

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
Special Meeting
Har-Bur Middle School
THE LEARNING CENTER
24 LYON ROAD, BURLINGTON, CT 06013
Thursday, May 15, 2014
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Joseph Arcuri, Chairman
Phil Penn, Vice Chairman
Beth Duffy
Theresa Foley
Ellie Parente
Brooke Joiner
Susan Baccaro
Thomas Fausel
Bruce Guillemette

Absent:

Paul Omichinski
Student Representative Katie Hurlock
Student Representative Eric Uhl

Also Present:

Alan Beitman, Superintendent
Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations
Robert Choiniere, Director of Student Learning
David Fortin, Director of Facilities
Patricia George, Recording Secretary

- I. Call to order
The Board Chairman, Joe Arcuri, established a quorum and called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Board Chairman led the pledge of allegiance.
- III. Public Participation:
- IV. Action
 - A. Approval of the revised Estimate of Expenses for the 2014/2015 School Year

With the failed first referendum, Superintendent Beitman presented to the Board, the administration's recommendations for the purpose of a second referendum. The revised Estimate of Expenses total \$36,737,155

representing a reduction of .66% or \$238,200. Therefore, the recommended increase for the 2014/2015 school year for the second referendum decreased from 2.64% to 1.98%.

The impact to the Town of Burlington is based upon 65.19% of the student population. At 1.98%, the increase would be \$464,560 or 1.29% of the total 1.98%.

Harwinton is responsible for 34.81% of the student population. At 1.98%, this would equate to \$248,064 or .69% of the 1.98% increase.

Recommended revisions included reducing the \$225,000 allocated in the budget for tennis courts to \$190,000.

A reduction in the unemployment line was realized due to a recent retirement equaling \$15,000.

Superintendent Beitman also recommended that several of the health and safety issues which totaled \$33,200 be addressed by utilizing money in the 13/14 budget as opposed to the 14/15 budget.

A recommendation was made to close the tennis courts until the spring of 2015 so that they could be patched. The monetary layout would be in the range of \$7,000 to \$10,000 per patch. The Board was apprised that the weather could have a bearing on when the courts would be able to be utilized.

With regards to curriculum writing, Superintendent Beitman noted that the Governor announced he was delaying the implementation of Common Core due to criticisms from teachers and parents; it then made no sense for the district to request \$50,000 in curriculum writing; that line was reduced to \$25,000.

A motion was made by Tom Fausel and seconded by Brooke Joiner to accept/approve the budget as presented;

Further Discussion

The Board Chairman provided a recap of the revised budget. To clarify, we are moving from a 2.64% budget increase to a 1.98% increase, or a reduction of \$238,200. Additionally, several purchases that were incorporated into next year's budget will be absorbed into the current budget.

Board member Beth Duffy expressed her displeasure with patching the tennis courts. Realizing that the economy has been challenging for last five or six years, she felt that it will end up costing more money in the long run. Several board members echoed her sentiments and offered up several possible solutions including a separate referendum question and the ability to use undesignated funds.

Board member Beth Duffy asked for feedback from the audience present.

Christine Kryzwick

Ms. Kryzwick said she was confused; everyone assumes that the referendum was voted down because of the tennis courts. This is not her understanding. Some voters may have felt, with the failed athletic renovation referendum, that the tennis courts were being slid in through the back door. She felt that patching the tennis courts was foolish and fiscally irresponsible. She also asked what were the voter demographics.

Jayne Stocker
Burlington

Ms. Stocker felt that the tennis courts were not an issue. It appeared it was an apathy vote; parents are tired of losing good teachers and administrators. Overall, there was nothing that excited them.

Rachel Wesolowski
Burlington

The talk has been people forgot to vote and thought the budget would pass.

Laura Hedenberg
Burlington

Ms. Hedenberg felt there is a lack of communication in education. She said the Board should vote for what they believe in. Once something is out of the budget, it is not coming back. She interpreted the low voter turnout to apathy, not the tennis courts. She expressed her personal concerns regarding the \$135,000 for security guards; she felt the money could be better utilized toward items which impact the curriculum.

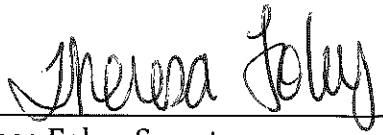
A motion was made by Tom Fausel and seconded by Brooke Joiner to amend the original motion to include the \$225,000 for the tennis courts bringing the revised budget to \$36,902,155 or an increase of \$877,624 for an overall budget increase of 2.44%; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

- B. Approve the call of the May 27, 2014 Annual Budget Meeting
On a motion made by Phil Penn and seconded by Beth Duffy to accept/approve the Call of the May 27, 2014 Annual Budget Meeting; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

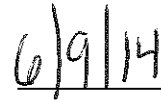
VI. Adjourn

A motion was made by Phil Penn and seconded by Beth Duffy to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education at 8: 31 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Foley". The signature is written above a horizontal line.

Theresa Foley, Secretary

A handwritten date "6/9/14" written in a simple, blocky font. The date is written above a horizontal line.

Date