

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
Board of Education/Budget Workshop
The Learning Center
26 LYON ROAD, BURLINGTON, CT 06013
Monday, February 24, 2014
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Joseph Arcuri, Chairman
Phillip Penn, Vice Chairman
Beth Duffy
Theresa Foley
Paul Omichinski
Brooke Joiner
Bruce Guillemette
Susan Baccaro

Absent:

Tom Fausel

Also Present:

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

- I. Call to Order:
Board Chairman Joseph Arcuri called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:02 p.m.
- II. Mr. Arcuri led the pledge of allegiance.
- III. Communications:
A. Superintendent's Report
1. Update of the 2014/2015 Estimate of Expenses

At this time, the Board Chairman, Joe Arcuri deferred to Superintendent Beitman who provided an overview of his original presentation, which was presented to the Board on February 10, 2014. Of particular significance is the decrease from 2.75% two weeks ago, to the current percentage of 2.05% (not including new funds). The reduction is the direct result of a meeting with the district's health care provider in which they lowered their renewal cost by \$250,000.

Currently, Burlington's share of the budget is 66.02% or \$487,285 and Harwinton's share stands at 33.98% or \$250,802.

IV. Board of Education Review of the 2014/2015 Estimate of Expenses

Superintendent Beitman explained the budgeting process as one of developing the Estimate of Expenses from “zero based” budgeting. The building principals are provided an accounting of current programs and services, enrollment projections, and other pertinent data. Two percent is not added to last year’s numbers to create a new budget for the ensuing year. Teachers, classrooms, special areas, custodians, and secretaries all add to the budget. The budget then goes through a vetting process of essential items. Also, what can be shared between the schools is explored.

Lake Garda School/Harwinton Consolidated School

Principals Jack Gedney and Megan Mazzei were invited to address the board regarding their respective building budgets and field any questions asked of the Board members.

Echoing the Superintendent’s comments, Principal Mazzei added that in being a regional school district, she and Mr. Gedney work hard to have common experiences and expectations for the children so that when they move up to Har-Bur Middle School, they are all coming from the same place.

As Board Chair Joe Arcuri perused their budgets, a few things caught his attention immediately, beginning with Line 530 Communications/Telephones. Business Manager Sue Laone said the line reflects a more accurate distribution than in prior years.

Elementary Magnet School Tuition and Math Supplies lines were also questioned. Board Member Phil Penn questioned the numbers on some of the supply lines noting that they appear out of step. Principal Gedney said the numbers are in direct correlation to the student population in a particular grade level. He also asked what the math supplies entailed. Principal Gedney indicated that some of the materials are to shift over to the CCSS environment, especially at the k-2 level where they are more material oriented and some are consumable.

Postage and printing costs between Lake Garda and Harwinton Consolidated, with relatively similar population sizes, are significantly higher at Lake Garda, Phil Penn pointed out.

Principal Mazzei said they are trying to do less on paper. Traditionally, Harwinton Consolidated printed the school calendar and the cost was shared with the PTA. She started to hear from parents the desire to have more done electronically, so they moved to doing the school calendar on Google Docs. The student handbook, rather than sending it to a printer, was printed in house with fewer pages because the calendar was not included. Principal Gedney explained his increase was the handbook with the calendar included and at 600 copies, it gets expensive. Many people like the aspect of paper.

Beth Duffy questioned why periodicals were doubling at Lake Garda and not Harwinton Consolidated.

Har-Bur Middle School

Principal Ken Smith explained that the process for building the middle school budget is a little different from the elementary school in that they start from the bottom up, and utilize the teachers and the department heads that work with a lot of the staff. The process is similar, but there are multiple steps prior to bringing it before the Board.

Phil Penn questioned the textbook account. Ken Smith noted that last year all of textbooks were paid through a grant. This year, all of that has to be put back.

Theresa Foley asked if they were restricted from where the books were purchased. Principal Smith indicated it is not just a matter of price, but availability as well.

A question was raised regarding the Replacement of Equipment line where \$6,500 is noted. Principal Smith said the money was budgeted to replace a treadmill that is beyond the point of repair.

Paul Omichinski inquired about magnet school tuition. He said he would like it broke out by building. The dollar amount went from \$29,000 to \$62,000. Is it based on existing enrollments for next year, or projections?

Business Manager Sue Laone said that middle school tuition (13/14) for grades 6,7,8 is going to be approximately \$50,000 for 9 students. The district does not pay for transportation.

Bruce Guillemette asked a question regarding line 640 - Reading. Principal Smith explained with the increase of development in the SRBI process the money is budgeted for reading programs and materials for varying levels of students. It is money to cover supplies needed for the reading consultants to work with students.

Lewis S. Mills High School

Principal Lazaroski was asked to give a quick overview of her budget. Most of the increases she noted are really not in the staff's control citing specifically transportation and tuition. The \$2,700 increase in facilities rental is directly related to pool and golf expenses in terms of renting facilities.

Paul Omichinski asked for further explanation. Business Manager Sue Laone explained that new regulations require the need for two lifeguards for practice and meets, even if you don't own the pool, but send your students.

Theresa Foley inquired about Line 330 SRO. Gene Torrence, the School Resource Officer, was hired mid-year so the first year was reduced costs. As a member of the Burlington Police Force and a member of their bargaining unit, when the old contract was ratified, there were increases. Region 10 also pays for his overtime. Paul Omichinski expressed concerns regarding the increase on that line.

Another increase that was noted was in the graduation account. There is not any guarantee that the high school could share expenses with another school. In some

instances, for example, the cost of risers used for graduation exercises at the Warner Theater can be shared with another school if the graduation ceremonies happen to be in succession.

The athletic budget increase stemmed from team needs and fixed increases for transportation.

Principal Lazaroski pointed out several additional increases noted on line items and offered an explanation for each.

V. Public Participation:
There was no public participation.

VI. Budget workshops will be held on:
Monday, March 3, 2014
Monday, March 10, 2014

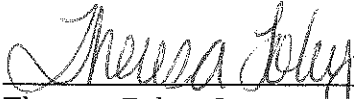
Other Important Dates:

Monday, March 31, 2014, Public Hearing
Monday, May 5, 2014, Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 6, 2014, Referendum

VII. Adjourn

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Beth Duffy to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Education at 9:17 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Theresa Foley, Secretary



Date