

**LITTLE COMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
LITTLE COMPTON, RHODE ISLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING**

Date: December 10, 2014
Place: 28 Commons
School Commons Area,
Little Compton, RI 02837

Minutes

Time: **7:00 PM OPEN SESSION** (Held in Commons Area)
Present: P. Bugara, P. Allen, L. Craffey, P. McHugh, T. Alder and others. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

II. Spotlight on Education: Buck Hill and NY Trip

- a. Buck Hill – M. Deleo: A presentation and powerpoint was presented by Mr. Deleo. Mr. Deleo thanked Mrs. Anthony, Mr. Tomasso, Mrs. Dunn and Mr. Ryan (volunteer). Various essays were read by the students about their experiences.
- b. NY Trip – 5th Grade: A selection of 5th grade students wrote essays about their experience in NY. In addition, Mr. Arruda reported about the comments made at the United Nations pertaining to the wonderful behavior of our students and well as how knowledgeable the students were.

III. Vote on Consent Agenda Items¹: On a motion made by T. Alder, seconded by P. McHugh it was unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda.

- a. Minutes, November 20, 2014: Would like the members that are present listed on the minutes.
- b. Bills and Payroll
- c. Cash Disbursements
- d. Receive and file correspondence-included in packet: The chair questioned the Fire Marshall's Report and questioned the last item on the report. The superintendent indicated that Mr. Moore would be working on that.
- e. Information-included in packet: The Superintendent indicated that the letter from Mr. Osborne would be referred to Mr. Moore who will address the issues in the letter.
- f. Vote to approve Home Schooling Plans: One 9/10 grade and One 10th grade
- g. Appoint Boys Basketball Coach
- h. Appoint Girls Basketball Coach and Asst. Coach

IV. Public Input: A member of the public indicated that the consent agenda does not seem appropriate and should only include correspondence, not items that must be voted on. The Superintendent indicated that the Consent Agenda is in compliance with the law but the Chair indicated that she is researching this and may recommend changes to be more transparent.

V. Superintendent Report: K. Crowley: The Superintendent gave a report.

¹ Consent Agenda items will be voted upon by a single vote.

Some of the items are listed below:

- a. Certified Staff
- b. Website
- c. Curriculum: The Superintendent discussed the Science Curriculum. Our Science teacher Mrs. MacLean discussed requirements for the science curriculum with all grade level teachers.
- d. Budget Process – 2015-16: Mrs. Crowley discussed the budget process. She indicated the process has started in early November. The faculty has been asked to submitted budget requests to Mr. Arruda and Mrs. Arruda is required to submit to the Superintendent by December 23, 2014. Questions were asked of the Superintendent by P. McHugh pertaining to the process for the budget items for teachers and if it has always been handled the way it is currently. Mrs. Crowley with the assistance of Mrs. Goncalo indicated that before a general list would circulate. This process resulted in a waste of supplies and the system was deemed not efficient. All supplies are in the classrooms instead of a large supply closet. Mrs. Crowley indicated that the budget (draft) would be up on the website tomorrow. Mrs. Crowley had the business manager present the preliminary (draft) staff budget. Mrs. Crowley indicated that she is not recommending combining classes and with that being the case there would be 2 open positions. The Superintendent indicated that she is planning to present the 2nd half of the budget in January. She would like to have 2 budget workshops on January 21 and 22, 2015. At the February school committee meeting the Superintendent would like to have a vote on the budget to be able to submit to the town by March. A question was asked pertaining to lay-off and that we are no longer required to lay-off by February per state law. Mr. Whitehouse advocated for music not to be cut to half time and explained that the position is full-time and not a part-time position unless the schedule changes. The Chair indicated that the children are no longer getting individual instruction. The Superintendent indicated that pull-out of students are no longer since it disrupted instruction and teachers did not like that. Mr. McHugh asked why we are not doing band before and after school. Mr. Arruda indicated that band before school was still disrupted to instruction since the first period often waited for the band students to come back from band. Mr. McHugh had questions pertaining to the contract of the IT Director and if it was in the contract the days he was to report to the town and to the school. Mrs. Crowley indicated that the IT Director reports to the town on Tuesdays and is available on call in case of emergency. The Superintendent indicated that she is asking for a 12 hour per week custodian to be added to the staff on recommendation of a Steton Cleaning Service that assessed the custodial needs of the school. The Superintendent described the role of Mr. Moore who acts as our Facility Manager and that he has done a wonderful job and will report to the school committee next month. Mr. MacGregor indicated that the way the building has changed he is hoping that 2 full-time custodians will be hired for the evening. Mr. McHugh asked Mr. MacGregor how often the gym floor was sanded and polished. Mr. MacGregor indicated that it was usually done each summer. Mrs. Crowley talked about the tree at the front of

the building. She indicated that we will be adding to the tree to include all religious groups.

- a. **Finance Report**, J. McNamee: A finance report was given. Indicated that we have a surplus of approx. \$116K. Mr. McNamee indicated that projections for the end of the school year looks on track and indicates a positive surplus for our PHS students. RIDE has acknowledged us to continue the wireless connectivity and should help us in putting more wireless connections throughout the building.
- b. **Portsmouth School Committee**, T. Alder: Mr. Alder attended the Portsmouth School Committee meeting. The Portsmouth School Committee is interested in getting together with the Little Compton School Committee. It was a good meeting. The meeting was much more formal than ours. The Portsmouth School Committee discussed the science standards.
- c. **RCOS**, T. Alder: A report was given. An architect is starting a design for the fields as well as a fund raiser taking place. A timeline of mid-May for the project to start has been established. Mr. McHugh thanked Don Gomez the former Chair for including the RCOS on the School Committees agenda. A question was asked if this should be referred to as the Recreation Committee. It was confirmed that it should be referred to as the Recreation Committee.

VI.

Discussion Items:

- a. **School Committee – Rules of Conduct Policy:** The Chair indicated that some items should be looked at for change in the policy. A question about public input was asked and if it should be moved. There was a question by Mr. Alder if we should have the area of signing in to speak be removed. Mrs. Craffey indicated that she would like to have a form for the public to indicate what they would like to have on the agenda. Mrs. Craffey feels this would help the School Committee better prepare to answer the public. Mr. Alder would like there to be a process in place to determine if the public request are acceptable to place on the agenda. Mrs. Bugara feels that the by allowing the public to control the agenda is not a good idea since it is the School Committee that should determine what is on the agenda since that is what the public elected them to do. Mrs. Craffey indicated that this would just be something that they could use as a tool to know what the concerns are in the public but the committee would still have the authority to decide what is on the agenda.
- b. **Tuition Policy – Set Tuition:** The Superintendent indicated that the tuition policy is based on per student cost which is estimated at \$17,044. It is up to the school committee to indicate if they want to stay at the per student cost or change it. Mrs. Craffey asked what would happen to the money collected for tuition students. Mr. McNamee indicated that the funds would go to the general fund.
- c. **Community Outreach:** Mr. McHugh asked to investigate the idea of interviewing past parents, home schooling parents or current parents. Mr. McHugh would like to survey these parents to find out if there are things that certain parents are not finding here and are seeking to educate their children elsewhere. Mr. Alder does not think this is a good idea and that it may invade the family's privacy.
- d. **Attorney Position:** The Chair indicated that they would like to look at getting another Attorney. Mrs. Bugara indicated her feelings about getting another Attorney and feels that it is not a good idea since he has the expertise of servicing 70% of the schools in RI. Mrs. Craffey

indicated that she just wants to be more informed. Mr. Allder pointed out that Mr. Scungio's firm is actually hired to teach School Committees the proper procedure. On a motion made by L. Craffey, seconded by P. McHugh to move this discussion item to an action item. The motion passed (4-1), P. Bugara, nay. On a motion made by L. Craffey, seconded by P. McHugh it was voted (3-2), P. Bugara and T. Allder, nay to allow the Superintendent to advertise for a new Attorney on SchoolSpring.

- e. **Calendar Survey:** The Superintendent discussed the idea of eliminating the February Vacation. A survey was provided.
- f. **Field Trip Policy – Set Radius:** On a motion made by L. Craffey, seconded by P. Bugara it was unanimously voted to move the Field Trip Policy to an action item for a vote tonight. On a motion made by L. Craffey, seconded by P. Bugara it was unanimously voted to amend the Field Trip Policy to include that up to 105 miles will not need prior approval from the School Committee.

VII. Action Items:

- a. **Consider and Vote the revisions of the School Health Program:** On a motion made by L. Craffey, seconded by T. Allder it was unanimously voted to approve the revisions of the School Health Program.
- b. **Consider and Vote the Calendar Survey:** On a motion made by L. Craffey, seconded by T. Allder it was unanimously voted to approve sending out the Calendar Survey.

VIII. Adjourn: On a motion made by P. McHugh, seconded by T. Allder it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:45pm

N.B. Disabled person(s) needing an interpreter or copy of the minutes should notify the School Committee Secretary at 721-3313 at least two (2) days prior to the meeting.