

MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Annual District Meeting on Budget
Har-Bur Middle School Learning Center
May 6, 2013 – 7:00pm

Board Members Present:

Joseph Arcuri – Vice Chairman
 Susan Baccaro
 Theresa Foley
 Paul Omichinski
 Phillip Penn
 Ted Scheidel
 Elaine Schiavone
 Raymond Sikora - Chairman
 Noel Turner

Absent:

Beth Duffy

Also Present:

Alan Beitman Superintendent of Schools
 Susan Laone Director of Finance & Operations
 Robert Choiniere Director of Student Learning

Chairman of the Board, Raymond Sikora, called the Annual District Budget Meeting to order at 7:02 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.	CALL TO ORDER
Election of Moderator – A motion to elect Reid Matusek as meeting moderator was made by Mrs. Foley and was seconded by Ms. Schiavone. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (9/0/0)	ELECTION OF MODERATOR
A motion to elect Mary Paganini as recording secretary for the meeting was made by Mr. Omichinski and was seconded by Mr. Penn. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (9/0/0)	ELECTION OF SECRETARY
<p>Ms. Paganini read the call of the meeting as follows: A meeting to discuss the 2013-2014 Regional School District #10 Estimate of Expenses will be held on Monday, May 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Har-Bur Middle School Learning Center.</p> <p>A referendum for the electors and citizens qualified to vote will be held at the Burlington and Harwinton Town Halls on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to vote on the acceptance of the 2013-2014 Regional School District #10 Budget in the amount of \$36,024,532. Absentee ballots will be available at the town halls starting April 18, 2013.</p> <p>Copies of the budget are available at the office of the Town Clerk in both Harwinton and Burlington</p>	READING OF THE CALL OF THE MEETING

Dated in Burlington on this 3rd day of April 2013.

Raymond Sikora, Chairperson
Regional School District #10 Board of Education.

Ms. Paganini reported that the notice appeared in the April 9, 2013 edition of the Hartford Courant and was posted in the town halls of Burlington and Harwinton on April 3, 2013.

The moderator opened the floor for questions and comments by the public, asking that comments be limited to three (3) minutes, and that participants clearly identify themselves and the town they are from.

Jerry Mullen of Burlington – Thanked the Board and the Administration for the hours they put in to create the budget. He indicated that he is disappointed in several things. First, he indicated the town officials gave their input prior to the budget presentation and they said that the economy is very tight and asked them to hold the line on spending. He is mostly disappointed because the only question they got was, how much did the grand list go up. He said that tells him the Board only wants to know how much they could spend. Secondly, he said he is disappointed on how the surplus is handled. He said that historically the surplus has been returned to the towns and this is the second year in a row that it is not being returned and the Board requested to use it for projects and new initiatives which the town officials approved. Third he said he is disappointed in the teachers, not because of the job they do but because they have agreed to a 9% increase for three years in an economy that is absolutely dead flat and going nowhere. He said he came before the Board several times and said that the recession is not over and it's not. He said there are people going backwards on the pay scale instead of forward. He said, "the teachers ought to be happy that they have a job". He said he is disappointed in the budget numbers and the increase reported in the flyer if \$483,000 for a 1.36% increase. He said that is a great advertising campaign if you are trying to get the budget passed but it is not a very good advertising campaign if you want to tell the taxpayers what it is going to cost them in tax money. He said the real increase if \$838,000 or 2.4%. He said that citizens comment that a 1.36% increase is not a bad increase and when they go to the town meeting they want to know why the taxes are going up if the school budget only went up 1.36%. He asked all the Board members to go to the town meeting and hearing and explain to the Town of Burlington and Harwinton what the real numbers are. He invited them to the hearing on May 22nd in the Burlington Town Hall. He asked they please come to explain to the citizens. He said that he also noticed in the budget that they don't have a line item for transportation as a revenue source. He wanted to know what happens to the money the district gets from the State for transportation.

**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION**

<p>Mr. Omichinski and Mr. Sikora firmly, thoroughly, and concisely addressed each of Mr. Mullen's comments and concerns and Mr. Penn indicated that he will be in attendance at the May 2nd Town of Burlington meeting.</p> <p>Karen Selinger – Burlington – asked if it would be a good idea to form a committee to educate the public so they understand the implications of the budget on taxpayers. The Board indicated that is the responsibility of the Boards of Finance.</p>	
<p>A motion to adjourn the meeting to the referendum was made by Mr. Omichinski and was seconded by Mrs. Turner. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (10/0/0)</p> <p>As no comments or questions were forthcoming, at 7:27 pm the moderator adjourned the meeting to the referendum to be held Tuesday, May 7, 2013 from 6:00am – 8:00pm in the Burlington and Harwinton Town Halls to vote upon the acceptance of the 2013-2014 Regional School District #10 Budget in the amount of \$36,024,532 in accordance with section 10-51 of the Connecticut General Statutes.</p>	<p>ADJOURN</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth G. Duffy
Beth Duffy, Secretary

5/13/2013
Date