

MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 27, 2007

Members Present: Joseph Arcuri, Catherine Bergstrom, Beth Duffy, Barbara Gilbert, Paul Omichinski, Elaine Schiavone, Ray Sikora, Karen Sullivan-Shepard, Peter Turner (late arrival)

Members Absent: Jayne Stocker

Also Present: Paula Schwartz - Superintendent
David Lenihan - Business Manager
Michael Landry – Assistant Superintendent

- I. Call to Order - The regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting was held at the Har-Bur Learning Center, and was called to order at 7:37 pm by Chairperson Beth Duffy.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge was recited.
- III. Communications, Resignations - Superintendent read letters of resignations from the following:

LSM Jen Hill, Language Arts Mathew West, English	Har-Bur Kathryn Martins, English Pam Conway, Social Studies
HCS Gwen Kalina, Psychologist	Lake Garda Jen Parsons, 1 st grade Stacia Archangelo, Phys.Ed.

Superintendent received the following correspondence: Letter from Jennifer Roberts, whose daughter attended the recent FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Conference in Chicago. Thanked the Board for supporting and allowing students to attend. Thank you letter from UNICEF for \$1,043 donation from Har-Bur fundraising. Letter from NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) informing District that dates for LSM evaluation will be 10/4/09 to 10/7/09.

Thanks extended to Scott McCausland for the donation of Smartboard to the Harwinton Consolidated School.

Thirty-one new teachers have been hired, including replacements for resignations mentioned earlier, and today was new teacher orientation day. Reasons for most resignations were due to individuals finding jobs closer to home and better pay.

- IV. Consent Agenda - A **motion** to approve the regular BOE and Special meeting minutes of July 9, 2007, and financial report of June 30, 2007, was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by K. Sullivan-Shepard. All in favor none opposed, abstentions by R. Sikora, C. Bergstrom, and B. Gilbert. Correction to Item A in Section VII. - Aliza Holcomb should read Eliza Holcomb.
- V. Public Participation – Ed Gasser of Burlington requested number of students per grade. P. Schwartz will provide numbers. Also, questioned Board policy regarding China trip expenses. B. Duffy said the families of the two students on the exchange program to China paid their expenses for the trip. Guidelines for future field trips by students will be discussed later in the year.. Jonathan Schwartz of Burlington asked how the District was paying fees for the recent legal issue. Chairperson stated there is a line item in the budget as well as insurance coverage.

VI. Business

- A. Staffing Update. All teaching positions are filled. Current enrollment is less than State projections. Date for final, official count is October 1.
- B. Update on Superintendent Search Committee. Chairperson stated the District will be seeking parental feedback regarding attributes they feel are important in a new superintendent. A downloadable survey will be available. In addition, there will be a variety of focus groups meeting and an eventual interview committee selected. Goal is to have a candidate chosen by the end of October and starting at the end of January 2008. Anyone interested in participating in a focus group should contact B. Duffy.

Pat McGlynn of the teachers' union, READ10, asked if the job had been posted. Response was it will be posted next week. Asked about the number of superintendent vacancies in the State. This is estimated to be six. P. McGlynn also said she has already submitted written request to be on the interview committee.

At this time, superintendent requested a moment of silence in deference to the recent deaths of two high school students, Kolin DeNegre (2007 graduate) and Myles Gosselin, (senior), as well as the loss of two parents.

- C. Connecticut Mastery Test Results. M. Landry stated that the number of students reaching goal and proficiency has increased in most areas. Two areas where the numbers went down slightly were 4th and 5th grade reading, and the reasons why will need to be investigated. Math scores are up. In recent years the District has tracked scores between boys and girls. Girls do consistently well in reading and writing, and are quickly gaining on boys in math and science. Boys have not done well in reading and writing and more needs to be done to find out why.

CAPT results will be presented at the next meeting.

- D. 2006-2007 Goals Summary. Superintendent stated the District will reach the end of its 5 year goal plan at about the same time the new superintendent will begin his/her tenure. That person will then develop a new 5 year plan.

Goal achievement highlights include improved test scores; focus on student reading comprehension skill, strong wellness programs, more cultural opportunities through added language courses and trips to other countries, and better communication efforts by the District to parents and citizens.

VII. Action -

- A. Girls' Lacrosse Update. D. Tanner submitted request that girls' lacrosse begin as an unfunded club for the Spring of 2008. Fields are available for practice and games. Two local high schools, with established programs, have offered assistance in providing fields and players. Initial funding will be through booster club activity. The club will come before the Board, at a future date, for funding and recognition as a team sport. A **motion** to approve Girls' Lacrosse as an unfunded club was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by J. Arcuri. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

- B. First Reading of Community Relations Coordinator Job Description. The District is seeking an individual with a combination of writing, editing and computer skills to handle the District's communications. This individual would write and edit the newsletter, post it on the website, make sure information on the website is current, etc. This individual would be the center for all communication coming out of the District. Position would begin as part-time with additional duties added later, as needed. The writing skills and ability to coordinate all the various communications, e.g., newsletters, surveys, press releases, etc. are highly desirable skills.
- C. First Reading of Remedial Reading Teacher Job Description. This position is in place, however, the description must match State's requirement and Board needs to officially approve it. A **motion** to approve the reading was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by R. Sikora. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.
- D. Revision of Student Support Center Program at LSM. A proposal to add another component to the Student Support Center was given by Special Services Director, Linda Carabis. The proposal is to offer individual and small group tutoring for students who have fallen behind in earning the necessary credits for graduation. The tutor, at a salary of \$17,500, would replace one teaching assistant position. Funding would come from IDEA grant money and not out of the operating budget. A **motion** to approve the added component and hiring of tutor was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by E. Schiavone. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.
- E. China Exchange Program. Two students from LSM and two from Farmington High School recently traveled to China, at their own expense, in a student exchange program. The Chinese students will not come to the U.S., as planned, due to visa problems. The District plans on offering a daytime Chinese language program and an evening one for continuing students.

VIII. Board Committee Reports

- A. Facilities and Grounds Committee – Nothing to report. Need to schedule meeting.
- B. CREC Committee – Nothing to report. Off for the summer.
- C. Curriculum Committee – Nothing to report
- D. Negotiations Committee – Nothing to report. Next negotiations are for secretaries next year.
- E. Technology Committee – Nothing to report.
- F. Building Committee – On target.
- G. Community Relations Committee – Follow up to survey to include “what next.” Website punch list objective for the next newsletter. Requested update from members on community outreach activities.

A **motion** to go into Executive Session was made by E. Schiavone and seconded by R. Sikora. Committee went into Executive Session at 10:05 pm and to invite C. Chinni into Executive Session to discuss litigation.

A **motion** to resume regular BOE meeting was made at 11:00 pm by K. Sullivan-Shepard, seconded by R. Sikora. All were in favor.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made at 11:05 pm by K. Sullivan-Shepard, seconded by R. Sikora. All were in favor.

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The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on September 10, 2007 at the Lake Garda School.

Karen Sullivan-Shepard, Secretary