

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10**  
Board of Education/Budget Workshop  
**The Learning Center**  
**26 LYON ROAD, BURLINGTON, CT 06013**  
Monday, March 3, 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  
Linda Carabis, Director of Student Support Services  
David Fortin, Director of Facilities  
Patricia George, Recording Secretary

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- 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  
The current Estimate of Expenses stands at 1.99% or \$715, 370 (not including new funds) and that number is expected to decrease again once Cigna lowers their renewal fee.

Based on conversations during the Board of Education's last meeting, a reduction of \$2,000 was made in the printing of calendars and the postage lines at Lake Garda School.

Superintendent Beitman thanked Director of Facilities, David Fortin, for the work he did with the two principals and members of the Wellness

department in locating a company to find parts for the treadmills. The treadmills were purchased six years ago, and while the company is still in business, they do not necessarily support older treadmills. The account was reduced by \$13,000.

A re-organization will be forthcoming due to a retirement which will create a savings of \$5,715. The per pupil account between Lake Garda School and Harwinton Consolidated School has been adjusted and will save approximately \$2,000.

The total reduction to date, since the introduction of the 2014/2015 Estimate of Expenses, is \$272,715 with at least one more reduction expected as a result of Cigna's work with the district.

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

##### **Special Services**

Superintendent Beitman commended Ms. Carabis for the outstanding work she does in the district.

Ms. Carabis reviewed the increases and decreases in each of the accounts within her budget and provided a justification for each. It was noted that Special Education, in general, is down; a credit to the department.

The number of outplaced students was addressed with a cost to the district, per student, ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000. There are roughly 20 students currently outplaced.

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##### **Technology**

Mr. Leigh Pont was happy to report that the district received a grant for 115 laptops and 4 carts.

Microsoft has indicated that they will no longer support Windows XP beginning in April. The district currently has 246 computers still running on this software. A quote received for Windows 7 licenses at \$50.80 per seat encompasses the majority of the \$12,000 in line 610.

The state required the district to purchase software at a cost of \$9,500 annually for the new teacher evaluation initiative.

The Technology Department is experiencing a higher demand by the teachers for new computers to meet the new Common Core technology.

## **Security**

Two major considerations were highlighted; one being what was described as “hardening the schools”, which translates to making it more difficult to enter, and the second, a significant upgrade of the walkie talkie system.

## **Curriculum and Instruction**

Common Core has become quite a hot topic. For the last year-and-a-half, unit plans have been written in response to the Common Core initiative. The SBAC Assessment, which is based upon the Common Core, will be given to the students in the coming weeks.

The biggest pop to the budget would be the Math and Writing Programs (two items in the new money).

The math recommendation is a result of the work of the teachers and the coordinators. The crux of the recommendation encompasses the Smarter Balance Assessment, preparing the students for the assessment, and continuing training for teachers with the upgrade of instruction in the classroom.

The district has now reached the juncture where there is a need to examine the math program. This is being driven by the SBAC and Common Core Initiatives.

Brennan Glasgow, Math Department Coordinator, was present to provide the rationale for implementing a new program; the main reason would be providing consistency from room to room.

To help with the larger picture, Brennan was asked to investigate initial costs, recurring costs per grade levels, and adding grade levels.

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The second recommendation is in the area of Writing. The rationale and philosophy was written by Gina Gadue and the Language Arts Coordinators. Again, the recommendation is based on consistency. The proposal includes both training and materials.

## **Facilities/PM Maintenance**

The facilities budget is relatively flat with fuel oil being the biggest pusher. Annually, the buildings are being used more and more causing an increase in the budget line.

The solar company was asked to provide the district with a projected savings; annually, the district should recognize a \$4,000 savings from the solar system on the high school.

The sewer fee at Lake Garda School also increased, as did the Repair and Maintenance line as equipment begins to age.

The PM (Preventive Maintenance) program is alive and well. Overall, the district is handling all of their own repairs and construction work.

### **Transportation**

Transportation is purely contractual. The district is heading into year three of the contract with All Star Transportation. The line also includes diesel and gasoline. With rising fuel costs, there is a small increase per gallon for diesel included.

### **Athletics**

Mr. Francalanga, the new Athletic Coordinator, will begin his duties at Lewis Mills High School on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Business Manager Sue Laone said that there are no great expenses to the athletic budget. There is a slight increase in transportation, the cost of renting the pool at Ms. Porter's School, and a minimal increase in the Athletic trainer.

V. **Public Participation:**  
There was no public participation.

VI. Meeting Dates  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, Monday, March 10, 2014

Other Important Dates:

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

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VII. **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Beth Duffy to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Education at 9:10 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Theresa Foley, Secretary

3/10/14  
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Date