

SALISBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION-1-REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 27, 2020 FINAL

Present: Mr. David Valcin, Presiding; Ms. Jacquie Rice, Mr. Keith Moon, Mr. Kevin Wolgemuth, Mr. Dave Bayersdorfer, Mr. Barrett Prinz, Board Members; Mrs. Stephanie Magyar, Principal; Dr. Pam Vogel, Superintendent; Ms. Lisa Carter, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Sam Herrick, Reg. One Business Manager; Ms. Stacie Weiner, Reg. One BOE Rep; Mrs. Sue Bucceri, Board Clerk; Mrs. Jennifer Mitchell, Miss Kylie Jacobs, SCS Teachers; Grade 3 Students and Parents; Mrs. Megan Conklin, SCS Teacher/PTO; Ms. Pam Sands, Honoree; Mr. Mike Flint, Videographer

Call to Order: Mr. Valcin called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

BOE Recognitions: January - Mr. Valcin recognized Ms. Pam Sands for her 18 years of service to Salisbury Central School as our Crossing Guard. Ms. Sands will be retiring at the end of this month and the BOE thanked her for ensuring the safety of our students and wished her well in her retirement.

February - At the recommendation of Mr. Valcin, the BOE will recognize Ms. Janet Neary for her years of dedication and service to Salisbury Central School and its students.

Spotlight on Learning: Third grade teachers, Mrs. Jennifer Mitchell and Miss Kylie Jacobs, gave the BOE an overview of their new Bridges math program. Several third grade students demonstrated some of the skills they have learned so far this year.

China Trip Presentation: Dr. Vogel gave a presentation about her trip to China earlier this year. She shared the similarities she observed between American schools and the Chinese school system. Dr. Vogel is working on a plan to initiate a teacher exchange program with a Chinese school and has received very positive feedback from Region One teachers interested in participating. Any local Boards of Education sending a teacher through the exchange would only be responsible for paying for their air fare. Dr. Vogel's goal would be for the first teacher exchange to take place in October 2020.

Region One Shared Services: Region One Business Manager, Mr. Sam Herrick, gave a presentation on the responsibilities of his office and the tasks that his staff are responsible for.

Minutes: Mr. Prinz made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2019 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moon and unanimously approved.

Financial Report - 19-20 Budget Summary: Mrs. Bucceri shared a summary of the 19-20 budget through December 31, 2019 as well as a Capital Reserve update.

Written Communication to the BOE: There was none.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: There was none.

School Related Organizations: Mrs. Megan Conklin reported that the PTO recently met in January. They are planning to hold their annual Spell-a-thon during Read Across America Week in March. The spring book fair will be held in conjunction with student-led conferences at the end of March. The PTO was happy to provide funding for an Oceanology program which sixth graders will enjoy while they're at Nature's Classroom in May and a STEAM Week (Feb. 3-7) assembly provided by the CT Science Center.

Regional/School/BOE Committee Reports: Region One - Ms. Stacie Weiner reported that she joined the Region One Budget Committee and the Landscape & Arboretum Committee. Before having to leave the BOE meeting for another meeting, Ms. Weiner told the BOE she was looking forward to working with them.

B&G Committee Update - Mr. Valcin reported that the B&G Committee is beginning to make plans for summer 2020 projects which may include a sprucing up of the ramp area and the installation of A/C in the middle school. Mrs. Magyar reported that a custodial audit was conducted and after consultation with the custodial staff the areas of responsibility within the elementary building have been reassigned to make the workload more equitable. Mrs. Magyar and Mr. Shippa will work together to monitor how these changes are working to improve the efficiency of the custodial team.

ABC Committee Update - Mr. Valcin reported that he was re-elected as Chair of the ABC Committee at their meeting on January 22, 2020. The committee is currently working with Region One administrators to create the Region One school calendar for 2020-2021.

Region One BOE Vote to Reject the ABC Committee Recommendation that the Middle School Athletics and Activities Program Be Included in the 2020-2021 RSSC Budget: Mr. Valcin gave a history of the process leading up to the Region One BOE vote on the MS Athletics and Activities Program inclusion in the 20-21 RSSC budget which took place at their meeting on January 6, 2020. At that meeting, the Region One BOE voted 4-2 against including the program in the RSSC budget. Cornwall and Sharon voted in favor and Kent, Falls Village, N. Canaan and Salisbury voted against. In response to the Region One vote to reject the proposal, Mr. Valcin requested a joint meeting of the ABC Committee and the Region One BOE which was held on January 22, 2020. After an extended period of public comment and a robust discussion between the Committee and the BOE, the meeting was adjourned with no action being taken.

The Region One BOE plans to hold a special meeting on February 3, 2020 to revisit the request made by the ABC Committee to include the MS Athletics and Activities Program in the 20-21 RSSC budget.

Mr. Valcin reported that the BOE Chairs in Salisbury, Sharon, Cornwall and N. Canaan are in favor of continuing to investigate alternative avenues for implementing the program without it being included in the RSSC budget.

ABC Committee Alternate: Mr. Valcin nominated Mr. Bayersdorfer to serve as the ABC Committee alternate for a two-year term from November 2019 until November 2021. Ms. Rice seconded the nomination and Mr. Bayersdorfer was unanimously approved as the ABC Committee alternate.

BOE Committees – Mr. Kevin Wolgemuth volunteered to be the BOE representative on the Wellness Committee. All other committee membership will remain the same.

2019-2020 SCS School Calendar Change: On the 19-20 school calendar, Friday, April 10th is a full school day. It is also Good Friday and the day before the spring break. Region One administrators have reported that there are a high number of requests from staff members to take that day as a religious holiday. There would not be enough subs in the region to cover all of the absences that are currently in the Frontline system. The recommendation from the ABC Committee is to change April 10th to a half day in an effort to provide a way for staff to work part of the day and still have part of the day for their religious obligations.

Mr. Bayersdorfer made a motion to change Friday, April 10, 2020 from a full day of school to a 12:10pm dismissal. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rice and approved by a vote of 5-0 (Mr. Valcin, Mr. Bayersdorfer, Ms. Rice, Mr. Prinz, Mr. Wolgemuth). Mr. Moon abstained.

2020-2021 Region One Calendar: A draft of the 2020-2021 Region One School Calendar was shared with the BOE. Mrs. Magyar reported that the SCS staff are generally supportive of the calendar as presented. Mr. Moon and Mr. Prinz expressed concern that April 2, 2021 is on the proposed calendar as a no school day as Good Friday when previous BOE discussions supported not observing Christian holidays if Jewish holidays were not going to be observed. Mr. Valcin will bring the BOE comments and concerns to the ABC Committee at their next meeting.

Ms. Rice made a motion to table agenda items Q and R (policy review) until the next meeting due to the late hour. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bayersdorfer and passed by a vote of 5-0. Mr. Prinz was not in the room during the vote.

Administrative Reports: Principal Report – Mrs. Magyar provided the BOE with her written report.

Superintendent Report – Dr. Vogel provided the BOE with her written report.

Assistant Superintendent Report – Ms. Carter provided the BOE with her written report.

Public Comment: There was none.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 on a motion made by Mr. Moon and seconded by Bayersdorfer.