

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
April 1, 2013
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAR-BUR MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING CENTER**

Board Members Present:

Joseph Arcuri, Vice Chairman
Susan Baccaro
Beth Duffy
Theresa Foley
Paul Omichinski
Phil Penn
Ted Scheidel
Ray Sikora, Chairman
Noel Turner

Absent:

Elaine Schiavone

Also Present:

Alan Beitman Superintendent of Schools
Robert Choiniere Director of Student Learning
Susan Laone Director of Finance & Operations

<p>Chairman of the Board, Raymond Sikora, called the Board of Education meeting to order at 8:10 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>	<p>CALL TO ORDER</p>
<p>A motion to approve an estimate of expenses for the school year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$36,024,532 an increase of 1.36% be sent to public hearing on May 6, 2013 was made by Mr. Omichinski and was seconded by Mr. Arcuri.</p> <p>Discussion: Mr. Penn commented that he has a son entering Grade 4 at Lake Garda School next year and indicated that he recommends the administration add a teacher back to Grade 4 at Lake Garda School while not increasing the estimate of expenses and identifying funds within the presented budget.</p> <p>Mr. Arcuri commented that a procedure in determining class size has been developed and asked why they would not follow the formula so that equity and consistency could be maintained.</p> <p>Mrs. Turner asked the superintendent if enrollment increased, would the administration be able to find the funds to add a teacher. He explained that he feels confident that funds could be identified.</p> <p>Mr. Sikora commented that it is too early to know actual enrollment numbers and they will fluctuate up and down and it is a moving target. He commented that the Board needs to do their best job to be fiscally responsible while providing the best educational opportunities.</p>	<p>DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET</p>

Mrs. Foley spoke in support of maintaining a balance between being fiscally responsible while providing the best possible education to Region 10 students.

Mrs. Baccaro said that she has a child in Grade 4 at Lake Garda School and she agrees with Mr. Penn and would like to see a teacher added back to that grade while not increasing the estimate of expenses.

Mr. Omichinski commented that the Board's primary focus should be on providing the best education while being fiscally responsible.

The Board continued to debate, at length, class size standards, the budgetary impact of adding a teacher back to Grade 4 at Lake Garda School and a teacher to Grade 3 at Harwinton Consolidated School, the increased demands of new state standards and the new teacher/administrator evaluation plan. The superintendent and director of student learning spoke in support of lower class sizes because of the impact the rigorous of the new standards will have on teachers. Mr. Beitman expressed his opinion that the coming year is a bridge year and as a result he supports and is recommending a one-year bridge and lower class sizes for next year only.

The Board continued their discussion.

Mr. Omichinski amended his motion as follows:

..to approve an estimate of expenses for the school year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$36,024,532 an increase of 1.36% and to allow the superintendent of schools to use his discretion to lower the class sizes at Lake Garda School and Harwinton Consolidated School while not increasing the estimate of expenses. Mr. Arcuri seconded the amended motion. Six (6) in favor two (2) opposed. Motion carries. (6/0/2)

A **motion** to approve the call of the May 6, 2013 meeting was made by Mr. Penn and was seconded by Mr. Omichinski. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)

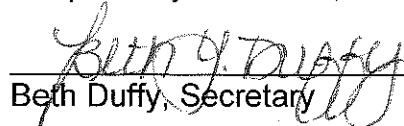
**APPROVAL OF THE
CALL OF THE
MEETING**

A **motion** to adjourn the special meeting was made by Mr. Penn and was seconded by Mr. Omichinski. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)

ADJOURN

The meeting ended at 9:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Beth Duffy, Secretary

5/13/2013
Date