

MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION - Special Meeting
APRIL 6, 2009

Members Present: Joseph Arcuri, Cathy Bergstrom, Kathy Deprey, Jeanne Doerr, Paul Omichinski, Raymond Sikora, Elaine Schiavone, Karen Sullivan

Absent: Philip Penn, Beth Duffy

Also Present: Alan Beitman - Superintendent of Schools
Michael Landry - Assistant Superintendent
David Lenihan - Business Manager

- I. Call to order – A special Board of Education meeting was called to order at 8:38 pm by Chairperson Paul Omichinski.
- II. Action

A **motion** to approve the estimate of expenses for the 2009-2010 school year in the amount of \$33,329,934 (1.15% increase over last year's budget) was made by Mr. Sikora and was seconded by Ms. Schiavone.

Mr. Omichinski brought up the concerns raised during the public participation part of the budget hearing and asked the Board for their consideration of each.

Regarding class size, Mr. Sikora spoke about the difference between actual enrollment and projected enrollment and his concerns if too many staff cuts are made.

Regarding the School Bell, Mr. Sikora and Ms. Sullivan said that this publication was the result of the Board being criticized for not communicating enough with the community and if it is cut, the Board may face the same criticism.

Regarding the preventative maintenance technician, Mr. Sikora suggested that Mr. Fortin has a vested interest in the district and the community and he put a great deal of thought and research into this initiative. He felt the Board should go forward with the addition of the position and that the Board can reevaluate next year.

Regarding the vehicle for the preventative maintenance technician, Mr. Beitman indicated that the Board owns three (3) vehicles that are used for transporting children with special needs and that the district may be able to use State stimulus money to replace one of the old special needs vehicles. The District would then

transfer this vehicle to the maintenance group to be used for the preventative maintenance technician.

Mr. Arcuri supported Mr. Fortin and he said he is convinced that we need to add the preventative maintenance technician. He indicated that the individuals who brought up concerns were not at the meetings when the program was presented.

Mrs. Bergstrom felt it is a good idea to look at the preventative maintenance technician position again next year when there will be data to evaluate to decide if it is a benefit to the district.

Regarding the School Bell, Mrs. Bergstrom supported keeping the School Bell in place. She felt the Board needs the publication as a result of past criticism for a lack of communication.

Ms. Deprey asked if the Board should consider cutting the number of School Bell publications from four (4) to three (3). After reviewing the minimal savings the Board agreed to keep the number of publications at four (4).

Regarding Partners in Literacy, Mrs. Maureen Dodd, principal of Harwinton Consolidated School, spoke about the value of the program and the benefits. Ms. Carabis added that Mrs. Keilty, the program director, also aids the special education department by identifying students that may require early intervention so they can assist them early and therefore possibly eliminating the need for special services later.

Regarding the increased funding to the football program, Mr. Sikora indicated that when the program began, there was a great deal of discussion on how to fund it. He commented that the program is very successful. The funding is well below what the district spends per student athlete compared to the other sports. He is in favor of adding the increase saying it is still only partially funded by the Board and that most of the program is funded by a booster club, private contributions and parents. Mrs. Bergstrom agreed. Mr. Tanner indicated that most of the students that are on the football team do not play any other sport and that it definitely fills a need. He anticipates 60 to 70 athletes next year.

Regarding the 2009-2010 budget, Mr. Sikora said that when he saw the percentage increase over the 2008-2009 school year he was very pleased with it.

Mr. Scheidel again asked the Board to reconsider the preventative maintenance vehicle. Mr. Beitman said that he had hoped to have heard from the state by now regarding the stimulus money. He will continue to pursue it. Mr. Scheidel again commented on class size and asked that the Board consider taking a good look at teacher/student ratio for next year.

Mrs. Cornish of Burlington commented that the Board should not hold to maximum class sizes as provided by the law. That a higher teacher/student ratio would be doing Region 10 students a disservice. She urged Region 10 to maintain their high standards.

Mrs. Jen Penn of Burlington commended that she did not see why The Board would need to make any further cuts. She feels the Estimate of Expenses for the 2009-2010 school year is amazing. She feels it will definitely be supported with no further cuts.

Mr. Omichinski indicated that there was a **motion on the floor**. The Board voted on the motion as follows, all in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)

A **motion** was made by Mr. Sikora and was seconded by Ms. Sullivan, to approve The Call of the Meeting to discuss the 2009-10 Regional School District #10 Estimate of Expenses on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lewis S. Mills High School auditorium and to approve a referendum for the electors and citizens qualified to vote to be held at the Burlington and Harwinton Town Halls on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to vote on the acceptance of the 2009-10 Regional School District #10 Budget in the amount of \$33,329,934. Absentee ballots will be available at the town halls starting April 16, 2009. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)


III. Adjourn

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

Meeting ended at 9:32 pm



Raymond Sikora, BOE Secretary



Date