

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
MARCH 1, 2010 BUDGET WORKSHOP  
LEWIS S. MILLS AUDITORIUM**

**Board Members Present:**

Joseph Arcuri – Chairman  
Noel Carmody  
Kathy Deprey  
Jeanne Doerr  
Beth Duffy  
Paul Omichinski  
Phillip Penn  
Ted Scheidel  
Elaine Schiavone  
Raymond Sikora - Vice Chairman

**Absent:**

**Also Present:**

Alan Beitman	Superintendent of Schools
Michael Landry	Assistant Superintendent
David Lenihan	Business Manager
Jordon Brault	Student Representative

<p>Chairman of the Board, Joseph Arcuri, called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:35 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>	<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p>
<p><b><u>Superintendent's Report:</u></b> Mr. Beitman presented a brief summary of the 2010-2011 Estimate of Expenses.</p> <p>Board of Education Review of the 2010-2011 Estimate of Expenses: <b><u>Enrollment:</u></b> Mr. Beitman explained briefly the enrollment section of the Estimate of Expenses book. He stated that the projected enrollment will see a net decline of about four (4) students in Region 10 for next year. He explained the Open Choice program and stated that there are currently six (6) students enrolled in the program. He further explained that the Commissioner of Education had sent him a letter indicating that Region 10 could take thirty-nine (39) students. Mr. Beitman declined the invitation due to the cost associated with it. He presented Dr. Peter Prowda's Enrollment Projection Study which shows enrollment consistently dropping over the next 9 years. It shows that total enrollment will decline from 2,809 in 2009 to about 2,340 in 2019, a loss of 16.8%. It breaks down as follows: Lake Garda School will drop to 466 students in 2019 a 25.1% decrease Harwinton Consolidated will drop to 380 or a 20.5% decrease Har-Bur Middle School will drop to 730 or a 20.3% decrease Lewis S. Mills High School will drop to 770 or a 4.2% decrease Mr. Beitman commented that his goal is to maintain classroom</p>	<p><b>COMMUNICATIONS</b></p>

standards and, if the need did arise, he has the option of coming to the Board to request that a teacher be added.

**Harwinton Consolidated School:**

Mr. Lenihan gave a brief overview of the Harwinton Consolidated School budget. He indicated that there was either a 0% increase in accounts or a reduction in accounts. Mrs. Maureen Dodd, Principal, Harwinton Consolidated School, offered to answer any questions the Board might have. Mr. Penn asked Mrs. Dodd about her confidence in the 2010-2011 budget and her ability to maintain the school's current standards. He also asked if she could add one thing back to the budget what would that be. Mrs. Dodd commented that Mr. Choiniere and she worked very closely together and they looked at all items very carefully and collected feedback from staff. She indicated that she is confident that HCS will be able to maintain the same educational standards next year and with regard to what she would add back, she said that long term she would like to see professional development restored. She is confident that HCS will be able to deliver the same level of education. Mrs. Duffy asked about the reductions in special area classes and Mrs. Dodd answered that they are purely enrollment driven. The same amount of sections will be offered to students next year.

Mrs. Duffy asked about technology reductions and was wondering how that is playing out at the elementary level. She indicated that they are ok for now but if funds are not put into technology in the next year or two they will begin to be impacted and equipment will become outdated. Mr. Beitman commented that Region 10 allocated stimulus funds to technology last year.

Mr. Arcuri asked Mr. Beitman about the tuition for magnet students. Mr. Beitman explained that there are more and more magnet schools opening each year and that Region 10 has no way of knowing from year to year how many students will attend magnet schools. He stated that over time the numbers have increased. He stated that magnet school tuition was not budgeted for in 2009-2010 but **is** budgeted for the 2010-2011 school year.

Ms. Schiavone asked about the Excess Cost reimbursement and Mr. Beitman indicated that the State is telling school districts not to expect 100% reimbursement but to budget for about a 77% reimbursement.

**Lake Garda School:**

Mr. Choiniere, Principal of Lake Garda School, commented that Mrs. Dodd and he worked very closely when putting together their 2010-2011 Estimate of Expenses. He said that the only increase Lake Garda School had was the purchase of mats for the Physical Education/Wellness department because of safety concerns. They also saw a slight increase in the music budget because of the need for repairs to instruments. He said that as they move forward their priority would be professional development.

Mr. Sikora asked about the impact of not filled the technology position at Lake Garda. Mr. Choiniere said that Mr. Gauvain is doing a good job of going between the two schools and Lake Garda has good support

<p>within the school to handle issues when they arise suddenly.</p> <p>Mr. Penn said that some concern has been expressed to him over the reduction of two (2) teaching positions at the elementary schools and wanted to know if the reductions were strictly enrollment driven. Mrs. Dodd confirmed that the reeducations are indeed enrollment driven.</p>	
<p><b><u>HarBur Middle School:</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Smith said of the Har-Bur Middle School budget that only the “must haves” were included. He said that in areas where reductions were made they have been very creative and have come up with ways to deal with it effectively. He too answered Mr. Penn’s question regarding what he would like to see put back into the budget and said that he too would like to see funding increased for professional development.</p> <p><b><u>Lewis S. Mills High School:</u></b></p> <p>Ms. Niehoff echoed the concerns of the other principal’s regarding lack of funding for professional development. She is fully confident that the students of Lewis Mills will continue to receive excellent instruction. Mr. Sikora commented that as a result of the reorganization that some of the administrators have both high school and middle school experience and he thought that this experience would provide some advantages. Ms. Niehoff stated that this is a district that supports teaching and learning. She said that the reorganization plan will take creative input and that communication will be the key. She stated that with any change there is anxiety but that the administrators always focus on the needs of the students and teachers.</p>	
<p>Pat McGlynn – President READ 10 (teacher’s union) read a letter stating that she did not support the reorganization plan as the president of READ 10.</p> <p>Barbara Angelicola-Manzolini- Harwinton – Stated that as a parent and teacher that she did not support the administrative reorganization plan. She felt that instruction would be impacted. She also expressed concern over losing the dean of students at Lewis Mills High School.</p> <p>Christopher Rau – Burlington – Said that as a teacher in another district and as a parent he sees the reorganization plan as an end to any progress that has been made in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade program. He stated that once the position is cut, he felt it would be very hard to ever add it back.</p> <p>Bruce Guillemette – Burlington – He echoed the comments already made regarding the reorganization plan. He spoke about how property values are directly impacted by the quality of education the schools are providing. He sated that he did not support a two (2) tier busing system. He commented that he felt “The School Bell” is an example of a position that could be performed by an intern and the funds could be added back to education. He also stated that the “School Bell” should</p>	<p><b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b></p>

be made available electronically and that by not mailing it further savings could be had.

Tim Bergstrom – Burlington – He expressed a need for balance and thought by paying a little now it would lessen the cost later. He stated that he sees 3 main risks with this budget: maintaining educational standards, maintaining faculty, and impact on property values.

Liz Cornish – Burlington - Expressed concern over the reorganization plan.

Jerry Mullen – Burlington – Thanked everyone for their hard work in putting together the 2010-2011 Estimate of Expenses. He stated that he owns an industrial business in Burlington. He feels that at this point in time there is not even a hint of economic recovery. He indicated that everybody is hurting and everyone is dealing with the same problems. He asked the Board to make due with what they currently have.

Callie Penn – Burlington – Expressed concern over the teacher reduction at Harwinton Consolidated School.

Lynne Ringquist – Burlington – Echoed Mrs. Penn's concerns over the teacher reduction at Harwinton Consolidated School. She urged the Board to ask the teachers where they would like to see funds put back into the budget. She also asked the Board to consider a Pay to Play program at the high school.

Jaye Tower – Burlington – Thanked everyone for their hard work in preparing the estimate of expenses. She stated that she is very concerned about the reorganization plan. She said that basically it is not feasible. She did not know how Region 10 would be able to provide sound educational leadership and administration at Har-Bur Middle School. She was concerned that the teacher evaluation program would suffer. She wondered what the risk would be to the students with the reorganization plan. She felt that there are a lot of discipline issues at Har-Bur Middle School and that the administration would not be able to handle them and therefore student's safety would be impacted.

Jason Farren – Burlington – Expressed concern over the teacher reductions at the elementary schools. He felt that the Board should be concerned with what the parents want because it is them who get the budget to pass.

Jayne Stocker – Burlington – Expressed concern over the administrator reorganization plan. She felt if the reorganization plan stayed in place, the budget would not pass on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Michele Shingleton – Burlington – Expressed concern over the administrator reorganization plan and encouraged the Board to conduct an exit pole so that if the budget does not pass they will know why.

<p>Ken Mierzejewski –Harwinton – Expressed concern over cuts to the budget moving forward and the possibility of there being more and more cuts in years to come.</p>	
<p>A <b>motion</b> to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Omichinski and was seconded by Mrs. Duffy. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries (10/0/0) The meeting ended at 9:48 pm.</p>	<p><b>ADJOURN</b></p>

Respectfully submitted,

  
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 Jeanne Doerr, Secretary

4/19/10  
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 Date