

MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUDGET PRESENTATION MEETING
MARCH 16, 2009
THE LEARNING CENTER

Members Present: Joseph Arcuri, Cathy Bergstrom, Kathy Deprey, Jeanne Doerr, Beth Duffy, Paul Omichinski, Phil Penn, Raymond Sikora, Karen Sullivan

Absent: Elaine Schiavone

Also Present: Alan Beitman - Superintendent of Schools
Michael Landry - Assistant Superintendent
David Lenihan - Business Manager
Stephen Sikora - Student Representative

- I. Call to order - The Budget Presentation Meeting of the Board of Education was held in The Learning Center, and was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairman Paul Omichinski.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge was recited.
- III. Communications – Due to concern expressed at the March 9, 2009 meeting, regarding the inequity in class sizes between Harwinton Consolidated School and Lake Garda School, Mr. Beitman recommended that if by the April or May meeting, when enrollment has firmed up and if the numbers support it, they consider moving a grade 4 teacher from Harwinton Consolidated School to grade 2 at Lake Garda School. This would bring the numbers more in line with one another. Mr. Beitman added that if there were a significant increase in enrollment they would consider adding a teacher. This item will be revisited at the April and/or May meeting.

Estimate of Expenses Update – Mr. Beitman presented the Board and the Community with a spreadsheet (attached) that reflects all of the additions and reductions to date. He added that he anticipates future savings as he is in the process of negotiation with the health care provider.

Mr. Beitman read a thank you note from Ms. Mary Thompson, a Lewis S. Mills High School Art teacher, for recognizing her at the March 9, 2009 meeting.

- IV. Consent Agenda
 - A. Non-Renewal of teacher contract for budgetary reasons – Mr. Beitman recommended to the Board of Education that the following employees not be renewed due to budgetary reasons: Leslie Dallas, Shannon Miller, Christina Irwin, Elena Padolko, Kirsten Coffman, Stephanie Close, Elisabeth LaMonica

A **motion** to approve the non-renewals was made by Mr. Sikora second by Mrs. Duffy. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (9/0/0)

V. Public Participation - The Region 10 Board of Education welcomes public participation.

Mrs. Jessie Smiley of Burlington asked Mr. Beitman to please explain the recommendations for non-renewal. Mr. Beitman explained that he does not expect to lay off any employees. He explained that contracts for all non-tenure teachers are renewed on an annual basis until they achieve tenure. He further explained that it is a very lengthy process to lay off employees, therefore, in preparation for the possibility that the budget does not pass and he is asked to make further reductions he would then not rehire the teachers. Mr. Beitman said that the worst-case scenario is that he will not rehire one (1) teacher.

Mrs. Lynn Ringquist of Burlington had a concern with the class size of grade 2 going into the fall. She stated that her questions had already been answered.

Mrs. Stacey Sefcik of Harwinton read a lengthy prepared statement about what she views as the inequity in admission into the pre-school program. She sees the policy as discriminatory against community students. Mr. Omichinski asked Mrs. Sefcik if she had contacted Mr. Beitman with her concern. She indicated that she had left a voice mail for him and that the call was referred to Ms. Carabis, Director of Special Services. Mr. Omichinski suggested she meet with Mr. Beitman at which time Mr. Beitman told Mrs. Sefcik that his administrative assistant would contact her the following day to arrange an appointment.

VI. Business

A. Final Review and Discussion by the Board of Education of the Estimate of Expenses for 2009-2010 – Mr. Beitman reviewed the latest additions and reductions to the 2009-2010 estimate of expenses. The additions total \$172,500 and the reductions total \$170,200. The total of the proposed 2009-2010 estimate of expenses is \$33,486,866. The adopted 2008-2009 budget was \$32,951,003. The percentage change is 1.626%.

Mr. Sikora asked for clarification on the anticipated reduction due to insurance negotiations. Mr. Beitman indicated that because the insurance company insures both town and school employees, our numbers are high enough to qualify for a reduction in our rate.

Mr. Penn asked why Region 10 utilizes a three (3)-year technology lease and if it would be economical to look at a more long-term lease. Mr. Lenihan said that is mostly due to the fact that technology changes so frequently. Mr. Penn then requested that we look into a four (4) or five (5) year lease and review the cost variations.

Mr. Sikora inquired about the pension fund adjustment and asked if because of the increase this year would that mean that next year we will not need to increase it. Mr. Lenihan indicated that it has remained stable for the past four (4) to five (5) years and it changed this year due to the economic down turn and that it is also based on the age of individuals and how close they are to retirement. If the market goes back up, we will most likely not need to increase it next year.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked about the preventative maintenance figures and the anticipated savings. Mr. Fortin indicated that these figures represent the amount he took out of his budget in anticipation of the position. He further indicated that

the preventative maintenance person would prevent repairs through regular maintenance. The amount of \$57,850 came out of the repairs account and was deducted from the figure of \$232,000 and, therefore, brought the figure to \$175,000. Mr. Fortin stated that if the preventative maintenance position is not approved the figure would go back up to \$232,000. Mr. Fortin said that he had wanted to put this system into place from the conception of his employment in Region 10 but due to the building project he was unable to find the time to organize the initiative.

Mr. Penn asked if the total amount of the salary for the preventative maintenance position could be deducted from of the maintenance budget. Mr. Lenihan indicated that we could cut an additional \$5,000 but he cautioned that anything could happen with regard to necessary repairs. It is very hard to predict. He further commented that it is a very tight budget already. Mrs. Duffy said that she felt that it was worth giving the idea a try and that if it is not working, the Board could review the data and reassess the idea prior to the development of the 2010-2011 estimate of expenses.

Mrs. Bergstrom asked Mr. Tanner about the elimination of the night games at Nassahegan. Mr. Tanner said that they were completely eliminated from the budget but if the community makes donations as they have in the past, he will certainly organize the games. This past year funds were donated to cover three (3) games and Region 10 funded five (5) games. They also received donations from the police who donated their time to supervise the games. He explained that admission could not be charged and concessions could not be sold to off set the cost because Nassahegan is State property.

Mr. Penn asked for an explanation of the costs associated with the accreditation process. Mr. Lenihan explained that they reflect the cost of meals, rooms, a reception, travel, materials and clerical expenses. Mr. Landry further explained that, in addition, a chairperson travels to the Region a total of three (3) times during the accreditation process.

Ms. Sullivan commented the she would like to see option one (1) of the class size redistribution be put into place now and not wait. Mr. Beitman agreed. However, he would still plan to come back to the Board in the spring with additional information.

Mr. Omichinski went through the additions and reductions line by line. He commented that there is not much discretionary money and that all reductions have been made except staff reductions. Mrs. Bergstrom asked if the central office clerical staff could be reduced because each administrator seems to have their own assistant. Mr. Beitman explained they are not just an assistant to an administrator, but that each clerical staff member carries many more responsibilities like payroll, accounts payable.

A motion to approve the budget in the amount of \$33,486,866 a 1.63% increase was made by Mr. Penn and was seconded by Mr. Sikora. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (9/0/0)

VII. Action

- A. Completion of Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Audit and Refund of Operating Surplus to Towns – Mr. Lenihan requested that the net surplus for 07-08 year be paid to the towns.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Sikora to direct superintendent of schools to provide a refund from the 2007-2008 operating surplus of \$85,277 to the towns of Burlington and Harwinton and was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. All in favor none opposed. (9/0/0)

- B. On April 1, 2009 authorize the Superintendent of Schools to set the Lewis S. Mills Graduation Date and to proceed with a contract with The Warner Theater for the Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2009.

A **motion** to direct the superintendent of schools to set the 2009 graduation date and to proceed with a contract with The Warner Theater was made by Mr. Sikora and was seconded by Mrs. Bergstrom. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (9/0/0)

- VIII. The Public Hearing on the District Budget will be Monday, April 6, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Lewis S. Mills High School Auditorium. The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Lewis S. Mills High School Auditorium. The proposed referendum date is Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

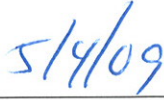
- IX. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, 2009 at 7:30p.m. in The Learning Center.

- X. A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Sikora and was seconded by Mr. Arcuri. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries (9/0/0)

Meeting ended at 9:32.



Raymond Sikora, Secretary



Date