

MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUDGET HEARING
APRIL 4, 2011
HAR-BUR MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER

Members Present: Kathy Deprey, Jeanne Doerr, Paul Omichinski, Phil Penn, Raymond Sikora, Elaine Schiavone, Ted Scheidel, Noel Turner

Absent: Joseph Arcuri
Beth Duffy

Also Present: Alan Beitman - Superintendent of Schools
David Lenihan - Business Manager

I. Call to order – The District budget hearing was held in the Har-Bur Middle School Learning Center, and was called to order at 7:31 pm by Vice Chairperson Raymond Sikora. Mr. Sikora thanked Mr. Beitman, Mr. Lenihan, Mr. Landry, the administration, support staff and the Board Members for their hard work in developing the 2011-2012 estimate of expenses.

II. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge was recited.

III. Election of Moderator – A **motion** to nominate Mr. Reid Matussek as the meeting moderator was made by Mr. Omichinski was seconded by Mr. Penn. No other nominations were made. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)

A **motion** to nominate Ms. Mary Spitz as recording secretary for the meeting was made by Mr. Omichinski and was seconded by Mr. Penn. No other nominations were made. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)

IV. Ms. Spitz read the call of the meeting as follows “Legal Notice. Warning, Budget Hearing, Regional School District #10, Towns of Harwinton and Burlington. A Public Hearing for the purpose of presenting the proposed 2011-2012 Regional School District #10 Budget will be held on Monday, April 4, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the Har-Bur Middle School Learning Center at 26 Lyon Road in Burlington, CT.

Joseph Arcuri
Regional School District #10
Board of Education

This notice appeared in the Hartford Courant on March 22, 2011 and was posted at both the Burlington and Harwinton Town Halls on March 18, 2011.

V. Discussion of Budget – Mr. Beitman reviewed his recommended 2011-2012 Estimate of Expenses in the amount of \$34,693,657 or a 2.61% increase over last year.

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.

Janet Burrirt of Harwinton – Presented the Board with a copy of a newspaper article from 2003 that reported 32 students were enrolled in AP classes at that time. She also presented the Board with another article from this year which reported that Region 10 has 243 students currently enrolled in AP courses. She expressed her hope that no further cuts are made that would impact the advanced placement courses. She also spoke in favor of the Student Resource Officer Program.

Pat Goodenough of Harwinton – Asked for clarification on the funding for the LSM football program. Mr. Beitman said that the Board recommended a \$5,000 contribution to football for the 11-12 school year. Mr. Sikora indicated that football costs about \$40,000 per year and that the Board has contributed just \$5,000 toward football for the past couple of years only and the football boosters contribute the majority of the funds. Mr. Lenihan added that during the current year, the Board contributing nothing to football.

Bruce Guillemette of Burlington – Asked, if staff members retire, will the plan be to replace the teachers. Mr. Beitman indicated that available positions as a result of retirement would be filled. He asked if there is anything new to report with regard to the SRO program. Mr. Beitman said he had a very positive meeting with Lieutenant DeVecchia and he drafted a letter that was forwarded to the new Commissioner of Public Safety and his Colonel asking them to review our request to fund \$35,000 for a student resource officer and if it were not possible to put a full time officer into place would they consider a part time officer (90 school days). Mr. Beitman indicated in his letter that this could serve as a model for other districts that had the program suspended.

Lynne Ringquist of Burlington thanked the Board.

Ken Mierzejewski of Harwinton commented that his son is currently enrolled in the Harwinton Consolidated School preschool program. He expressed concern over class size if a kindergarten position was cut. Mr. Beitman explained that the recommendation is two-part that should enrollment increase up to 77 students the teacher would be added back. He indicated that the current 11-12 kindergarten enrollment numbers are so low at Lake Garda School that a .5 position would need to be eliminated. However, should the number of incoming kindergarten students go up, the position would return to a full-time position.

Corrine Lewis Region 10 Special Education Bus Driver presented her calculations as they relate to the Special Education Bus Drivers as compared to the All Star proposal. She commented that in her opinion eliminating the special education bus drivers would not be cost saving.

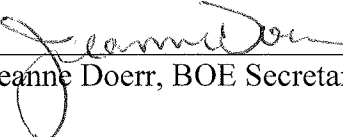
Tracy Cheskey Region 10 Special Education Bus Driver asked if the administration made the decision to lay off the drivers is not for efficiency purposes but because the bus drivers were in the process of forming a union. She asked if Mr. Beitman had any comment. Mr. Beitman indicated that he would leave it in the labor board's hands.

Frank Chiaramonte, Town of Harwinton First Selectman asked if the town halls could shorten the time that the poles are open for non-budget referendums such as the past week's roof referendum. Mr. Lenihan said that he checked with the bond counsel and it is required to have a full day referendum if the appropriation is in excess of \$500,000.

Art Johanson Burlington Board of Finance Chairman asked if the new math position would include benefits. Mr. Beitman said that yes the salary is roughly \$42,000 and roughly an additional \$8,000 in benefits. Mr. Johanson asked what classes this teacher would be assigned. Mr. Beitman indicated that teacher would be assigned 2 AP calculus classes 2 AP trigonometry classes and 1 Computer Science class. He asked why FTE cost reductions vary so greatly each year. Mr. Beitman said it depends upon the teacher who is in the position and how many years they have been in the district and another factor is the impact of unemployment benefits. Mr. Johanson asked that the Board consider that ECS funding has remained flat for four years as the bottom line keeps going up and the citizens are left to shoulder more of the burden each year.

As no additional comments or questions were forthcoming, a **motion** to adjourn the public hearing was made by Mr. Penn and was seconded by Mr. Omichinski. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)

The meeting ended at 8:38pm



Jeanne Doerr, BOE Secretary

5/9/11

Date