

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
District Meeting – Public Hearing
Lewis S. Mills High School Auditorium
26 Lyon Road, Burlington, CT 06013
Tuesday, December 10, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Joseph Arcuri, Chairperson
Tom Fausel
Paul Omichinski
Ted Scheidel
Phil Penn
Bruce Guillemette
Susan Baccaro
Theresa Foley
Brooke Joiner
Beth Duffy

Board Members Absent: N/A

Also Present:

Alan Beitman, Superintendent of Schools
Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations
David Fortin, Director of Facilities
Patricia George, Recording Secretary

- I. Call to order:
Chairman of the Board, Mr. Joe Arcuri, established a quorum and called to order the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

- II. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Arcuri led the Pledge of Allegiance

- III. Election of Moderator for Meeting
Mr. Arcuri called for the nomination of a moderator
A motion was made by Phil Penn and seconded by Paul Omichinski to nominate Ray Matusek as the moderator, no other nominations were cast; motion carried unanimously.

Election of Secretary for Meeting
Mr. Matusek called for a nomination of a secretary
A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Phil Penn to nominate Patricia George as secretary; no other nominations were cast; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Reading of the call of the Meeting

The moderator, Ray Matussek, asked that the secretary read the call to the meeting:

The following was read:

District Meeting – Public Hearing

The electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Towns of Burlington and Harwinton are hereby warned that a district meeting of Regional School District Number 10 will be held in the auditorium of Lewis S. Mills High School, 26 Lyon Road in Burlington Connecticut on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the following recommendations of the Board of Education:

1. That \$3,400,000 be appropriated for costs related to the design, construction and implementation of design, construction and implementation of exterior athletic facility renovations at the Lewis Mills/Har-Bur Complex, 26 Lyon Road, Burlington, Connecticut, including: the installation of synthetic turf, lighting improvements, a press booth, bleachers, fencing, track and field replacement, tennis courts replacement, construction of a crew boat storage facility and the acquisition of associated equipment; related work and improvements, and the costs of the financing thereof. The appropriation may be spent for design, demolition, installation and construction costs, equipment, materials, testing costs, disposal costs, architects' fees, engineering fees, construction management costs and fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings, other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project. The Building Committee established by the District Board of Education for the project shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars for the project, and may reduce or modify the scope of the project as desirable, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.
2. That \$3,400,000 in bonds and temporary notes of the district be authorized to finance the appropriation.
3. That the Chairman of the District Board of Education and the District Treasurer, or such officer or body delegated by the Board, be authorized to require the District and its member towns to comply with applicable federal income tax requirements for tax-exempt bonds.
4. That the Chairman of the District Board of Education and the District Treasurer, or such officer or body delegated by the Board, be authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information.

5. That the Building Committee established by the District Board of Education for the project be authorized to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others in the name and on behalf of the District with respect to the projects, following approval from the District Board of Education; to approve design and construction expenditures for the projects; and to exercise such other powers as are necessary or appropriate to complete the projects. Committee members shall not receive any compensation for their services. Necessary expenses of the Committee shall be included in the cost of the projects. The records of the Committee shall be filed with the secretary of the District Board of Education and shall be open to public inspection during normal business hours. Upon completion of the projects, the Committee shall make a complete report and accounting to the District Board of Education.
6. That the aforesaid bond and temporary note authorization be submitted to referendum vote by the electors and citizens qualified to vote in the towns of the District.

Dated at Burlington, Connecticut this 25th day of November, 2013.

The secretary concluded by stating that the warning was posted at the Town Clerk's office in Burlington, Town Clerk's office in Harwinton and in the Hartford Courant.

V. Review and discussion of the Exterior Athletic Facilities Renovations at Lewis S. Mills/Har-Bur Complex

Mr. Paul Omichinski offered a brief slide presentation of the Athletic Facility Improvements project which encompasses renovations of the tennis courts, an artificial turf field, bleachers and field lighting, renovations to the track and trailer, and boat storage. The first piece of the presentation offered the reasons for the proposal followed by the details.

VI. Public Participation

Sean Foley – Burlington

Mr. Foley, a parent of a 5th and 6th grader in the school system, addressed declining enrollment, the annual cost per student, and declining real estate values. He would like to see this type of initiative funded with contributions to reserves, as opposed to debt financing and perhaps some private funds.

Vince Camarca – Harwinton

Mr. Camarca has been a resident of Harwinton for 8 years. He works with "at risk" youth, and feels the project provides for family and community involvement and makes the communities what they are.

Rebecca Mauro – Burlington

Ms. Mauro indicated that she is not particularly happy with the proposed project. She felt that there was not enough information provided on the synthetic fields. Her concerns addressed safety issues and costs.

Tony DiNicola – Chairman, Board of Finance in Burlington

Mr. DiNicola said that he liked the proposal but the question is, “Is it affordable?” He said the presentation failed to show the ongoing costs and asked for a five year projection of a budget. Bottom line, what is the mil impact.

John Cook – Burlington

Mr. Cook thanked the Board for their hard work on the proposal. Not in favor of the project as he looks at neighbors who are losing their jobs and houses. He indicated that there is plenty of self-storage units in the area, with one located on Johnnycake Road that would not charge \$100,000 for storage.

Robert Dunn – Burlington

Mr. Dunn indicated that there have been a lot of thoughtful discussions surrounding the project and many alternatives were looked at. Participation in sports is steadily increasing; he believes that the project is an investment and is in favor of it.

Theodore Plawecki – Burlington

A retired electrical contractor, he questioned some of the prices and what is really necessary. He said he was the president of the LSM booster club for 10 years and loves sports. He would like to consider cuts without hurting the kids.

Barbara Dahle –

Ms. Dahle noted that she had not made up her mind on the project; her concern tonight was with how it was published. She felt that it was being shoved down the taxpayers’ throats and that there wasn’t enough information being brought forward.

Michael Criss - Harwinton

Mr. Criss concurred with Ms. Dahle on how the information was advertised. He shared his thoughts about the economic climate in Harwinton stating that more houses are going to tax auction, and that unemployment and debt rates are high. He asked if it was the right economy – is it the right time?

Bruce Supernaugh – Burlington

Mr. Supernaugh felt that 3.4 million is extravagant and that the money should be put toward academics and technology.

Cooper Smelski – Burlington

Class of 15 Secretary. He realizes that people are struggling. He said that students who play sports attain better grades. He also feels that the project would help the next generation.

Rick Keegan - Burlington

Mr. Keegan said sports provides a well-rounded experience and contributes to academic performance. He thanked the board for their diligence.

Kelly Fecteau - Burlington

Feels something is severely missing in the community and talked about the Thanksgiving Day Football game and the sense of community. Speaking on crew, she noted that her child rows for crew. The team has 8 boats that are worth more than the cost of the storage facility. The boats are haphazardly stored in backyards, none of which are permanent or sufficient.

Karl Schwoerka

Mr. Schwoerka believes sports are an essential part of education. He feels that not enough research has been done with regards to playing on a turf field. He expressed concerns about the ground up tires in the undersurface which may omit toxic fumes. He would like to know about alternatives. He is a fan of a surface that can be used at all times.

Jon Truskauskas - Bd of Selectman - Harwinton

Mr. Truskauskas agrees with people on both sides. The people in Harwinton are struggling, he said. He asked the Board to consider a "two-town" approval. If Burlington said yes, and Harwinton said no, he asked that they respect that opinion.

Sally Larsen

(Cooper's mom) Ms. Larson said her son was injured during track and the track was not up to par. The entire track needs to be addressed for safety issues.

Mark DiPinto

Looking at big numbers. Looking at what we have to have to continue. Would like to see a compromise.

The remaining time was used to address some of the questions that were brought forward including operating expenses, concerns regarding injuries, maintenance costs, the press box, field life, light glare, lighting levels, restrooms, student participation, and field toxicity to name a few.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Phil Penn and seconded by Mr. Bruce Guillemette; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Foley
Theresa Foley, Secretary

1/13/14
Date