

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
The Learning Center
24 LYON ROAD, BURLINGTON, CT 06013
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Joseph Arcuri, Board Chair
Tom Fausel
Susan Baccaro
Paul Omichinski
Bruce Guillemette
Phil Penn, Vice Chairman

Absent:

Ellie Parente
Brooke Joiner
Beth Duffy
Eric Uhl – Student Representative

Note: Theresa Foley resigned from the Board effective 1/13/2015.

Also Present:

Alan Beitman, Superintendent
Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations
Cheri Burke, Director of Student Learning
Jenna Sadecki, Student Representative
Patricia George, Recording Secretary

- I. Call to Order:
Board Chairman Joseph Arcuri called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:06 p.m.
- II. Mr. Arcuri led the pledge of allegiance.

***** Special Presentation*****

Mr. Arcuri and Superintendent Beitman recognized departing Board member Theresa Foley for her 2 ½ years of service to the Board. She was also acknowledged for her contribution of time to several committees and was presented with a token gift.

III. Communications:

A. Superintendent's Report

1. All Hazards School Security & Safety Plan

The Connecticut Legislature passed a law requiring school districts to develop an All Hazards Safety Plan. There is a plan in place for each school in the district and for the school system. Due to its sensitive nature, it will not be made available to the general public. Board members are invited to review the plan in the Superintendent's office. The Board will be asked to formally approve it at their February or March meeting.

2. GPA/Class Rank:

Non-actionable item, discussion only

The purpose of this evening's discussion was to report on where class rank is today with regards to high school students and how is it or how is it not being utilized by local high schools in the state of Connecticut.

It was recommended that the district maintain the present ranking system for the class of 2016. For subsequent classes, a distribution chart would be used to report percentiles to colleges. (Sample provided) The current practice of declaring Valedictorian and Salutatorian after 7 ½ semesters and recognizing the top five students in the class at Honors Night would also be preserved.

There were a number of colleges and universities revealed where top students from the class of 2014 had applied to and are currently attending that reported class rank was not a determining factor for admission. Regarding scholarship applications, a good majority of college representatives surveyed stated that not reporting class rank would not impact student's scholarship applications as GPA is considered to be the telling number.

The Board Chairman called for public participation:

Theresa Foley

Harwinton

It was her personal experience that her sons received scholarships specifically because their class ranks were 1 and 2. They would not have received the same scholarship as part of their financial aid package if that information was not provided.

Glen Foley

Harwinton

Asked what the purpose was for eliminating class rank.

Stacy Begert
Burlington

Speaking from a classroom teacher's perspective, she said that students were coming into class competing in a negative way.

B. Student Representative Report

Student Representative Jenna Sadecki reported on several activities including mid-term exams, NHS sponsored study sessions for those in need, annual Senior Citizen Prom, the recent Studio Base concert, and the winter sports lineup.

IV. Approval of the Board of Education Minutes

A motion was made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Phil Penn to accept/approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, December 8, 2014; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Financial Reports dated December 2014:

A motion was made by Sue Baccaro and seconded by Phil Penn to accept/approve the financial reports dated December 2014 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. Appointments: n/a

C. Leaves of Absence: n/a

D. Resignations:

A motion was made by Tom Fausel and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to accept/approve the resignation of Danielle Miller effective with December 23, 2014 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

E. Retirements: n/a

VI. Public Participation:

There was no public participation

VII. Actions:

A. Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule for 2015/2016 (second review)

A motion was made by Tom Fausel and seconded by Sue Baccaro to accept/approve the Board of Education regular meeting schedule for 2015/2016 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. New Course Proposal – Chinese IV

Chinese IV is being brought forward as a proposed course selection for students in grades 11 and 12 and will be offered with the 2015/2016 school year. It is an extension of an existing sequence of courses with associated startup costs of approximately \$520. The projected costs encompass additional textbooks and 9 hours to write curriculum.

A motion was made by Phil Penn and seconded by Tom Fausel to accept/approve Chinese IV as a course selection at Lewis S. Mills High School for the 2015/2016 school year as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

C. Grade 7 Social Studies Pilot Text

The Social Studies department proposed to pilot a new World Regional Studies textbook for students in seventh grade. The textbooks currently in use are ten years old and do not reflect the changes made in curriculum nor the new framework/state standards which were approved by the Connecticut State Department of Education in December 2014. A request was made to pilot two books during the fall of 2015.

Discussions ensued regarding the cost of the new textbooks with the Board members understanding that only one piloted textbook would ultimately be used; the other would be utilized as a resource.

It was the consensus of the Board that one textbook be brought forward for consideration by the Board at a later date.

A motion was made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Phil Penn to accept/approve the Grade 7 Social Studies Pilot Text; none in favor of; all opposed; motion miscarried unanimously.

D. Revision to Board Policy 6145.5 regarding ATA (second review)

A motion was made by Phil Penn and seconded by Sue Baccaro to accept/approve the revisions to Policy 6145.5 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

E. *Policy 1313, Smoking Prohibited

F. *Policy 5131.6 Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco

*Items E & F

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Tom Fausel to accept/approve the revisions to policies 1313 and 5131.6 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

G. Policy 5114 Student Discipline

A motion was made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Phil Penn to accept/approve the revisions to Policy 5114 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

- H. Policy 3170 Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers (first review – no action)

Business Manager, Sue Laone, highlighted for the Board those revisions under consideration. Some additional modifications are still necessary and will be brought to the Board in advance of their next meeting.

- I. 2016/2017 RSD Calendar (first review – no action)

In 2017/2018 there will be a regional calendar unless the Legislature votes to abandon it. If the law remains in effect, the RSD calendar for 2016/2017 will be the last. Draft provided for first review.

VIII. Business:

A. Cheerleading Stipend (football)

Earlier in the school year, Athletic Director David Francalangia asked that the Board consider a proposal allowing cheerleaders the opportunity to perform at home games.

Mr. Francalangia was on hand this evening and provided the Board an analysis of the impact of cheerleaders attending those games. Mr. Francalangia said their presence at home games was overwhelmingly positive and he wished he had started the program at the beginning of the year.

Another consideration asked of the Board would be to incorporate the coach stipend and transportation costs into the 2015/2016 Estimate of Expenses.

IX. Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports

X. Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lewis S. Mills Auditorium.

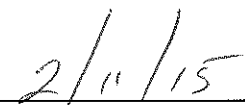
XI. Adjourn

A motion was made by Phil Penn and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 9:12 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Arcuri, Board Chairman



Date