoria Esser during the HBI event and thanked all that were involved in getting this going. He is excited that Stonington is the first in the state for a program like this. Farouk Rajab thanked all that were involved in the HBI event and recognized the Governor and Lt. Governor for showing their commitment to Stonington, adding he is very appreciative by that.

Comments from Citizens Regarding Items on the Agenda

Ashlee Tewell requested an update on the welcoming schools committee at each school.

Rachelle O'Dell commented on LGBTQ issues and her personal experience.

Mel Collier-Meek spoke about the approved reading program, adding she is proud that our district has this program.

William Heughins spoke about the Wonders reading program, the taking down of the classroom flags and the handing out of t-shirts supporting a political candidate.

Board Presentation - Book In a Day

Stonington Middle School staff presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding their Book In a Day event. The middle school mascot stingray also made an appearance at the board meeting. (Presentation attached)

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Zoom Monthly Communication with Parents - Mary Anne Butler, Superintendent gave a summary of the recent Zoom meeting and shared that the next one will be on October 28th at 9am.

Update of Entry and Transition Plan – The superintendent shared an update of her transition plan which will be posted on the district website. She also gave an update on the following topics; Welcoming Schools, welcoming new HR Manager, Bethany Wagner on October 31st, District Future Focus Teams, assessment presentation, test instrument and opt out option for parents, monthly visits to elementary kindergarten classrooms, community engagement, re-establishing partnerships with Board of Finance members, Board Weekly Letters, community engagement, upcoming EASTCONN presentation with Principal Alicia Dawe and future meeting with Fulbright.

Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes – September 8, 2022/October 5, 2022
- B. Checks and Bills – September 2021 and 2022
- C. Personnel Report

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

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

Sub Committee Reports

Teaching and Learning Sub-Committee - Kevin Agnello gave an update from the recent meeting and recommended approval of curriculum on the agenda. (Marketing I, Pottery II, U.S. History: The Gilded Age, U.S. History: The Emergence of the Modern United)

The following motion was made by Farouk Rajab and seconded by Craig Esposito:

Motion 2: To approve all four curriculum as presented.
All: Aye

Finance and Facilities Sub-Committee – Chris Donahue gave an update from the recent meeting regarding the middle school boiler, ESSER funds and HVAC system grant opportunity.

Policy Sub-Committee – Farouk Rajab commented the committee met and policies are on the agenda for a first read and will hopefully be coming back for a vote at the next meeting.(0200, 3231, 3520.1, 3520.11, 3520.13, 3520.14, 4118.231, 5141.28, 5145.511, 6141.322, 6141.323)

Approval of Board of Education 2023 Regular Meeting Calendar

Farouk Rajab noted the regular meeting 2023 calendar is attached for approval.

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Sara Baker:

Motion 3: To approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting Agenda for 2023.
All: Aye

Farouk Rajab thanked the Board for approving the regular meeting calendar for 2023.

Monthly Reports

The Board had no comments on the monthly reports.

Board Comments and Items for Future Agendas

Sara Baker requested future discussions on dress code violation incident and pride flags in school.

Executive Session – Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining with the SEA

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

Motion 4: To into Executive Session and invite the Board, Director of Finance, Alisha Stripling, Tim Smith and the Superintendent to discuss the strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the SEA.
All: Aye

The Board Entered into Executive Session at: 7:25pm

The Board Exited Executive Session at: 8:03pm

Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the SEA July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026

The following motion was made by Sara Baker and seconded by Craig Esposito:

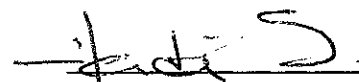
Motion 5: To approve the agreement between Collective Bargaining Agreement with the SEA for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026.
All: Aye

Agreement approved.

Adjournment

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

Motion 6: To adjourn at 8:05p.m.
All: Aye


Heidi Simmons, Secretary

Goals

- To have a shared experience that fosters school spirit
- To promote and celebrate reading and poetry
- To promote discussions on empathy and social and emotional needs
- To have fun together



School Spirit

- The day begins with a whole school assembly.
- Students wear their grade level color.
- A shared reading experience for the whole school.



Empathy & Fun!

All students

- participate in engaging discussions and activities in all classes.
- identify with characters' struggles and successes
- work as a team to compete in outdoor soccer relays

