

Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 2020
Community Room – 6:15 pm
“EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS”

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:21 pm by F. Bood, Board Chair.

Present were: F. Bood, L. Shippee, D. Capobianco, H. Wood, C. Langlois, M. Rouillard.
Also in Attendance were: G. Lanza, C. Scott, L. Smith, D. Chrzan, D. Zajac and M. Cartier.

II. Pledge of Allegiance (Led by Fire Prevention Poster Winners)

C. Scott introduced the Fire Prevention Poster Winners, Lylah Connetti and Isabel Casper to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Public Comment

T. Shaw PTO Co-President, provided an update on the PTO. Their next meeting will be on 3/2/20 at 6:30 pm in the Community Room. The light bulb fundraiser ended - \$370.00 was raised. Providence Bruins Outing will be on 3/21/20, Book Fair runs from 3/16/20 - 3/20/20, cash calendars will be in March and a family sock hop on 4/24/20. The PTO increased field trip funds to \$400.00 per grade. They will also provide \$200.00 for each Specials class and \$200.00 to PBIS.

A. Campbell thanked the Board and Administration for their support during her sickness, which helped make it less stressful for her and her family.

IV. Reports and Communications

A. Correspondence

Day Kimball Healthcare thanked the Board for its gift to the Day Kimball Hospital Fund in memory of Patricia Hawes.

B. Student Government Report and Update

E. Shamback updated the Board on Student Government activities: Crazy hat day; school spirit week; Snow Ball, Read Across America, and there was an Anti-Bullying assembly by Mike Bogdanski.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 15, 2020
2. Superintendent/Special Services Director's Report
3. Principal's Report
4. Clinical Supervisor's Report

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by C. Langlois to accept the consent agenda as presented. Vote: All in favor.

C. Budget and Expense Report - January 31, 2020

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by H. Wood to accept the Budget and Expense Report - January 31, 2020 as presented. Vote: All in favor.

D. Plainfield Board of Education Liaison

M. Cartier, Plainfield Liaison provided an update. Plainfield opened their February meeting with a moment of silence in memory of one of their students who had recently died in a fire. Plainfield has a Cable TV position open, their CNA program is doing well-some of the students are interning at Villa Maria and 6 of them have been offered jobs. PHS diploma will now have a second line also noting the Certificate of Achievement: Business, Health, Manufacturing and Early Childhood. They are currently working on their 5-year plan, LED lighting, new policies (which were provided to the Board) and have recently had another cut from the state.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Policies 2nd Reading (vote):

- Policy#1331 Community Relations - Use of School Facilities-Smoke Free Environment
- Policy#3232 Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Income-Education Reserve Fund
- Policy#4118.112/4218.112 Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified - Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- Policy#4131 Personnel-Certified - Staff Development
- Policy#5112 Students - Ages of Attendance
- Policy#5114b excerpt Students - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process
- Policy#5131b excerpt Students - Conduct and Discipline
- Policy#5131.911 Students - Hazing-Bullying
- Policy#5144f excerpt Students - Discipline
- Policy#6159 Instruction - Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program
- Policy#6172.1 Instruction - Gifted and Talented Students Program

A motion was made by L. Shippee and seconded by M. Rouillard to approve the policies as presented with the change to Policy#3232 from 1% to 2%. Vote: All in favor.

B. BOE Meeting Dates

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by H. Wood to change the BOE meeting from the 3rd Wednesday of the month to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Vote: All in favor.

VI. New Business

A. Introduction of new hires:

Amy Austin - Library Media Specialist
Gary Liseo - Technology Education Teacher

C. Scott introduced Amy Austin, Library Media Specialist and Gary Liseo, Technology Education Teacher and welcomed them to Sterling Community School.

B. Instructional Walkthrough - Grade 1

T. Espinosa and K. Huhtanen provided a powerpoint presentation and overview of the first grade Journey's program which starts with a daily warm up, phonics and spelling, guided reading groups in centers (while the other students are in led centers such as Lexia), writing and grammar, comprehension and a weekly assessment.

C. Math Professional Learning Update

A. Campbell and B. Schena provided a powerpoint presentation and overview of the math professional learning in collaboration with Plainfield and Brooklyn which supports Goal #2 (curriculum writing) in our strategic plan. The plan in collaboration with Plainfield is to build confidence, have a common language, to ensure mathematical success for all and to dig deeper into the understanding of math and higher-level demand.

F. Bood asked if there was currently a math curriculum. B. Schena would like it noted that during her tenure at Sterling Memorial School, the district underwent several curriculum rewrites with the CT State Standards. She would also like it noted that staff is currently working extremely hard at developing math curriculum that correlates to the CCSS framework. F. Bood would also like to note the progress that staff has made so far with math curriculum work.

D. Scope & Sequences/Curriculum

A workshop with the Board will be scheduled to discuss scope & sequence and curriculum in more detail.

E. Policies 1st Reading:

- Policy#3410 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations-System of Accounts
- Policy#3432/3433 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations-Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement
- Policy#3516 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations-Safety
- Policy#3517 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations-Security of Buildings and Grounds
- Policy#4112.51/4212.51 - Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified-Employment/Reference Checks
- Policy#4116 - Personnel-Certified-Probationary/Tenure Status (3 versions)
- Policy#5141.214 - Students-Student Sunscreen Use
- Policy#6142.102 - Instruction-Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Policy#6142.103 - Instruction-Trauma Informed Schools

L. Shippee requested that Policy#4116 be put on the March Agenda as a 1st reading since there are 3 versions to allow time for the Board to review them. Policy#6142.102 and 6142.103 will also be put on the March Agenda as a 1st reading since revisions are recommended by the school psychologist.

The following policies will be on the March Agenda as a 2nd reading and vote: 3410, 3432/3433, 3516, 3517, 4112.51/4212.51 and 5141.214.

F. Line Item Transfers

A motion was made by M. Rouillard and seconded by L. Shippee to approve the transfer from Maintenance Supplies to Food Service Repairs and from Unemployment Compensation and Contracted Spec Ed Transportation to Certified Substitutes. Vote: All in favor.

(Transfer \$3,000.00 out of A.2600.613.00.71 Maintenance Supplies and into A.3100.435.00.71 Food Service Repairs and transfer \$10,000.00 out of A.2310.250.00.71 Unemployment Compensation and \$5,000.00 out of A.2700.510.00.72 Contracted Spec Ed Transportation and into A.1000.111.03.71 Certified Substitutes).

VII. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

C. Langlois thanked the administration for the Scope & Sequence information. She asked when they can expect the Technology Education and Library Media to be set up. C. Scott noted that it is anticipated for March 16th and she would like the Board to be updated.

L. Shippee requested that the Board receive hard copies of board packets and that they receive them earlier. F. Bood requested that the packets be mailed to all members 10 days prior to the meeting. She also asked about help for A. Weigel which was discussed at the last meeting.

G. Lanza noted that we hired a new Technology Education Teacher. She asked if there are times when all administration is out of the building at the same time and if so, what is the chain of command. Dr. Lanza reported that during times when all administrators have been out of the building, no one has been placed in charge in an administrative role.

H. Wood asked about the Scope & Sequence Framework.

VIII. Public Comment

S. Rizer asked if the Board had thought about hiring a School Resource Officer (SRO).

M. Rouillard said that they are usually retired police officers and the cost would most likely be \$20.00/hour with no benefits - approximately \$25,000.00 per year. He discussed the Sandy Hook safety care training and will bring stats to the March meeting.

N. Chenette questioned if a recent student fire drill practice during recess time would be considered a loss of recess time. C. Scott noted that grades 6-8 recently had a re-teach on appropriate behavior during fire drills for a portion of recess.

IX. Executive Session

None

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by M. Rouillard to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Vote: All in favor.