

**MINUTES**  
**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**January 28, 2008**

Members Present: Joseph Arcuri, Catherine Bergstrom, Jeanne Doerr, Beth Duffy, Paul Omichinski, Phil Penn, Elaine Schiavone, Ray Sikora, Karen Sullivan

Absent: Barbara Gilbert

Also Present: Alan Beitman - Superintendent  
David Lenihan - Business Manager  
Michael Landry – Assistant Superintendent  
Jacqueline Evans – Student Representative  
David Troiani – Student Representative

- I. Call to Order - The regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting was held at Lake Garda School media center, and was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairperson Paul Omichinski.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge was recited.
- III. Communications, Resignations – Superintendent extended thanks to staff, Board, and community for warm welcome. Agenda for the March meeting will be available in PDF format and anyone interested in receiving it should contact Central Office. A phone number will be available for people to use to voice concerns, opinions, or simply alert the district of a potential problem or rumor. Callers can elect to be anonymous or leave their name and number for a return call by the superintendent or his designee.
- IV. Consent Agenda – A **motion** to approve the minutes of the regular BOE meeting of December 10, 2007, Special BOE meetings of January 7 and January 16, 2008 and Financial Report of December 31, 2007 was made by R. Sikora and seconded by B. Duffy.

Corrections include: In the two Special BOE meetings, K. Sullivan was incorrectly referred to as K. Shepard in the body of the minutes. In the December 10, 2007 regular BOE meeting Jeanne Doerr's name was misspelled. On page 2, second paragraph, last sentence should read "parents will have the ability to opt out their child from participating in any topic dealing with teen sexuality in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade Wellness course." Page 3, Item E, incoming Freshmen will be matched with Juniors and Seniors. Page 4, Item E reference to September 1 as start of school should be changed to September 2. Page 4, Item G. Alexis Maislen Communications Specialist not Community Relations Coordinator.

- V. Student Representative Report – Dave Troiani, junior student representative was introduced. The student activity survey was postponed until the week of January 29th. The Winter Ball was recently held with approximately 200 students in attendance. A dance is scheduled for February 8 and a talent show in March.

- VI. Public Participation – Catherine Heinze of Burlington expressed concern over a book entitled “The Kite Runner,” which had been on the high school reading list this past summer. She found the book objectionable and felt there should have been a warning similar to those issued for movies. She would like future reading lists to include warnings of violent or strong sexual content, if warranted. She wrote a letter to the prior superintendent but never received a response.

VII. Business –

A. Dolores Allocca reported on the lunch program. Approximately 65% of elementary and 85% of middle and high school students participate in the lunch program. The sandwich station is a big hit and bottled water is a big seller. Some ideas for next year include PIN numbers at the elementary level and online meal pay.

K. Sullivan noted occasional bottlenecks at the sandwich station and that by the time the 4<sup>th</sup> lunch at the high school begins, some items are no longer available. These will be looked into. She also asked why vitamin water was discontinued. D. Allocca stated the State determines what type and size of beverage is acceptable and vitamin water was not on the approved list. D. Lenihan will follow up with a letter to the State on the vitamin water issue.

B. Latest State Physical Fitness Results. Phyllis Jones reported that students improved in all four of the State fitness components over the prior year as follows:

	2006-2007	2007-2008
4 <sup>th</sup> grade	27%	32%
6 <sup>th</sup> grade	32%	46%
8 <sup>th</sup> grade	36%	45%
10 <sup>th</sup> grade	47%	47%

Improvements were attributable to good weather allowing for more outdoor classes, longer P.E. classes, availability of lockers for the middle school students making it easier to change in and out of gym clothes, more experienced instructors, etc.

C. Review of Financial Audit. Scott Trendholm and Michael VanDeventer of the accounting firm Carlin, Charron, Rosen, LLP, reported that their audit of the District's financial records for the June 2007 fiscal year end did not indicate any irregularities or discrepancies. Audits based on State and Federal requirements were also done and no problems were encountered. Their only recommendations were that accounting for grants and student activity funds, currently tracked manually, become part of the General Ledger. They also recommended the District develop an accounting policy and procedure manual.

D. Enrollment projections. M. Landry reported that there are 2,849 students, an increase of 16 over last year. Rate of growth has slowed down in both towns. A comparison chart of actual enrollment and State projections shows that the State projections are not always accurate. Economics plays an important role in the movement of people into and out of a community, which in turn, affects enrollment figures.

E. Crisis Management Procedure. Superintendent Beitman outlined the procedures to be followed when a student or students are exhibiting threatening or disruptive behavior while on school property.

F. Adequate Yearly Progress Report. M. Landry reported that the District has met the 2006-2007 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) which is based on the CAPT and CMTs. The AYP is used to determine if the District is meeting its yearly progress toward achieving 100% proficiency in the No Child Left Behind Mandate.

VIII. Action -

- A. Approval of Change in Authorized Signatures for CT ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs. A **motion** to approve the item was made by R. Sikora and seconded by K. Sullivan. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.
- B. Approval of Trip to New York, National High School Model United Nations. Tim Farmer reported on his past experience attending this conference. Students pay for the trip and accommodations personally and through fundraising. B. Duffy suggested the Board assist with transportation costs as it had last year. A **motion** to approve the New York UN trip was made by K. Sullivan and seconded by C. Bergstrom. An amended motion to approve up to \$300 for bus transportation to Waterbury train station was made by C. Bergstrom and seconded by B. Duffy. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.
- C. Approval of Letter to CIAC regarding Football Players. Dave Tanner has drafted a letter to CIAC requesting that the 6 LSM upperclassmen continue playing on the St. Paul tri-op team. A **motion** to approve signing of the letter was made by B. Duffy and seconded by R. Sikora. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.
- D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Revised Policy #5141.21 – Student Medication -. Only change in policy was the addition of optometrist to list of medication providers. A **motion** to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was made by B. Duffy and seconded by K. Sullivan. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.
- E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Revision to Region 10 Educational Organization Chart Policy #2101. A **motion** to approve this item was made by R. Sikora and seconded by B. Duffy. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.
- F. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Revised Policy #1250 – Visits to Schools. The only change to the policy is an addition stating that individuals who wish to visit areas of the school during the day, other than the office, must make an appointment which can be refused by the principal or his/her designee if they feel the visit would be disruptive to students. A **motion** to accept the reading was made by B. Duffy and seconded by C. Bergstrom.
- G. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Revised Policy 1250A – Parent/Guardian Visitations. If a parent or guardian wishes to observe or visit their child during a typical school day, or have lunch with their child, certain guidelines must be followed, including making prior arrangements with administration and teacher, checking in the office first, etc. Discussion ensued as to whether these rules applied to parent volunteers and they do not. However, the rules do not distinguish between parents visiting and parents volunteering. Therefore, P. Omichinski suggested tabling the matter while administration reworks some of the wording and distinguishes between visitations and volunteering. Jessie Smiley and Ed Gasser of Burlington suggested there should not be a limit outlined in the policy, rather that it be left to the administration's discretion.
- H. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Revised Policy #1251 – Loitering or Causing Disturbance. An addition to the policy added that anyone who refused to leave a school building when asked would be

considered loitering. A **motion** to accept the reading was made by B. Duffy and seconded by K. Sullivan. All in favor none opposed.

- I. Policies to be deleted: 1210A, Parent Organizations; #1311 Staff Participation in Community Activities; and #1120.1A Prohibition on Expenditure of Public Funds Relating to Referenda. Many of these policies are either no longer relevant or applicable. After conferring with counsel it was decided to delete them. A **motion** to accept the above items for deletion was made by E. Schiavone and seconded by B. Duffy. All in favor none opposed.

IX. Board Committee Reports

- A. Facilities and Grounds Committee – Nothing to report.
- B. CREC Committee – Reported the CT Commissioner of Education spoke at the last CREC meeting. Topic was to be the high school reform proposal, but was not presented in any detail.
- C. Curriculum Committee – Meeting cancelled. Next meeting scheduled for Feb. 6 at 3:30 pm.
- D. Negotiations Committee – Secretarial contract negotiations to begin in the spring.
- E. Technology Committee – Power School will soon be able to allow parents to access their children's grades online, as well as information on homework assignments.
- F. Building Committee – Project is 98-99% complete and punchlist items are being worked on. Retaining some of the funds will ensure that contractors either return to finish work and, if not, the money will be used to hire contractors who can.
- G. Community Relations Committee – Meeting at end of February. Website now offers search capability. Newsletter went out recently.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by B. Duffy and seconded by C. Bergstrom. Meeting ended at 10:10 pm. The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on February 11, 2008 at Harwinton Consolidated School.

There will be a Board of Education budget meeting regarding the District Overview and Districtwide Administration and Operations on February 4, 2008 at 7:30 pm at the Har-Bur Learning Center.

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Raymond Sikora, Secretary