

LONG ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

3:30 p.m. – Long Island Library Conference Room

MINUTES

Citizens in the audience are invited to speak during public comment and/or on a topic that is introduced during the course of the meeting under New Business. Each citizen is to be limited to one presentation per citizen, per topic, of not more than three minutes unless the chair gives special permission. Audience participation shall cease on a topic at such time as the chairman calls for board discussion.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Annie Donovan called the meeting to order at 3:40. Also present were board members Pierre Avignon and Sam Whitener, as well as Marci Train, Lead Teacher, and Barbara Powers, Superintendent/Principal.

2. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Donovan moved approval of the November 13, 2019 minutes. Mr. Whitener seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Confirmation of Marci Train's Extended Professional Leave

Mrs. Powers confirmed that Mrs. Train will be on an extended professional leave from Monday, January 21 through Monday, March 9. Mrs. Train spoke with her students' parents during recent conferences to explain the curriculum plan during her absence which will be instructed by Mrs. Fabiano.

Mrs. Powers said she also planned to write a press release to be published in the Long Island newsletter (February 1 edition) as well as offering it to the Press Herald and Forecaster. The press release will be submitted early in the new year.

- Superintendent Absence

Mrs. Powers also let the School Board know that she will be away traveling the week of December 9. Mr. Dorr, Special Education Director, will be at the school on December 10. Mrs. Powers reminded the board that her contract included 10 less days this year to allow her to occasionally miss her weekly day on the island to travel with her husband. She will continue to be reachable by email.

- Craft Day

Mrs. Powers noted that, thanks to many volunteers, Craft Day was once again a positive experience for the children. Beautiful gifts were created and will be going home shortly.

6. LEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Mrs. Train reported that parent conferences were very positive this year, with a focus on learning goals identified by the children. The children attended the grade 3-5 conferences and fully participated while grade K-2 conferences were more traditional (parents and Mrs. Norton) while also focusing on learning goals. Report cards will be distributed on December 5.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Powers asked if there was any news about the proposed ferry schedule revision. No one had an update.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Review of Proposed 2020-21 School Budget

Mrs. Powers then presented the proposed 2020-21 School Budget. Board members were given a line-by-line explanation. Highlights included:

- A 3.5% increase for all staff, whose salary rates were frozen for the current year. This matches the Portland Education Association salary increases that are currently required in the Long Island teacher contract.

- A 5% placeholder for health insurance increases.

- \$10,000 for unanticipated tuition to Portland for a potential new student in grades 6-12.

- An increase in anticipated tuition paid by Portland for Great Diamond Island students.

-Ferry passes for all Long Island 6-12 students plus one to cover an additional student.

-Slight increases in classroom and office supplies.

-A decrease in summer tuition costs required for special education based on actual costs this year.

-A slight decrease in electricity given recent forecasts by Central Maine Power.

-Mrs. Powers finally noted that even though the budget increase is about 3.5% in total, the net cost to the town is less than in 2019-20 due to the increase in revenues.

The Board also talked about replacement computers, using iCloud to decrease memory issues with older machines, moving replaced computers and iPads into the library, and consideration of adding to the teacher retirement fund. Mrs. Powers offered to discuss the last item with the Finance Committee when the budget is formally presented on January 25.

Mr. Whitener also noted that he is negotiating a contract with Trane to add mechanical services to the already existing software maintenance account for the Learning Center's heating system. There may be a need to add slightly more to the contracted services line. This amount will be known before January 25.

Ms. Donovan then moved approval of the proposed 2020-21 school budget. Mr. Whitener seconded the motion, which passed 3-0. Mrs. Powers stated that she will be forwarding the budget and the enrollment projections to Brian Dudley and Ed Rea.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30. Board members were reminded of the Christmas Program on December 19th.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 4 – Craft Day

December 19 – Christmas Program

December 23 - January 1 – Christmas Break

2019-20 School Board Meetings:

School Board meetings will occur on the first Wednesday of every month unless otherwise indicated. Upcoming dates:

January 8

February 5

March 4

April 1 (really!)

May 6

June 3