

STONINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MAY 10, 2007

Mr. Bolduc, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board of Education Meeting Room. Members present were John Bolduc, Chairman, Corinne Rossi, Sam Agnello, Ed Haberek, Rob Cary and Gail MacDonald.

Member Absent was April Smith, Secretary

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

Communications

Mr. McKee announced that Kelly Spooner was selected by the DMS Principal Search Committee as principal of Deans Mill School. He also announced the retirement of Susan Dumas, Mystic Middle School Principal at the end of the 2006-07 school year.

Recognitions by Board Members and Superintendent

Mr. McKee recognized Margaret Banker, daughter of MaryEllen and Michael Banker for being selected for the CABA Leadership Award and being selected as Valedictorian and Timothy Steinhoff, son of Donald and Maureen Steinhoff, for being selected for the CABA Leadership Award and being selected as Salutatorian for the Class of 2007.

Mr. McKee also announced the names of the top ten percent of the senior class who are designated as the Stonington Scholars for the Class of 2007.

Mr. Haberek thanked Bill King, Mr. McKee and Gail MacDonald for all their work on the installation of the West Broad Street School playscape.

Student Government Report

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

- Student government held Staff Appreciation Week and handed out themed snack bags.
- Special Olympics will be held at SHS for the first time on May 19, 2007. All volunteers welcomed.
- The next upcoming event will be the "Spotlight" Talent Show which will be held on May 23, 2007.
- Honor Society Induction will be held on May 24. Mr. McKernan and Matt Collette will be guest speakers.
- Student Government elections were held and next year's president, Lauren Gillick, will be introduced to the Board at the June BOE meeting.

Comments from Citizens

Ken Sherwood applauded the DMS Principal Search Committee and the Board of Education for selecting Kelly Spooner as the new DMS Principal.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Ed Haberek:

- **Motion 1: To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 12, 2007.**

Aye: All

B. Checks and Bills

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Ed Haberek:

- **Motion 2: To approve the disbursement of checks and bills for the month of April 2007.**

Aye: All

C. Intra-account Transfers

The following motion was made by Ed Haberek and seconded by Sam Agnello:

- **Motion 3: To approve the intra-account transfers for the month of April 2007.**

Aye: All

Business and Finance

A. Monthly Financial Reports

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

B. Project Updates

Mr. King reported on the irrigation project and record retention.

C. Bus Service on Private Roads

Mr. Connelly spoke to the Board regarding a correspondence sent to Skirig Development, Inc. on an issue regarding school buses going onto roads that have not been accepted by the Town.

The Board instructed Mr. Connolly to continue bus service through June and send another correspondence to Skirig Development, which will include a paragraph referring to bus schedules and the development of bus schedules in August. The Board also requested that a letter be sent to parents making them aware of the situation in advance of the new school year.

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

- **Motion 4: To move Technology Update on the agenda to after Business and Finance and before Proposed CIP Technology Purchases.**

Aye: All

Technology Update

Mrs. Albert made a presentation to the Board regarding the technology curriculum for next year and concerns raised in the different grade levels regarding inadequate equipment and staffing. Mrs. Albert presented a plan by grade level for addressing these concerns and equipment inadequacy in the district. She also recommended a one year certified technology position to facilitate with the transition next year and to help elevate the gap in grades 5 & 6. Mrs. Albert requested that the Board approve a \$30,000 transfer from curriculum materials to technology equipment.

Proposed Technology Purchases

Clint Kennedy and Mrs. Albert presented the technology purchases proposed using CIP funds. The proposed purchases align with the district technology plan approved by the Board and with the technology curriculum.

The following motion was made by Sam Agnello and seconded by Corinne Rossi:

- **Motion 5: To approve the creation of a one year certified technology position.**

Aye: All

The following motion was made by Ed Haberek and seconded by Sam Agnello:

- **Motion 6: To approve 2007- 2008 CIP plan for technology purchases.**

Aye: All

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

- **Motion 7: To approve the transfer of \$30,000 from curriculum materials to technology equipment to purchase mobile labs for the middle schools.**

Aye: All

Curriculum and Instruction

A. Curriculum Materials/Equipment

Mrs. Albert talked to the Board about the purchase of phonics materials to foster early literacy and technology for middle schools.

B. Tradebook Adoptions

This was a second reading.

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Corinne Rossi:

- **Motion 8: To approve Maus I: A Survivor's Tale by Art Spiegelmann for use in Grade 8.**

Aye: All

The following motion was made by Rob Cary and seconded by Corinne Rossi:

- **Motion 9: To approve Siddhartha by Hermann Hess for use in Grade 9.**

Aye: All

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

- **Motion 10: To approve A Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah for use in Grade 12.**

Aye: All

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

- **Motion 11: To approve Anthem by Ayn Rand for use in Grade 9.**

Aye: All

C. Teacher Evaluation Report

Mrs. Albert gave her annual report on teacher evaluations.

Policy

A. Revised regulations for Policy 5131.6 – Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

This agenda item was tabled to the June agenda and therefore no action was taken.

Committee Reports

A. Building Committee Report

Gail MacDonald reported that the Building Committee will begin working on planning for elementary school needs at their next meeting.

B. SEF

Gail MacDonald reported on behalf of SEF. She reported that SEF needs new Board members.

C. LEARN

Ed Haberek reported that David Title gave a presentation on a study he conducted regarding the achievement gap between black and white students in Connecticut. Mr. Haberek was elected to serve as fiscal officer for the LEARN Board.

D. Grievance Committee

John Bolduc reported that he and Gail MacDonald heard a teacher union grievance on May 2nd regarding inadequate lunchtime at DMS. Mr. Bolduc also reminded the Board that there will be a special board meeting on May 17, 2007 to hear a custodial grievance.

E. Town Pension Committee

Mr. Haberek reported the town is preparing to diversify portfolios and will be discussed at the next meeting on June 7.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. McKee reported on the following:

A. Personnel

Mr. McKee reported early in the meeting that Kelly Spooner was selected by the Board to serve as Principal at DMS.

B. Important Dates

Special Board Meeting – May 17, 2007

SHS Academic Achievement Awards – June 4, 2007

SHS Senior Banquet – June 19, 2007

SHS Graduation – June 21, 2007

Special Board Meeting for Interview – June 20, 2007

Board Comments

Gail MacDonald spoke about the SHS SBIT and the idea of having a program in the Fall involving students in the Citizens in Action class and AP classes to involve students in decision making and to give student perspectives in issues affecting them.

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

- **Motion 12: To adjourn at 8:50 p.m.**

Aye: All

April Smith, Board Secretary