

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Lewis S. Mills Auditorium
24 LYON ROAD, BURLINGTON, CT 06013
Monday, February 10, 2014
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Joseph Arcuri, Chairman
Beth Duffy
Thomas Fausel
Theresa Foley
Paul Omichinski
Brooke Joiner
Bruce Guillemette
Susan Baccaro

Absent:

Phillip Penn, Vice Chairman

Also Present:

Alan Beitman, Superintendent
Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations
David Fortin, Director of Facilities
Robert Choiniere, Director of Student Learning
Katie Hurlock, Student Representative
Eric Uhl, Student Representative
Patricia George, Recording Secretary

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- I. Call to Order:
Board Chairman Joseph Arcuri called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:02 p.m.
 - II. Mr. Arcuri led the pledge of allegiance. Immediately following, a moment of silence was held in memory of Board Member, Mr. Ted Scheidel
 - III. Election of Treasurer:
A motion was made by Tom Fausel and seconded by Beth Duffy to nominate Paul Omichinski as Board Treasurer; no other nominations were cast; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
 - IV. Communications:
 - A. Student Representatives' Reports:
Katie Hurlock's report was comprised of the following events:

Mid-term exams were recently administered. A new format this year incorporated 2 exams sessions per day, at 2 hours each.

The National Foreign Language Honor Society, also known as NFLHS, will be hosting their annual Cultural Extravaganza on March 7th. All proceeds will be donated to Doctors without Borders.

The National Honor Society is holding a canned food drive, which began last week and continues this week.

Eric Uhl's reported on the following:

The ending of mid-terms marks the end of the first semester. The third marking period began on January 28th with report cards being distributed shortly thereafter.

Safe Harbor sponsored a bonfire and ice skating entertainment at Nassahegan last Friday for all Mill's students. The festivities followed the boys' basketball victory over North Western.

On February 22, student government will be holding the annual "Mills Got Talent", a school-wide talent show. The show begins at 7:00 and admission is \$5.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Presentation of the 2014/2015 Estimate of Expenses (Power Point Presentation – Handout Provided)

At this early point in the budget process, what was presented this evening was described as a "snapshot" in time. Health care negotiations are still underway with firm numbers not expected until mid to late March. Also anticipated to affect the Estimate of Expenses, is the number of partially funded and unfunded mandates stemming from the short session of legislature.

The challenge of the Estimate of Expenses is to provide for Region 10's youngest students in the Class of 2027, the same quality educational opportunities to those offered to the Class of 2013.

Funding for education primarily comes from three sources; local, state, and federal. The majority of funding comes from the property taxes collected each year from the taxpayers of those residing in the towns of Burlington (65.19%) and Harwinton (34.81%).

Superintendent Beitman noted that efficiency and savings had been brought to all facets of the budget. The recommendation to the Board at this juncture was an overall increase of 2.74% or \$988,087 over the 2013/2014 approved Estimate of Expenses. The consequences of bringing forward extremely low budgets for the past five to six years are finally catching up with district.

Superintendent Beitman revealed his Points of Pride in Region 10 which included outstanding faculty and support staff; rigorous curriculum and effective support services; targeting resources for schools/classrooms; well maintained facilities; safe schools with positive school climates; integrated technology infrastructure; sustained history of excellence in student achievement in academics, the arts and in the athletic arena; motivated students; dedicated and engaged parents; strong community support; and a focus on continuous improvement.

With the defeat of the referendum for the Exterior Athletic complex, the school district is now faced with a very serious dilemma. The tennis courts, which are used for Wellness classes for both Har-Bur and Lewis S. Mills students, as well as the boy's and girl's interscholastic tennis teams will not survive another season. A five year facilities proposal was brought forward with replacing 4 tennis courts under consideration for year 1. In year 2, the outdoor track will be addressed; year 3, crew boat storage/irrigation improvements; year 4, irrigation/field improvements; and year 5, playground improvements.

New funding under consideration (funds currently not in the Estimate of Expenses) included; Five-Year Outdoor Facilities Fund, funds to establish a STEM/pre-engineering program, Common Core Curriculum writing, recommended writing and math programs, LSM/HBMS oil tank monitoring system, LGS water softener replacement, HCS floor and tile repairs, HCS lavatory renovation, and an anticipated school bus totaling \$403,700.

Region10, like all districts, is experiencing a drop in student population. Without taking into consideration the 99 residences that are in varying stages of construction, the region is projected to have 42 fewer students compared to 13/14. A breakdown by school was provided as part of the presentation. Based on this declining enrollment, positions noted for reduction/reorganization encompassed 2.4 FTEs at Harwinton Consolidated, 2.6 FTEs at Lake Garda School, 1.0 FTE Elementary Special Education Coordinator, 1.0 FTE Teaching Assistant, .5 Administrative Assistant and a .2 Supervisor Language Arts (reorganize). Estimated savings for the 7.7 FTEs is \$334,744.

Projected class sizes for grades Prek-4, the communities' "Return on Investment for the Class of 2013", and unfunded and partially funded mandates for 2014/2015 were also discussed.

Budgetary issues to monitor between now and the close of the school year, regardless of the referendum outcome, include: State Educational "Reform" Legislation Costs, Magnet School Tuition/transportation costs, anticipated increase/decrease in enrollment during the summer, level of state and federal funding support may decline; Project Choice impacts to enrollment and

staffing, uncertainty of special education costs and the significant drop in the anticipated excess cost reimbursement rate from 75% to 65%, final health care/prescription drug costs still to be determined, anticipated new state and federal laws and unfunded mandates, and possible staff retirements/leaves/resignations by or after June 30, 2014.

In conclusion, Superintendent Beitman noted important future meetings and corresponding dates of the Board of Education. The Board Chair opened the floor for Board members to ask questions.

- V. Approval of Board of Education Minutes for:
A. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, January 13, 2014.

On a motion made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Beth Duffy to accept/approve the minutes dated Monday, January 13, 2014 as presented; no further discussion; Susan Baccaro abstained; motion carried unanimously.

- VI. Consent Agenda:
A. Approval of the Financial Reports dated January 2014

On a motion made by Beth Duffy and seconded by Paul Omichinski to accept/approve the Financial Reports dated January 2014; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

- B. Resignations/C. Retirements/D. Leaves of Absence:

Superintendent Beitman wished to publicly acknowledge the resignations and retirements

Retiring staff members Mike Caplinger, Patty Shuhi, Deb Wartonick, and Robin Jemes have more than 100 years of service between them to the Region 10 school district. Superintendent Beitman said he would be remiss not commending them and thanking them for their countless sacrifices made on behalf of the students in Region 10.

On a motion made by Susan Baccaro and seconded by Theresa Foley to accept/approve Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

- E. Appointments:
Mr. David Francalanga was present at the meeting and introduced to the Board of Education by Superintendent Beitman as the recommended applicant to fill the position of Athletic Coordinator for Lewis S. Mills High School.

On a motion made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Tom Fausel to accept/approve the appointment of David Francalanga as Lewis S.

Mills High School new Athletic Coordinator; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Public Participation:
Kristin Guillemette and Andrea Dussault

Prior to addressing the Board, Superintendent Beitman acknowledged that a handout was prepared by the parents supporting the 7/8 field hockey proposal regarding their fundraising initiatives which was distributed to the Board members earlier. He also reminded the Board that the first year of any club or any activity has to be fully funded by outside sources; no BoE funds are used in the first year of any activity.

Secondly, the viability of field usage would need to be investigated prior to making a formal presentation. This can be done once the snow melts.

Andrea Dussault:

As a follow up to the original field hockey proposal submitted in January, an update was presented to the Board with regards to the development of fundraising initiatives for their review.

Melissa Hayes

Ms. Hayes explained that she was present this evening to voice her support for additional Pre-K options at the two elementary schools. She asked that the Board consider adding available seats to the program already in place and also offer the options of full-day with extended care so that many families in the community could take advantage of it.

Tony DiNicola
Board of Finance - Burlington

Mr. DiNicola requested that once the final budget moves to referendum, not only note what the overall increase is, but also note if there was a loss of funding, what the impact would be to the towns.

He also asked that any surplus be returned to the towns.

VIII. Actions:

A. Proposed Lease

Several weeks ago, the Town of Burlington and the Volunteer Fire Department made a presentation to the Board requesting permission to have a portion of the land adjacent to Lake Garda School either sold to, or leased to, the Town of Burlington/Volunteer Fire Department. Superintendent Beitman noted that it has been the practice of the Board and Region 10 to never sell land since the district has two

communities that they work with. A lease was developed and presented to the Board for a first read.

Superintendent Beitman asked that Board pay specific attention to item number 3 on the first page which addresses how the land could be used.

B. Regular Meetings 2014/2015

The only issue brought forward by the Superintendent is that state law mandates a common calendar for each RESC. Region 10 is serviced by two, Litchfield and Hartford. He has received no answer on which calendar Region 10 will have to follow in the year 15/16. Next school year is voluntary and Superintendent Beitman sees no reason to change the school calendar as it now stands. Future school and meeting calendars may be dictated by this mandate.

On a motion made by Theresa Foley and seconded by Sue Baccaro to accept/approve the Board of Education meeting schedule as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

C. Bus Policy

The bus policy is the result of a concern that was raised about seven years ago when the Superintendent first began his tenure with the Region 10 school district. At the time, Principal Karissa Niehoff and then Assistant Principal Pam Lazaroski requested consideration be extended to high school students in good standing so that they would be able to ride the middle school buses, particularly 9th and 10th graders who were participating in extra help and club activities.

The Board put into place a pilot program that slowly evolved into a more a permanent program, but there was a policy attached to it. This year, given the concern that some parents did not know this practice was in place, the issue was once again brought to the forefront.

A public hearing was held and many showed their support in upholding the current practice.

Sue Scott, an attorney for the Board, developed a draft policy. It is being presented to the Board as a first read, no action item.

IX. Business

A. Field Hockey Update:

As noted previously, a funding proposal was distributed. The presentation speaks on its own merit.

Beth Duffy, as a member of the Facilities Committee and having first-hand knowledge of the fields and the fact that the referendum failed, encouraged the group find a backup plan.

Paul Omichinski remembered that a study had been completed to review the athletic programs and to provide feedback as to whether the district had the appropriate facilities and programs. He did not recall seeing the results of it, however. He was asking that an attempt be made to try and locate the report. It would shed some light on whether or not the district should be adding additional programs.

X. Committee Reports:

Paul Omichinski indicated that members of the Facilities Committee met to clean up old business. One item discussed was to disband the Exterior Athletic Facilities committee since the referendum failed. The item will be placed on the March 10th meeting agenda.

XI. Next Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, March 10, 2014 at 7:00pm in the Learning Center.

Budget workshops will be held on:

Monday, February 24, 2014

Monday, March 3, 2014

Monday, March 10, 2014

Other Important Dates:

Monday, March 31, 2014, Public Hearing

Monday, May 5, 2014, Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 2014, Referendum


XII. Adjourn

On a motion made by Beth Duffy and seconded by Theresa Foley to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:51 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Theresa Foley, Secretary



Date