

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 5, 2012
REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION 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

APPROVED

Absent:

Noel Turner

Also Present:

Alan Beitman Superintendent of Schools
Robert Choiniere Interim Assistant Superintendent
David Lenihan Business Manager

Chairman of the Board, Raymond Sikora, called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:32 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.	CALL TO ORDER
<u>Superintendent's Report:</u> Update to the 2012-2013 Estimate of Expenses: Mr. Beitman presented a detailed update of the 2012-2013 Estimate of Expenses. He indicated that the net increase has been adjusted downward to a 2.08% net increase. He explained that the change is due to an adjustment to medical insurance, unemployment, and debt savings. There are now four (4) confirmed retirements. The final change to the estimate has to do with favorable rate refinancing on debt. All other details remain the same as last presented. The presentation was followed by a short question and answer period.	COMMUNICATIONS
<u>Consent Agenda:</u> A motion was made by Mr. Omichinski and was seconded by Mr. Arcuri to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2012 special meeting. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)	CONSENT AGENDA
<u>Athletics:</u> Mr. David Tanner, Athletic Coordinator, presented a detailed breakdown of the interscholastic athletic program. He also highlighted the benefits of participation in athletics, academic performance compared to number of sports played, academic performance and postgraduate decisions, concussion statistics, cost analysis for 2010-2011, participation statistics and the football program. Mr. Tanner answered the Boards' questions as they relate to participation rate, dues and fees, concussion statistics, prevention and reporting, increase	DISCUSSION OF BUDGET

in coaches salaries. Mr. Beitman pointed out that there are two (2) recommended "new" funding items in the athletics budget; an increase to the football contribution of \$2,500 and a new pole vault pit at a cost of \$16,000. Mr. Tanner explained the reasons for both requests.

Instrumental Music:

Mr. John Deeb presented the breakdown of the instrumental music program. He pointed out that there is a recommendation of "new" funding for a musical instrument replacement plan over five (5) years. He explained that the request for new funding is just for those instruments that are not easily rented and are the property of the school district. They are instruments that are very costly and, therefore, would be difficult for families to rent or purchase. Without the district instruments, the average person would not chose to play the more expensive instruments and the band would not be balanced. He commented that the instruments that Region 10 currently owns are very, very old. Mr. Deeb answered questions from Board members as they relate to the new funding requests, uniforms, and parent contributions.

Technology:

Mr. Pont presented his technology budget. He presented spreadsheet broken down by numbers of computers, type of computer, and age of the computer. It also detailed number of staff vs. student computers. He answered questions from the Board as they relate to cost of laptops and desktops, wear and tear, laptop carts for classroom use, lack of available grants, transition to tablets, breakdown of the technology account, technical support, electronic textbooks (e. books) and smart boards (interactive white boards). Mr. Pont pointed out that there are three (3) recommended "new" funding items in the technology budget; a technology hourly increase, district technology purchases over two years, and technology life cycle replacement improvement plan. Mr. Pont explained the information supporting the new funding requests.

Special Education:

Ms. Linda Carabis presented the special education budget. She indicated that the overall special education budget is up 2.78%. The increase was driven mainly by transportation costs and tuition to private school programs (outplacements). Both increases are driven by student need. Ms. Carabis answered the Board's questions as they relate to special education transportation costs, private school - outplacement facilities, cost related to field trips for wheelchair bound students, and transition student transportation.

Facilities/Transportation:

Mr. David Fortin presented a detailed breakdown of the facilities/buildings & grounds budget. He reported an increase in the septic/water line item which is driven by state-mandated water testing and it also includes a pump and well service at Lake Garda School which is not connected to municipal water. He also reported there is an increase in the area of snow removal services but pointed out that the

<p>previous snow removal contract had remained fixed for the past five (5) years. There is also an increase in the area of fuel oil. Overall the facilities/buildings & grounds budget is up 1.60%. Mr. Fortin answered questions from the Board as they relate to, generators, snow removal contract, fuel, and capitol improvements. Mr. Fortin reported that he does not see any “big” items in the area of capitol improvements. He anticipates the cost of unit ventilators at Lake Garda School and track resurfacing but not any major items in the coming year.</p> <p>Central Office Reorganization: Mr. Beitman outlined the plan for central office reorganization as a result of the retirement of Mr. Michael Landry, Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Beitman is recommending that the position of the Assistant Superintendent be replaced by a Director of Student Learning position. This position would be a 100 day per year per diem .5 position. Mr. Robert Choiniere is willing to commit to a two-year term. Mr. Beitman answered the Board’s questions as they relate to the reorganization and the position.</p>	
<p>Michele Fisher – Burlington - spoke in support of an all day kindergarten program and presented her reasons for her support of an all day program.</p> <p>Melissa Hayes –Burlington – spoke in support of an all day kindergarten program and asked the Board to consider options for those families interested in an all day program.</p> <p>Kim Falconer – Burlington – spoke in support of an all day kindergarten program and presented research that supports an all day program.</p> <p>Sandra Franciamore - Burlington – spoke in support of an all day kindergarten program and presented her reasons for her support of an all day program.</p> <p>Kara Reichler – Burlington – spoke in support of an all day kindergarten program.</p> <p>Tammy-Beth Ubides – Burlington – spoke in support of an all day kindergarten program and presented her reasons for her support of an all day program.</p> <p>Phil Moriarty – Burlington – spoke in support of an all day kindergarten program and presented his reasons for his support of an all day program.</p>	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p>
<p>Mr. Sikora commended the parents who spoke at this meeting and the last meeting either in support or not in support of an all day kindergarten program. He commented that involved parents support their child’s educational success. Mr. Sikora explained the Board’s role in the budget process and decision-making as it relates to the budget. He went on to explain all of the considerations that go into making a decision about all day kindergarten.</p>	<p>CLOSING COMMENTS</p>

<p>Mr. Omichinski thanked the administration for doing a fine job in developing and presenting a responsible estimate of expenses.</p> <p>Mr. Scheidel commended Mr. Sikora for his comments and went on to explain that there are several items that need to be considered when putting together a responsible budget that is best for the community.</p> <p>Mrs. Duffy explained that she feels that the Board has always looked at issues carefully and asked what is the next step. Mr. Omichinski commented that he has begun to do his own research and he would like to consider the decision carefully and he sees it not as a budget issue but as what is best for the education of our students. He feels that a schedule of workshops needs to be developed to review this topic outside of regular Board of Education meetings. He suggests that the chairperson schedule a series of meetings in the near future.</p>	
<p>A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Omichinski and was seconded by Mrs. Duffy. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)</p> <p>The meeting ended at 11:02 pm.</p>	<p>ADJOURN</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Duffy, Secretary

Date