

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
February 27, 2012
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
THE LEARNING CENTER**

Board Members Present:

Joseph Arcuri, Vice Chairman
Susan Baccaro
Beth Duffy
Kathy Deprey
Paul Omichinski
Phil Penn
Ted Scheidel
Elaine Schiavone
Ray Sikora, Chairman
Noel Turner

APPROVED

Absent:

Also Present:

Alan Beitman Superintendent of Schools
Robert Choiniere Interim Assistant Superintendent
David Lenihan Business Manager
Matthew DiSorbo Student Representative

<p>Chairman of the Board, Raymond Sikora, called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:32 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p>
<p><u>Superintendent's Report:</u> Mr. Beitman presented an updated estimate of expenses which he first presented on February 13, 2012. The update included a referendum history, distribution percentages by town, proposed new funds, retirements, projected enrollment, staffing reductions, and a proposal to move from a half-day kindergarten program to a full-time kindergarten program. He indicated that since the Estimate of Expenses was first presented on February 13th, it has been reduced slightly to a 2.17% increase over last year. Mr. Beitman went on to announce the resignation of Mrs. Samantha Murr, Grade 2 teacher at Harwinton Consolidated School. He also announced the retirement of Dr. Robert Burnett, Lewis S. Mills High School Chemistry teacher.</p>	<p>COMMUNICATIONS</p>
<p><u>Board of Education Review and Discussion of the 2012-2013 Estimate of Expenses:</u> Mrs. Megan Mazzei and Mr. Jack Gedney presented the budgets for Harwinton Consolidated School and Lake Garda Elementary School. They also addressed the topic of all-day kindergarten and their support of an all-day program. Mrs. Mazzei and Mr. Gedney went on to address the Board's questions as they relate to moving toward an all-day kindergarten program. Mrs. Gadue spoke about the Common Core State Standards that Connecticut has adopted which will go into effect</p>	<p>BUDGET REVIEW & DISCUSSION</p>

in 2014 and the increased demand and expectations that these new national standards will place on students. She presented a detailed explanation of how instructional time would increase significantly with an all-day kindergarten program. The Board continued to discuss the issues as they relate to all-day kindergarten including facility limitations and future space implications.

Mr. Smith presented his budget for Har-Bur Middle School. He indicated that the focus this year was on meeting the needs of the students. He explained that increased instruction in the area of language arts was one major area that the administration wanted to address. Mr. Smith went on to address the Board's questions as they relate to changes in the middle school language arts program. He explained that the proposed change would eliminate the existing study skills class in 6th grade and would be replaced with additional instruction in the area of language arts. He indicated that the research shows that this shift would address the needs of the students much more effectively. Mr. Smith went on to address the Board's questions as they relate to the music program, curriculum development for the media center, and copier repairs and maintenance. Mr. Smith finished up his presentation with his updated enrollment numbers and indicated that since October 1, 2011 Har-Bur Middle School has enrolled an additional twenty-one (21) students.

Mrs. Lazaroski presented the budget for Lewis S. Mills High School. She stated that the LSM budget was built from the bottom up and that every staff member was involved. Staff was asked to be very mindful with regard to costs but at the same time to not short change their programs. With that in mind, their budget was developed. Once everything was totaled the entire budget came in lower than last year but because of the increased VOAG tuition cost and contractual increases for transportation it resulted in a small overall increase to the high school budget. Mrs. Lazaroski went on to address the Board's questions as they relate to magnet school costs, cost of office supplies, mailing costs versus electronic communications and graduation expenses.

Kim Liutermula – Burlington – Commented that she and her husband are not in favor of a full day kindergarten program. In addition, she feels as though this should have been discussed outside of the budget process.

Matt Falconer – Burlington – He said he has twin daughters entering kindergarten in the fall and he hopes they can attend a full day kindergarten. He added that he has another daughter who is scheduled to attend kindergarten next year but because her birthday is December 31 he does not feel they would send her if an all day program was adopted. He spoke in favor of the full day program given the more demanding standards.

Janet Burritt – Harwinton – Spoke against a full day kindergarten program. She also commented that she feels that if there is a budget

**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION**

surplus it should be returned to the town.

Nathan Hedrick – Harwinton – Indicated that he feels that a full day kindergarten program would be a huge benefit to the community.

Mike Chowanec – Harwinton – Commented that he is undecided on the topic of full day kindergarten. He has a number of questions that he would like to see addressed. He is interested in what the research shows with regard to sustained benefits. He hoped that the Board would create an opportunity for the parents to be more involved in the process.

Elizabeth O'Connell – Harwinton – Commented that she objects to a full day kindergarten program. She felt that the executive summary that was mailed was unbalanced in its presentation of data. It included minor points that undermined the importance of the proposed change. Additionally, to state that a full day kindergarten program reduces the child-care burden on parents seems like an unnecessary focus for a school system. She commented that if a half-day enrichment program was offered as an option for parents to self-select that would accomplish the same goal without unduly impacting those who chose to stay home with their children. She went on to explain that studies have found that those children who benefit most from a full day kindergarten are those from low income and urban backgrounds who often begin their educational career academically disadvantaged. She requested that the Board consider alternative options.

Kara Reichler – Burlington – Spoke in support of the full day kindergarten program.

Scott Savelle – Burlington – Asked for information on what a day would look like in a full day program schedule. He also said that he and his wife are "leaning" toward supporting a full day program.

Nicole Criss – Harwinton – Stated that she supports what Elizabeth O'Connell said. She commented that she wants to make sure that a full day program is the right decision for her children. She feels that the education of a five-year-old child still lies mostly with the parent. She is worried that if/when enrollment increases the Board may realize that the district really could not afford it and the school district will need to begin reducing other programs.

Diane Facey – Harwinton – Spoke in support of a full day kindergarten program. She indicated that there are already a high percentage of children who spend their day in child-care settings. She feels that more research should be done. She would rather see money spent on education than gas for buses. She would like the Board to consider a hybrid rather than not adopt a full day kindergarten.

Carrie Case – Burlington – Asked how and when the decision on all day kindergarten will be made. Will it be a Board of Ed vote or a public

<p>vote? The Board responded that it would be a Board decision and they will be discussing and debating it over the next few meetings and a decision will be made at the March 12 meeting. She was not sure if it is a good idea or not because she feels there is not enough information for her to make a decision.</p>	
<p><u>Approval of New Course, Grade 12 – Hispanic Culture Through Film:</u> Mrs. Alecia Bohan presented a detailed overview of the newly developed Hispanic Culture Through Film class for 12th graders at Lewis S. Mills High School.</p> <p>The superintendent recommended this item remain as an action item for the March 12, 2012 meeting.</p> <p><u>Approval of the 2014-2015 School Year Calendar:</u></p> <p>A motion to approve the 2014-2015 school year calendar was made by Mr. Arcuri and was seconded by Mrs. Turner. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (9/0/0)</p> <p><u>Open Choice Request as Addressed in the State of Education's Letter:</u></p> <p>Mr. Beitman spoke about the impact that twenty additional students could have on enrollment and staffing needs and potential budgetary implications.</p> <p>A motion to decline the State Department of Education's request to accept twenty (20) additional Open Choice seats was made by Mr. Penn and was seconded by Mr. Arcuri. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (9/0/0)</p> <p><u>Consideration and Approval of Resolution Concerning Authorization of Refunding Bonds:</u> Mr. Lenihan explained that in 2005, Region 10 issued \$10,000,000 of GO bonds with a maturity date of 8/15/2025 and with an average interest rate of 4.1%. Due to falling interest rates and the fact that those bonds are now callable, Region 10 has an opportunity to refund the outstanding bonds at lower rates. Based on preliminary analysis performed by RSD 10's financial adviser, Janet Marcoux, the total savings could be approximately \$400,000 - \$500,000 over the 14 years remaining on the bonds. Final savings are subject to the bid that is expected to take place on March 14, 2012. Mr. Lenihan indicated that in order to begin the process, the Board has to adopt a resolution in order to issue the refunding bonds to pay off the old debt.</p> <p>A motion was made by Mr. Arcuri and was seconded by Ms. Schiavone as follows: RESOLVED, (a) That Regional School District Number 10 of the State of</p>	<p>ACTION</p>

Connecticut issue its refunding bonds, in an amount not to exceed EIGHT MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$8,200,000) the proceeds of which are hereby appropriated: (1) to fund one or more escrows, and to apply the balance held in such escrows, together with the investment earnings thereon, to the payment in whole or in part, as to be determined by the Chairman of the Board of Education and the Treasurer of the District, of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on the District's \$10,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, including the payment of interest accrued on said bonds to the date of payment, and (2) to pay costs of issuance of the refunding bonds authorized hereby, including legal fees, consultants' fees, trustee or escrow agent fees, underwriters' fees, bond insurance premiums, net interest and other financing costs and other costs related to the payment of the outstanding bonds described above. The refunding bonds shall be issued pursuant to Section 10-60a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds shall be general obligations of the District and its member towns, secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the District and its member towns.

(b) The Chairman of the Board of Education and the Treasurer of the District shall sign the bonds by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds. The Chairman and Treasurer, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates the authority to make such determinations, are authorized to determine the bonds to be redeemed and the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the refunding bonds; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds; to sell the bonds at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds.

(c) That the District hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the refunding may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the District reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the refunding. The Chairman and Treasurer, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the District pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in

future years.

(d) That the Chairman and Treasurer, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds.

(e) That the Chairman and Treasurer, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the District to effectuate the refunding of all or a portion of the District's outstanding \$10,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, and to issue refunding bonds authorized hereby for such purposes, including, but not limited to, the entrance into agreements on behalf of the District with underwriters, trustees, escrow agents, bond insurers and others to facilitate the issuance of the refunding bonds, the escrow of the proceeds thereof and investment earnings thereon, and the payment of the outstanding bonds in whole or in part.

(f) That the above authorization to issue refunding bonds shall lapse on June 30, 2013.

All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (9/0/0)

Review of Revisions to Transportation Policy #3541.2:

Mr. Beitman indicated that following a meeting with Attorney William Connon a revision to Transportation Policy #3541.2 is being recommended. He indicated that this item will be placed on the March 12, 2012 Board of Education meeting schedule for action.


BUSINESS

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

ADJOURN

The meeting ended at 11:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Beth Duffy, Secretary

3/05/2012
Date