

Kelley Smart took a moment to thank the Board for approving several field trips which occurred recently.

V. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

L. Pietrantonio asked that the Committee Assignments be tabled to the next meeting at the end of the month. He asked that everyone look over the descriptions of the committees and let him or Kimberlee know ahead of time if they are interested in serving. He added that he would like to know if the Board as a whole could serve as the grievance committee. Dr. Bernard said she would check with legal counsel.

L. Pietrantonio asked K. Ryan to discuss the upcoming CABE/CAPSS convention. K. Ryan stated that we have two spots registered for members to attend. She noted that CABE is an excellent organization which the Board uses as resource and for professional development. She asked, if there were more than two interested in attending the convention, perhaps two could go on Friday and two on Saturday. She encouraged new Board members to also consider attending the CABE workshop about being a new Board of Education member. She said this would be an appropriate workshop which would cover the "ABCs" of being a board member.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Information: Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members

Dr. Bernard stated that the Board By-Laws regarding officers' duties were included in the packets for reference. She added that the CABE brochure "Roles and Responsibilities of Board of Education Membership" is also a very useful document, which was included in the packets as well. She noted the article "10 Mistakes Board Members Make" and that this document is timely for new board members. She focused on item #6 "Dropping a bomb at a board meeting" and added that our goal at the meetings is sharing information on behalf of young people. She said she would not surprise the Board members and would keep them in the loop as much as possible. She added in return she would like to hear from members before meetings if they have questions. She noted this will give enough time for any "homework" that might need to be done. She said this is extremely beneficial for overall productivity during the Board meetings.

B. Information: Review of 2006-2007 Strategic School Profile

Dr. Bernard talked to information presented in the 2006-07 Strategic School Profile (SSP). She briefly noted points in the SSP and passed out copies the State of Connecticut's District Reference Groups (DRG) list. She noted specifically on page one, under the district profile, that the free and reduced lunch figures are up a nudge and that these numbers are important when the state looks at how they distribute funding. She said another notable item on the first page is the percentage of students who have attended preschool before entering kindergarten and that Coventry's number is low compared to other towns in our DRG. She added the district is looking at what the next steps are for Coventry's preschool program. She noted under the district enrollment portion she had heard concerns about drastic declines in enrollment, but the SSP states the five-year enrollment change is a decline of only -1.1%.

Dr. Bernard pointed out the section on district resources. She stated at the top of page 3 the SSP notes the number of computers per student is low for Coventry compared to our DRG average. She said she is happy to see the graduation rate for the class of 2006 was 98.5%, which is higher than the state average of 98.2%. She added that there are many many things that could be pointed out, but she wanted to finish by looking at the second

to last page under the high school's information. She noted the percentage of juniors and seniors enrolled in a course(s) for college credit and that Coventry High School numbers are excellent.

C. Trudon asked why there was a zero under the Computer Education figures on page three of the GHR report. Mr. Petrone answered that the students are provided a computer education, but there is no grade that is why it is a zero. He added that GHR will work to address that in the future. A brief discussion ensued about grading computer education.

J. Barrett noted that the enrollment numbers have had a negative growth from last year. He asked what affect the numbers, such as listed under Computer Education, have on our schools. Dr. Bernard said the SSP is the district's official record with the state and that it is a way to compare information from town to town. She added that it is important the information be as accurate as possible.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA (VOTE: One vote for all items)

L. Pietrantonio asked if anyone wanted an item removed from the Consent Agenda. J. Barrett asked that the field experience be removed for discussion. L. Pietrantonio said the items would be handled separately.

A. Approve GHR May 2008 Field Experience to New York

MOTION: Move to Approve GHR May 2008 Field Experience to New York.

By: K. Ryan

Seconded: C. Trudon

J. Barrett stated that NY is very far away for this type of experience and the price could be burdensome for families. Mr. Petrone and Mrs. Gould spoke about last year's trip and what a great experience it was for the students. They said everything was extremely organized and well supervised. Mrs. Gould said only eight students were unable to go last year because of the size of the group. Mr. Petrone noted students can ask for financial assistance and it is kept completely private. He added that he wants students in his school to have a chance at the same experiences that other schools have.

Discussion ensued about the number of busses, cost of the tickets, how they are purchased and what the children see when they are there.

K. Ryan stated she thinks travel is one of the best teachers. She said she appreciates the initiatives which are being opened up for our students.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

B. Approve Retirement of Susan Luichinger, CHS Teacher

MOTION: The Coventry Board of Education Accept with Regret the Retirement of Susan Luichinger, CHS Teacher

By: K. Ryan

Seconded: J. Barrett

K. Ryan noted that Mrs. Luichinger has taught for many years in the district and her dedication is greatly appreciated.

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

VIII. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

L. Pietrantonio welcomed all the members and stated he looks forward to working together as a group.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VOTE: Approve Minutes of October 25, 2007

MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of October 25, 2007.

By: K. Ryan

Seconded: R. Williams

Result: Motion passes 3-0 (Barrett, Kortmann, Trudon, Whitham abstain).

XI. OLD BUSINESS

Review and VOTE: Approve BOE Meeting Dates for 2008

Dr. Bernard stated in reviewing the 2008 calendar, two options have been made available from which the Board could choose.

A discussion ensued about the Jewish Holidays and how changes are made.

MOTION: To Approve Option Two for the BOE Meeting Dates for 2008

By: K. Ryan

Seconded: R. Williams

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

VOTE: Approve CHS January 2008 Field Experience to Vermont

Dr. Bernard introduced Jill Lillis and asked if the trip was part of the enrichment program. Ms. Lillis answered yes and added that several students were present to answer questions.

MOTION: To Approve the CHS January 2008 Field Experience to Vermont

By: J. Barrett

Seconded: K. Ryan

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

XIII. REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS

L. Pietrantonio asked the Board, if possible, to please try and notify Kimberlee ahead of time if a member has an item to discuss.

L. Pietrantonio had a few comments regarding the status of the building project. He said that the contractor for the asbestos abatement project at GHR has been terminated by the engineer. He said this is within the right of the contract and that the contractor will be reported to the department of public health. He added that they still need to go out to bid for the third time on the water project.

C. Trudon asked about the money that is owed to the asbestos abatement contractor. L. Pietrantonio answered the Committee owes them for work that was already complete and whatever it costs to do the punch list the money will be deducted from the amount owed.

