

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
THE LEARNING CENTER
24 LYON ROAD, BURLINGTON, CT 06013
Monday, January 13, 2014
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Joseph Arcuri, Chairman
Beth Duffy
Thomas Fausel
Theresa Foley
Paul Omichinski
Phillip Penn, Vice Chairman
Ted Scheidel
Brooke Joiner
Bruce Guillemette

Board Members Absent:

Susan Baccaro
Student Representative Katie Hurlock

Also Present:

Alan Beitman, Superintendent
Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations
Eric Uhl, Student Representative
Patricia George, Recording Secretary

- 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.
- III. Communications:
 - A. Superintendent's Report
To begin his report, Superintendent Beitman deferred to Sue Laone, the Director of Facilities and Operations and asked that she introduce Mike VanDeventer, CPA, Senior Manager of Mahoney, Sabol & Company, LLP, from the district's auditing firm. Mike was on hand to review the recent financial audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

Three documents were provided to each of the Board members; a copy of the Basic Financial Statements, the Federal State Single Audit Reports, and the Fiscal 2013 Audit Results presentation.

The presentation, which Mr. VanDeventer reviewed, encompassed the Scope of the Work, Auditor's Reports, Financial Highlights, Required Communications, Management Recommendations, Technical Updates, and a question and answer period.

"Overall, the audit went well," Ms. Laone said.

Superintendent Beitman concluded his report by indicating that the weather has not been very cooperative and has resulted in very cold temperatures and delayed school openings. To date, the district has utilized three of the six snow days budgeted for inclement weather.

The flu has been responsible for the recent increase in student and staff absenteeism, which is being monitored closely through the school nurses.

B. Student Representatives' Reports

Student representative Eric Uhl reported on the recent Studio Space concert, Grade 8 Orientation, course selections, and mid-terms.

IV. Approval of Board of Education Minutes for:

- A. Special Meeting (A) of the Board of Education dated Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
- B. Special Meeting (B) of the Board of Education dated Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
- C. Special Meeting (C) of the Board of Education dated Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 8:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Theresa Foley and seconded by Paul Omichinski to accept/approve the minutes noted in items A, B, and C; no further discussion; Phil Penn abstained; motion carried unanimously.

- D. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, December 9, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Phil Penn and seconded by Paul Omichinski to accept/approve the minutes noted in item D; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

- E. Public Hearing dated Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Phil Penn to accept/approve the minutes noted in item E; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

- F. Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated Tuesday, December 10, 2013 immediately following Public Hearing or 9:17 p.m.

On a motion made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Phil Penn to accept/approve the minutes noted in item F; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

- V. Consent Agenda:
- A. Approval of the Financial Reports dated December 2013
On a motion made by Phil Penn and seconded by Paul Omichinski to accept/approve the December 2013 Financial Reports; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
 - B. Appointments: n/a
 - C. Leaves of Absence: n/a
 - D. Resignations: n/a
 - E. Retirements:
On a motion made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Beth Duffy to accept/approve the retirement as presented;

Further Discussion

Superintendent Beitman noted that John Vecchitto is a Harwinton resident, who joined Region 10 later in his career. He went on to say that John has been a very valuable asset to the English Department and will certainly be missed.

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Public Participation:

Kristin Guillemette/Andrea Dussault/Joanne Neuhausser

Proposal of a grade 7/8 field hockey team

VII. Actions:

A. Pullman & Comley, LLC

Several weeks ago, a committee of Board of Education Members, along with Sue Laone, Director of Facilities and Operations; Linda Carabis, Director of Student Support Services, and Superintendent Beitman interviewed six law firms that applied to provide legal services to the Board of Education for the next three years.

On behalf of the committee, Superintendent Beitman made a recommendation to the Board to secure Pullman & Comley, a very large firm located in Connecticut and New York offering a wide variety of services, as the Board's legal firm. This would be a three year contract commencing on February 1, 2014 and ending January 31, 2017. At such time, the Board may opt to extend the contract.

Board member Paul Omichinski stated that Attorney Bill Connon, an associate of the firm, has represented the board for thirty years. Paul highly

recommended to the board that they move forward with an attorney who knows the district intimately.

A motion was made by Phil Penn and seconded by Theresa Foley to accept/approve the law firm Pullman and Comley, LLC to represent the Board of Education; motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Business

A. Field Hockey Proposal

A proposal for a 7/8 grade field hockey team for Region 10 was brought forward for Board consideration. Superintendent Beitman said the most critical piece is first year funding.

Paul Omichinski asked for two items prior to the next Board of Education meeting; a response from the facilities director regarding fields, specifically his opinion regarding the additional field use and also how they intend on securing funding.

Beth Duffy asked if by implementing a grade 7/8 field hockey team, was the district taking students from other programs or doubling up on their athletic play. She also asked if they had conversations with the towns regarding field use.

Tom Fausel asked if there would be an issue finding opponents and if there were any special field requirements.

B. First review – Proposed BoE Schedule

Board of Education meeting dates for 2014/2015 were provided to the Board members for review and consideration.

As a side note, Superintendent Beitman indicated that legislation requires by 2015/2016, districts follow the RESC calendar. He has not been provided with any response from the commissioner regarding the fact that Region 10 is the only school district in the state of Connecticut in two counties and falls under two different RESCs. The other dilemma is that most athletic competitions are in Litchfield County, not Hartford.

C. RedFlex Bus Cameras – 90 Day Survey

Red light cameras are utilized in municipalities and states where they are legal and are relatively a new venture. Cameras are installed on the exterior of school buses and take photos of the license plate, not the driver, of a vehicle that passes a bus when the blinking red lights are in use. Redflex would receive a large percentage of the fine issued by the municipality. Superintendent Beitman said that there are multiple issues with two towns and varying interpretations of how the fines would be paid. Additionally, one town may opt to install the cameras, but some of the buses would travel to both towns. Leslie Sheldon of All-Star transportation expressed concerns with regards to the damage to the buses caused by camera installation and subsequent removal if the pilot were not to move forward. Who maintains the cameras? Additionally, the registered owner receives the fine, not necessarily the driver.

Superintendent Beitman said that he has no knowledge of excessive infractions with regards to vehicles passing school buses while the red lights are flashing. Typically, he learns of about 7 to 10 a year. He also talked to the resident troopers in both towns and they didn't find that it was an issue either.

Paul Omichinski shared his perspective. He felt the survey was presented as an enhancement to the safety of the district's children. He failed to see any evidence of what a camera would do for the safety of the school children. "How often do we have a reported occurrence and what happens when one is," he asked.

Brooke Joiner asked for the history behind the proposal and Bruce Guillemette wanted to know who the proponent was. Did Redflex approach the district?

Conversations were had regarding the true necessity of the proposal.

Phil Omichinski made a suggestion to move this item to an action item as he felt there was not enough need to warrant moving forward.

A motion was made by Phil Penn and seconded by Paul Omichinski to move item C from Section VIII. Business, to Section VII. Action Items; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Paul Omichinski moved that the Board not proceed with any RedFlex proposals including the 90 Day Survey; seconded by Phil Penn; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

D. Burlington Volunteer Fire Department Property Lease

A real estate Attorney in the Board's firm is working with the volunteer fire department, David Fortin, Sue Laone and Superintendent Beitman to develop a lease to be presented to the Board at their February Board of Education meeting.

E. Board of Education Workshop

Board Chairman Joseph Arcuri, noting that there are a number of new members on the Board, felt it would be beneficial to orchestrate a Board workshop. Board members will be asked to identify what topics they would like to review and to suggest what professional development they would like to partake in. Guest speakers will be invited to make presentations.

IX. Committee Reports:

A. Facilities: P. Omichinski

Paul Omichinski reminded Board members to perform their civic duty and vote tomorrow on the Exterior Athletic Facility.

X. Next Meeting:

February 10th, Lewis Mills Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. – Superintendent's Estimate of Expenses for 2014/2015.

XI. Adjourn

A motion was made by Beth Duffy and seconded by Paul Omichinski to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:40 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Theresa Foley, Secretary



Date