

Board of Education Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2011

1. School Community Session- 6:00 p.m.

Board of Education Members Present: Chairman Stephanie Hall; Meredith Doyen, Jamie Doucette, Laurie Finan. Sara McLean arrived at Item # 4.1 on the agenda.

Mr. Charles Meyers, Superintendent/Principal; Marilyn Basini, Business Manager; Dawn Brolin, Outside Consultant; Sharon Patterson, District Treasurer; Ann-Marie Thibodeau, Claims Auditor.

- 1.1 Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Hall called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 1.2 Public Participation – There were no public comments at this time.

2. Consent Agenda – Chairman Hall requested a motion to add additional multi-fund warrants in the amount of \$100,393.58.

Meredith Doyen made a motion to add the additional multi-fund warrants, seconded by Jamie Doucette.

Motion carried: 4-0.

2.1	Warrants Payable	Total	\$ 7,734.12
	Warrant # 0001 Multi-Fund		7,734.12

Jamie Doucette made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Meredith Doyen.

Motion carried: 4-0.

3. Action Items (*Board Chairman*)

3.1 Motion: To Approve Minutes of the June 15, 2011 Board of Education Meeting
Meredith Doyen made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 15, 2011 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Jamie Doucette.
Motion carried: 4-0.

3.2 Motion: To Approve Minutes of the July 6, 2011 Annual Organizational Meeting
Jamie Doucette made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 6, 2011 Annual Organizational Meeting, seconded by Meredith Doyen.
Motion carried: 4-0.

3.3 Motion: To Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fishers Island Teachers Association
The Board decided to wait until the August 2011 Board of Education meeting to vote on the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the FITA, as per the school attorney.

3.4 Motion: To Accept Meredith Blanzaco's Resignation Effective June 30, 2011
Meredith Doyen made a motion to accept the resignation of Meredith Blanzaco effective June 30, 2011 seconded by Jamie Doucette.
Motion carried: 4-0.

3.5 Motion: To Approve Checklist for Audit of Claims
Meredith Doyen made a motion to approve the Checklist for Audit of Claims, seconded by Jamie Doucette.
Motion carried: 4-0.

Following Executive Session

3.6 Motion: To approve an annual salary of \$2,500. for the Claims Auditor, effective July 1, 2010.
Motion made by Jamie Doucette, seconded by Sara McLean.
Motion carried: 5-0.

3.7 Motion: To Approve Hourly Wages of School Secretary, Student Services Secretary, Librarian and Teacher Assistants.
Motion: To approve a 3% hourly wage increase for the School Secretary, Student Services Secretary, Librarian, and Teacher Assistants, effective July 1, 2011.
Synchronization of the Librarian and Teacher Assistant wages to occur prior to this increase.
Motion made by Sara McLean, seconded by Jamie Doucette.
Motion carried: 5-0.

4. Superintendent's Report

4.1 ARRA Grant Report – Cynthia Riley presented the Board members with a detailed summary of all the ARRA Grant Programs and Events held during the 2010-2011 school year. These included Curriculum Enrichment and Cultural Arts Programs, Extra-Curricular/After School Programs (some that were held on a one-time basis and others offered for multiple weeks). She also outlined Special Projects including Princeton Review Partnership and SAT Prep course development, World Oceans Day, and UCONN Avery Point initiative. Mrs. Riley stated that the after school Judo Program is already planned to continue for 10 weeks in the Fall, and recommended that Judo continue in the Spring semester as well. She would also like to see the cultural arts program continue at school on a monthly basis and the school hire a new CECA coordinator. Mrs. Riley also stated that she will be available via e-mail to assist with contact information for requested programming.

4.2 Music Teacher Recruitment – Mr. Meyers informed the Board members that the position has been posted on Monster.com which is the most cost effective method. Hard copies have also been posted at the Community Center and the Post Office. The closing is August 1, and the interviews will be scheduled after August 15th when Mr. Meyers returns from vacation. The Fairfield Teachers Agency has also sent one candidate. There is no cost to the school for this as the applicant pays the fee. So far six hard copy applications have been received.

4.3 Update on Visioning Sessions Conducted on July 21 & 26- Mr. Meyers reported on the Visioning Sessions that were held on July 21 and July 26. A mixture of Community members, teachers and Board members attended these sessions. Mr. Meyers highlighted some of the ideas that have been generated, and plans to write an article for the Fog Horn including some of these ideas in order to communicate with the Community. He reported on some of the suggestions collected at these meetings. These included offering internships for students to experience opportunities off the island, particularly to learn more about expectations in the world of work. Other ideas included establishing a Fishers Island School Foundation in order to implement programs that might not be covered in the school budget. There was also a suggestion to increase the Magnet Program to enrich the learning environment for our island students and fill in the gaps at certain grade levels. The Magnet program might even be expanded to include students from other countries who might board on the island. Early college credit is also being explored through initiative with UCONN Avery Point. There is concern that the Magnet tuition be raised so that Fishers Island taxpayers are not subsidizing the education of students from Connecticut. Discussion also ensued regarding the possibility of contracting with one of the water taxis as an alternative to the ferry for transporting students. There are two more visioning sessions planned for August.

4.4 Capital Projects Report- Mr. Meyers reported on the work being done in the school at this time. The roof is being repaired and the hot weather was beneficial for this work. Carlin Construction has been doing an excellent job and the carpeting has been less expensive than initially budgeted for. All the electrical upgrade and ADA signage is coming in on budget, so there is some extra money available. Some of the contingency money can be used for additional projects including replacing the ceiling tiles in the hallway outside the gym and adding some new energy efficient lighting. There will also be new toilet partitions installed in the bathrooms.

4.5 Board of Education Standing Committees –Mr. Meyers presented the Board members with a list of the Standing Committees and the Responsibilities involved.

The following committee memberships were determined:

Magnet Committee: Laurie Finan and Sara McLean.

Policy Committee: Meredith Doyen and Stephanie Hall.

Personnel Committee: Sara McLean and Stephanie Hall.

Housing Committee: Laurie Finan and Meredith Doyen.

Safety Committee: Jamie Doucette.

5. Executive Session: Personnel Jamie Doucette made a motion to move into Executive Session, seconded by Laurie Finan. Motion carried: 5-0. The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

Motion to exit Executive Session made by Sara McLean at 7:43 p.m. seconded by Meredith Doyen. Motion carried: 5-0.

6. Adjournment-

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Laurie Finan at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Jamie Doucette. Motion carried: 5-0.

