

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Hicks Municipal Center  
Council Chambers  
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING – May 27, 2015

Members Present: Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Chair; Mr. Patrick Doyle, Vice Chair; Ms. Kathy Gorsky, Secretary; Ms. Karen Moran, Mr. Steve Clark, and Ms. Colleen Yudichak.

Administrators Present: Mr. Mark McLaughlin, Business Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting – May 13, 2015

Mr. Clark motioned to accept the minutes of the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Doyle seconded the motion. Changes: none. Mr. Adlerstein, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Gorsky, Ms. Moran, and Mr. Clark were in favor. Ms. Yudichak abstained. Motion carried.

Ms. Gorsky reported on correspondence received by the Board. All of the letters were in regard to personnel.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

D. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Ms. Yudichak thanked everyone for their help with the Spring Fling. It was very successful.

Mr. Adlerstein spoke in regard to the correspondence. He explained that the Superintendent is responsible for personnel issues. It is not the Board's role to be involved unless there is a grievance. Mr. Clark added that all of the bargaining unit contracts have provisions for grievance procedures. Mr. Adlerstein noted that he and the vice chair are kept abreast of personnel issues and information is shared in executive session with the Board if needed. The Policy Committee is currently working on formalizing this process. Mr. Adlerstein asked Mr. Eric Bedner, a reporter from the Journal Inquirer, if he would like to comment. Mr. Bedner noted that he is present to observe, not to comment. Mr. Adlerstein invited him to participate with the Board as it goes into its planning stage over the summer. They would like him to be a partner with them in regard to positive community-building stories. The JI is a great way to get a positive message out to the community. Mr. Bedner responded that he would be happy to do so but that it is not his place to comment.

Ms. Gorsky commented that she appreciated the article on the referendum and thanked Mr. Bedner.

E. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ms. Welch noted that Student Council elections were held. Mr. Perosino and another student were elected to be Board representatives in the upcoming academic year and Ms. Welch was elected to President of the Student Council.

Mr. Perosino explained that the Student Council has started planning Freshmen Orientation and Homecoming. A club fair will be part of the orientation program.

Mr. Adlerstein invited Mr. Perosino and Ms. Welch to attend and be student voices at the July 8<sup>th</sup> session. He thanked them for their contributions and comments on various issues during Board meetings.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

G. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Communications – Ms. Moran noted that the Committee will meet on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm. There will be a guest speaker on communications. Additionally, the Fire Prevention Poster Winner will attend the June 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting for recognition.

Town Council – Ms. Moran highlighted that Mr. Eccles discussed the Technology Advisory Board. There appears to be a renewed effort to have an on-call presence. Further, the Town Council authorized the submission of the application for the CT State Department of Education Youth Service Bureaus Grant which primarily funds Ms. Dunn's salary. This has been done since 1985. Lastly, Mr. Werbner talked about the utility fund and about forming a combined group which would include the Board and the Town. He suggested that it be the Shared Services Group. Mr. Adlerstein commented that the Board has discussed having the Finance and Facilities Committee represent the Board in regard to the utility fund.

Finance and Facilities – Mr. Doyle explained that the Committee is working to reach out to the Town Council to form a joint committee to look at the USIF fund. He will follow up with Mr. Werbner. The goal is to understand the contract, the aspirations for the funds, and make policy recommendations to the Board and the Town Council. They will also work with Dr. Willett, Mr. McLaughlin, Ms. Hancock, and Mr. Werbner.

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Adlerstein explained that Dr. Willett reported that the administrators will have a retreat with a focus on higher order thinking. Three meetings will be held over the week of June 22<sup>nd</sup>. By June 24<sup>th</sup>, two of the three meeting will have taken place so the focus of the June 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting will be for the Board to align itself with the thinking of the administration. The Board is planning a retreat at Crandall's Lodge on July 8<sup>th</sup>. He invited Mr. Bedner to attend as well.

I. BOARD ACTION

I.1. Policy 4070 – Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug-Free Workplace

Ms. Gorsky reviewed the policy and its changes.

Mr. Clark motioned to accept the revisions to Board Policy 4070 – Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug-Free Workplace. Mr. Doyle seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

I.2 Approval of the purchase of a 2015, F250 Truck for the Facilities Department

Dr. Willett sent a memo explaining that \$30K was set aside in the capital budget for renovations to the BOE administrative offices. The plan to move out of the current location

has been put on hold. In turn, Dr. Willett would like to ask Mr. Werbner to transfer these funds to the vehicle account for the purpose of replacing a vehicle.

Ms. Gorsky motioned to authorize the Superintendent to request that the Town transfer the funds from the capital budget for the Board of Education renovations to the vehicle account for the purchase of a truck for the Board of Education. Mr. Doyle seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

K. POINTS OF INFORMATION

Mr. McLaughlin noted that the excess cost payments were distributed. The District received \$207K which helps with the special education costs.

Ms. Gorsky inquired if anyone has followed up on discussing the possibility of changing the bus schedule to save money. One option may be to combine the THS and TMS bus runs; an option which seems to work in other districts. Mr. McLaughlin will review the contract and gather information to determine if this would be a possibility at this time.

L. CORRESPONDENCE

- Town Council – Special Meeting – May 12, 2015

M. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Testing Overview including SBAC opt-out information
- LOA report
- Field Trip report
- Music department recognition (Chicago) (June 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Fire Prevention Poster contest winner (June 10<sup>th</sup>)

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION – For the Purpose of Discussing the Superintendent Evaluation

Mr. Clark motioned to go into executive session at 8:22 PM to discuss the Superintendent Evaluation. Ms. Moran seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.  
The Board returned to public session at 9:22 PM.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Clark motioned to adjourn the meeting and pay the clerk at 9:22PM. Mr. Doyle seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Pascuzzi  
Clerk