

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 11, 2007

Mr. Bolduc, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Members present were John Bolduc, Chairman, April Smith, Secretary, Rob Cary, Ed Haberek, Corinne Rossi, and Gail MacDonald.

Late Arrival – Sam Agnello at 7:20 p.m.

Also present were Michael McKee, Superintendent of Schools, Jackie Garvie, Recording Secretary, members of the staff, and interested citizens.

Recognitions by Board Members and Superintendent

Mr. McKee introduced Paul Berkel to the Board of Education. Mr. Berkel will serve as interim principal at DMS from March to June 2007. Gail MacDonald acknowledged the high school music students for their performance at the CMEA Eastern Regional Conference at UConn. Ed Haberek recognized the high school boys and girls basketball teams and cheerleaders.

Student Government Report

Danielle Giserman reported on behalf of the student government on the following:

- Reindeer Games raised \$500 which was donated to a fellow student who lost his home in a fire.
- Comfort stations are being set up for students taking exams next week.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Ed Haberek:

- **Motion 1: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2006.**

Aye: All

B. Checks and Bills

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Ed :

- **Motion 2: To approve the disbursement of checks and bills for the month of December 2006.**

Aye: All

C. Intra-account Transfers

The following motion was made by Ed Haberek and seconded by Rob Cary:

- **Motion 3: To approve the intra-account transfers from December 1, 2006 to December 21, 2006.**

Aye: All

Business and Finance

A. Monthly Financial Reports

Frank Connolly, Business Director, reported on the financial reports.

B. Project Update

Bill King reported on the irrigation project.

C. Board "Controlling Costs" Successes

Frank Connolly, Business Director, reported on measures taken in the past by the Board to control costs affecting the budget. (see attached hand-out)

Budget 2007-08

A. Superintendent's Budget Proposal

Mr. McKee, Mr. Connolly and Mrs. Albert presented the budget that the administration has prepared and recommends to the Board for 2007-08. The total request was for a 5.02% increase over the 2006-07 budget. (see attached hand-out)

B. Board Budget Workshop

The Board asked questions of administration regarding the proposed 2007-08 budget. They also discussed their concerns and considerations for the budget.

Curriculum and Instruction

- A. New SHS Courses
 - 1. Chinese

The following motion was made by Gail MacDonald and seconded by Sam Agnello:

- **Motion 4: To approve Chinese as a course in Stonington Public Schools.**

The vote was as follows:

Ed Haberek – Yes	Corinne Rossi – Yes
April Smith – No	John Bolduc – Yes
Sam Agnello – Yes	Rob Cary – Yes
Gail MacDonald – Yes	

The motion carried.

- 2. Neuropsychology

The following motion was made by Gail MacDonald and seconded by Ed Haberek:

- **Motion 5: To approve neuropsychology as a course in Stonington Public Schools.**

Aye: All

Policies

- A. Revised Policy – 4118.24 – Personnel-Certified; Responsibilities – 2nd Reading

No action was taken by the Board.

- B. Revised Regulation 5131.62 – Regulations for Participants in Stonington Athletics and Use of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco and New Regulation 5131.64 – Regulation for Participants in Stonington Extra-Curricular (other than Athletics) Activities and Use of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco.

The Board decided to review in detail and rewrite these regulations at a later date.

Committee Reports

A. Building Committee Report

Gail MacDonald reported that new locker doors have been installed in the locker rooms at the high school during December vacation as well as acoustic panels for the band room. She also reported that the retention pond remains an issue affecting the final CO. The Building Committee brought their request to use \$30,000 for a study of the elementary school needs to the Board of Selectman. The Board of Selectman approved the request and it will now go to the Board of Finance.

B. LEARN

Mr. Haberek reported that the last meeting was focused on the fiscal state of LEARN and that LEARN had received approval for the land to be used for the Marine Science School.

C. SEF

Gail MacDonald reported on behalf of SEF. She reported that SEF is preparing for the upcoming Dinner Dance Fundraiser which will be held on March 31 at the Mystic Marriott. SEF is currently looking for donations for the silent auction, Mrs. MacDonald also reported that SEF has approved criteria for donations made to SEF in the memory of loved ones.

D. Grievance –

John Bolduc reported that two grievances were heard. One from the Stonington Education Association regarding scheduling and another from the Custodians union regarding denial of vacation time. Both grievances were denied.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. McKee reported on the following:

A. Personnel

CERTIFIED LEAVES

Janet Zimmerman	Special Services	January – June 2007
Lauren McGugan	MMS – Grade 5/6	December – June 2007
Lea Graner-Kennedy	MMS – Spanish	December – March 2007
Virginia Brown	WVSS – Principal	January – June 2007

Citizen Comments

Deb Wilner, parent, asked the Board if adding library time is being looked at for the 2007-08 budget. She also stated that she is concerned that the high school library is closed after school.

Board Comments

Mr. Agnello gave the Board a copy of the SHS Fall Sports report, which was given to the District Athletic Committee at their meeting on January 11, 2007. He also informed the Board that the District Athletic Committee reviewed and discussed a request from a parent regarding a change to the Athletic Handbook. The committee took no action on the request. Mr. Haberek invited Board members to attend a “Point of Order, Robert’s Rules” presentation at Briarwood Academy.

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Sam Agnello:

- **Motion 6: To adjourn at 9:37 p.m.**

Aye: All

April Smith, Board Secretary