

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
April 2, 2012
BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEWIS S. MILLS HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

Board Members Present:

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

APPROVED

Absent:

Susan Baccaro

Also Present:

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

<p>Chairman of the Board, Raymond Sikora, called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:34pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p>
<p><u>Superintendent's Report:</u> Appointments: Mr. Beitman introduced Mrs. Megan Mazzei as the finalist for the position of principal of Harwinton Consolidated School. Mrs. Mazzei thanked Mr. Beitman, the Board, Mrs. Dodd and her husband. She said that she is excited to move into the position of Principal and she is excited to continue her relationship with the staff, students and parents of Harwinton Consolidated School.</p> <p>A motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Megan Mazzei to the position of Principal of Harwinton Consolidated School was made by Mrs. Duffy and was seconded by Ms. Schiavone. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)</p> <p>Mr. Beitman introduced Mrs. Susan Laone as the finalist for the position of Director of Finance and Operations and recommended her for the position. Mrs. Laone thanked Mr. Beitman, the Board and the search committee. She said that she is very excited about working in Region 10.</p> <p>A motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Susan Laone to the position of Director of Finance and Operations was made by Mrs. Duffy and seconded by Ms. Schiavone. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)</p>	<p>COMMUNICATIONS</p>

Presentation of the 2012-2013 Estimate of Expenses:

Mr. Beitman presented the updates to the Estimate of Expenses. He reported that the 2012-2013 Estimate of Expenses is now at a 1.94% increase over last year or an increase of \$674,165. He indicated that the proposed new funds would add an additional .28% or \$98,210. If all new funding was approved the total increase would be 2.23% over last year. He also indicated that we have made further reductions of \$103,795 as a result of a reduction in debt service due to favorable rate refinance, health care renewal rate adjustment and unemployment and salary adjustments. He reported that there are NO proposed reductions of existing programs and services. He went on to summarize each of the proposed "new funds" which include BOE contribution to the Football program, technology staff member hourly increase, LSM latex-free mat replacement, purchase of a new LSM pole vault pit, school climate training for elementary school staff, Lake Garda School play scape project (3 year phase in), new district musical instrument purchases (4 year phase in), new district instructional technology purchases (2-3 year phase in), and technology life cycle improvement from 8/9 years to 6/7 years. He went on to review the current enrollment numbers, projections, and trends.

Board of Education's Review of the 2012-2013 Estimate of Expenses:

The Board Members began their review by asked for clarification on some budget items as they relate to the 2012-2013 Estimate of Expenses and new funds. Mr. Lenihan and Mr. Beitman addressed their questions and offered clarification. Mr. Tanner addressed the Board's questions regarding the athletic program and the pole vault pit. Mr. Pont addressed the Board's questions as they relate to the proposed new technology funding.

REVIEW OF ESTIMATE

Janet Burritt – Harwinton – Expressed outrage over threats of voting "No" if the budget did not include the all-day kindergarten. She commented that threatening is not the way we do business in Region 10. She also expressed concern over the new funds proposed for the pole vault pit. Finally, she requested that the Board use last year's surplus for the ventilator replacements this year but with the caveat that this be a one-time only thing and that moving forward the Board go back to the practice of returning the surplus to the two towns each year.

Tricia Galvin – Burlington – She stated that she came to speak on behalf of families who are in favor keeping the half-time kindergarten and explained her reasons why. She requested that the Board please allow all parents the opportunity to be involved in this decision. She asked that the upcoming workshops be advertised for the "entire" community so that everyone is made aware of relevant information.

Karen Roberts – Burlington – Spoke in favor of an all-day kindergarten program and expressed her reasons why. She asked for improved communication so that mixed messages can be avoided moving forward.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Carissa Bentley – Burlington – Complimented the Board for presenting a responsible budget. She commented that if this responsible budget does not pass the district would face cuts. She indicated that she would hate to see the budget held hostage over “one” item by a “small” group of parents.

Kim Falconer – Burlington – Spoke in support of the full-day kindergarten program.

Jason Mitchell – Burlington – Spoke in favor of a full-day kindergarten program and presented his reasons why. He asked the Board to consider an option to choose a half day program for parents who are not in favor of sending their children to an all day program.

Rob Stickels – Burlington - Spoke in favor of a full-day kindergarten but asked the Board to consider an option to choose a half day program for parents who would prefer a half-day program.

Mike Chowaniec - Harwinton – Expressed concern that if there were an option to choose an all day kindergarten or a half day kindergarten program this would create gaps in students readiness and abilities. He asked the Board to make a decision one way or the other. He respects parents on both sides of the issue because he is torn as well.

Melissa Hayes – Burlington – Spoke in favor of all-day kindergarten program and expressed her reasons for support of an all-day program.

Kara Reichler - Burlington – Spoke in favor of all-day kindergarten program and expressed her reasons for supporting an all-day program.

Karen Simard – Burlington – Expressed concern over the loss of the two 5th grade teachers. She asked for clarification on class size. Mr. Beitman indicated that the 5th grade class sizes would not change. It is currently at 23 per class this year and will remain at 23 next year. He commented that if 5th grade enrollment were to rise in the coming months, there is flexibility to add an additional class.

Jared Braddock – Harwinton – Spoke in favor of an all day kindergarten program and expressed his reasons for supporting an all-day program.

Bruce Guillemette – Burlington – Expressed concern over the deliberation of the all-day kindergarten program. He thinks it is important to examine this option very carefully. He expressed concern over hearing people say they are going to vote “no” if the budget does not include all day kindergarten. He hopes people don’t work against their good intentions by voting “no” because this would have significant negative ramifications.

Gene Michaud – Burlington – Identified himself as one of the Lewis Mills track coaches. Mr. Michaud spoke in favor of the pole vault pit and his concern for safety.

Approval of the Board of Education Estimate of Expenses for 2012-2013 School Year:

ACTION

A **motion** to approve an estimate of expenses for the school year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$ 35,436,032, an increase of 2.14%, be sent to the Public Hearing on April 9, 2012 was made by Mr. Omichinski and was seconded by Mr. Penn.

Mr. Omichinski indicated that this number includes all proposed new funds except for the technology replacement plan.

Mr. Scheidel expressed concern over including most of the proposed new funds.

Mr. Penn asked that given the communications received over the past week, is it necessary to wait until 2013-2014 to implement the all day kindergarten? He asked Board members if they feel it would be beneficial to include funding for all day kindergarten in this budget and if it is decided to not implement the program this year, Region 10 would then return the money to the towns.

Mr. Sikora commented that he is in favor of Mr. Omichinski's motion and supporting all new funding with the exception of the technology replacement plan. With regard to Mr. Penn's comment, Mr. Sikora feels the Board needs to examine full-day kindergarten further and more fully before making a final decision. He feels the Board needs to be responsible and prudent and study this option in greater detail. He recommended the Board leave it out of the budget for this year.

Mr. Arcuri commented that he agrees with Mr. Omichinski's motion.

Mrs. Duffy commented that she feels that if Mr. Pont thinks that the funding for the technology replacement plan is necessary then she trusts his opinion and thought the Board should include funding for this item. She also said that she is intrigued by Mr. Penn's idea of a placeholder in the budget for the all-day kindergarten program. However, she is leaning toward the fact that it would be very difficult to implement an all day kindergarten program for the 2012-2013 school year and she prefers fully examining the option for the 2013-2014 school year.

Mrs. Turner commented that she is comfortable with Mr. Omichinski's motion. With regard to the all-day kindergarten program, she feels the Board needs more time to discuss the educational value and what it means for teachers and students. She would regret seeing something crammed in without devoting the proper amount of time to examine all aspects fully. She feels it is a big discussion and we owe it to the community to allow all them to participate in the discussion.

Mr. Omichinski commented that he feels that this is a responsible

<p>budget. He indicated that he feels it is his duty as an elected official to review the budget carefully. With regard to the all-day kindergarten program, Mr. Omichinski stated that he would like to reserve his opinions for the proper time and place, which he believes will be at the upcoming meetings devoted to this topic.</p> <p>Mrs. Deprey commented that Mr. Omichinski's comments are reflective of hers. With regard to the all-day kindergarten program she is not sure that an all day program will make a significant difference to a student's long-term success. She feels the Board needs to examine the studies more closely as they relate to the lasting advantages and long term gains of an all day kindergarten verses a half day program.</p> <p>Ms. Schiavone spoke in favor of supporting the purchase of a new pole vault pit. With regard to the all day kindergarten program and including monies in this year's budget, she expressed concern that it would raise the mill rate by 1. She went on to request that the Board invite town officials to be involved in the all day kindergarten workshops.</p> <p>Mr. Scheidel expressed disappointment over how the administration handled the all day kindergarten program. He commented that he does not think that the district can do a good job of implementing an all day program without first holding the workshops. He stated that he would like to see greater details with regard to the entire cost of all day kindergarten. He expressed concern over including money in this year's budget when the Board is not yet sure just how much the program will really cost.</p> <p>Five (5) in favor two (2) opposed one (1) abstained. Motion carries. (5/2/1)</p>	
<p>A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Arcuri and was seconded by Mr. Omichinski. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9:54pm.</p>	<p>ADJOURN</p>

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Duffy, Secretary

Date