

MINUTES OF MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON COMMITTEE

January 18, 2007

The Board of Education Liaison Committee conducted the regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2007 in the Board Room of the Board of Education Administration Center, 1000 East Broadway, Stratford, CT pursuant to notice duly posted.

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

PRESIDING: Chairman Gavin Forrester

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Council Member Gavin Forrester; Board of Education members Thomas Malloy, Laura Hoydick and Robert David

COMMITTEE ABSENT: Council Member William Stroomer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Superintendent of Schools Irene Cornish, Asst. Superintendent Rita Bongarten, Board of Education Business Administrator Benjamin Branyan, Board of Education members Robert Cody and Susan Barksdale

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES — Minutes of December 21, 2006.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DAVID SECONDED BY MS. HOYDICK TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. BUDGET DISCUSSION

As the Board of Education members have not seen the budget, Mr. Branyan stated that He would not be mentioning numbers. Budget will be sent to the Board of Education members on Jan. 19, 2007 hopefully to adopt the budget at their regularly scheduled meeting in February.

Mr. Forrester stated that the Town Council would like to move up the time frame for the budget process because of statutory requirements of the veto in the Town Charter. Ordinance Committee will conduct one continued hearing in at least 2 different locations re: the budget ordinance – the same as was done last year.

4. D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

Lieutenant Salik and Ms. Cornish met and it was suggested to put together a committee to look at the program. Ms. Bongarten will chair committee.

Ms. Cornish stated that the curriculum in use, “The Great Body Shop”, for the Fifth and Sixth grade would be extended to the Fourth Grade. This curriculum incorporates parent activities as well as the literacy component. If this is the program that is endorsed, the police can come into the schools at various stages to enhance the program. The Lieutenant is looking at the MADD program. We are looking for a program that is productive, cost effective and meets everyone’s needs.

5. CAPITAL PROJECTS

Current projects discussed: Lordship School is complete, Wilcoxson School gutters/roof is complete. Mr. Branyan stated that the Board of Ed has a comprehensive 5-year capital plan. All issues that are known have been identified. Plant and Planning committee will be reviewing the plan on Monday (Jan. 22).

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Green in front of Town Hall — Mr. Forrester reported that the Mayor observed the green from his window and said that he did not see a problem. He sees people congregating in morning and afternoon. Per Town Attorney, the Town Council can put forth an ordinance to prohibit smoking. The idea is not too well received.

At a Public Safety meeting, the Police Chief affirmed that it is very difficult to enforce loitering. He went on to say that he has not received any complaints from either Board of Education members or the Superintendent regarding any illegal activities. If he had a formal complaint, he would have looked into it. He wants to know what the issue is.

Ms. Cornish responded that, if any illegal activities were observed, the police would have been called. The Mayor locks the Town Hall doors, talks of skateboarding up and down the Town hall stairs, and pointed out the noise. Congregating in that area does not look good. The concern is that those congregating on the Green in the afternoon are there before Stratford High is dismissed at the end of the day. A different group of persons is there in the morning. Fights among those persons have commenced. Can access to Green at certain times be enforced?

Mr. Forrester responded that he sees a littering problem. The persons congregating on Town Hall green can be asked to be more considerate. I cannot restrict anyone's right to congregate. The Police have stated that they have gone to Stratford High School when called for fights inside the school. Mr. Forrester will again speak to the chief.

7. OLD BUSINESS — No old business furnished.

8. NEW BUSINESS — No new business furnished.

9. ADJOURNMENT — Hearing no further business, Chairman Forrester entertained a motion to adjourn. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DAVID, SECONDED BY MS. HOYDICK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Typed by Carol Cabral