

MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 15, 2007

Members Present: Joseph Arcuri, Catherine Bergstrom, Beth Duffy, Barbara Gilbert, Paul Omichinski, Elaine Schiavone, Ray Sikora, Jayne Stocker, Karen Sullivan, Peter Turner

Also Present: Paula Schwartz - Superintendent
David Lenihan - Business Manager
Michael Landry – Assistant Superintendent
Jacqueline Evans – Student Rep.

- I. Call to Order - The regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting was held at the Learning Center, and was called to order at 7:33 pm by Chairperson Beth Duffy.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge was recited.
- III. Communications, Resignations – Superintendent announced that Maggie Montefeltri, LSM P.E. Instructor, was named 2007 Eastern District High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education.

Twenty-eight students were recognized for reaching advanced level in CAPT.

Region 10 received \$171,988 from the State of Connecticut to reimburse us for the new Boundless Playground at Lake Garda School.

A one-woman show “A Line in the Sand”, dealing with bullying and other issues, will be presented on November 20 and 21. The November 20th presentation is for parents and seniors and the November 21st presentation is for Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors.

- IV. Consent Agenda – A **motion** to approve the regular September 10, 2007 BOE meeting, two Transportation Committee meetings of October 3, 2007 and the September 30, 2007 financial report, was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by R. Sikora. Correction to September 10 meeting, page 3, Item 3, 4th paragraph, athletic uniforms should be removed and replaced with extra curricular activities. All in favor none opposed. Abstention by Elaine Schiavone and Karen Sullivan.
- V. Public Participation – Laura Austin of Burlington presented the Board with a certificate of appreciation from The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, a food allergy organization. Suggested letting bus drivers know of children who suffer from food allergies.

Avery Doninger of Burlington asked about the German exchange student currently at Mills. Chairperson gave an overview of the exchange process and program and suggested Ms. Doninger contact her to obtain more information.

- VI. Business –
 - A. Library Project – Sarah Lynch, new media specialist at the Learning Center, presented information on an online reading project for 5 graders. Students can choose six out of 10 specified books, which they would discuss and critique online with other students from around the state. Participants would be invited to

vote on which book should receive the Nutmeg Book Award. Participation can be done at home or at school. Goal was to have at least half of all fifth graders participate. There are numerous security checks to ensure student safety. Students need to have a signed computer Acceptance Use Policy form to participate.

- B. Science Presentation – Andy Komar, Science Coordinator, gave an overview of how science is taught in different grade levels, with the emphasis on analyzing and solving problems. Discussed the test formats for CAPT and CMT. In 2008, Grades 5 and 8 will be taking the 1st generation science test as part of the CMT.
- C. Superintendent Search Committee Update. Chairperson stated the Search Committee, consisting of community members as well as her, E. Schiavone, P. Turner, and J. Arcuri spent all day Saturday and part of Sunday interviewing nine selected candidates for the Superintendent's position. Narrowed to three finalists interviewed Thursday. It is hoped that an offer can be made by early November.

VII Action -

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Football Proposal. After review and discussion concerning field use for various sports at Har-Bur, Nassahegan, and Harwinton, a **motion** to approve a one-year football program, as an unfunded sport, was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by R. Sikora. P. Omichinski stated this followed the current procedure for athletic and other extracurricular groups to come before the Board and be recognized as a school-sanctioned team, club, etc. He further stated that unless the football program proves to be a failure, it is extremely unlikely that it will not be recognized in the second and subsequent years. P. Omichinski also expressed concern for the District having to add football to the athletic budget in the fourth year.

C. Bergstrom supported approving the requested three years, stating the Boosters had been told to come up with a proposal, which they did.

Robert Dunn of Burlington asked that the Board give approval for three years. He also stated that the funds raised were based on telling donors that this was to support an initial three year program and he was fearful some funding would be lost if it was for less than the three years.

Wayne Carter of Burlington stated Boosters should have been informed earlier that the Board would only entertain voting on football for one year at a time.

Sal Vitrano of Burlington submitted letter to the Board asking that whatever motion was put forth include a waiver from CIAC regarding JV and Varsity status for junior/senior students currently in the Tri-Op so they could continue to play for that time.

D. Tanner, Athletic Director, felt strongly that future Booster members would continue to support and do fundraising to defray costs of running the program.

Voting in favor of the motion included J. Arcuri, K. Sullivan, R. Sikora, P. Omichinski, and E. Schiavone. Against were P. Turner, C. Bergstrom, J. Stocker, and B. Gilbert.

P. Turner requested that Chairperson also vote. After some consideration, Chairperson voted against the motion. This resulted in a 5-5 vote and therefore the motion failed. The chairperson then requested that a new motion be put forth.

A **motion** to table the matter until next month was made by J. Arcuri and seconded by P. Omichinski. All in favor, K. Sullivan opposed.

John Bergstrom of Burlington offered his assistance, in the meantime, to facilitate moving this project forward.

- B. Review of Policy #1180 – Student Representatives. Jacqueline Evans was asked to provide feedback on her experience as a student representative to the Board. She suggested more students be allowed to be representatives (2 juniors, 3 seniors), alternates be considered, and asked that the Board consider giving the reps. something to do besides attending the meetings. C. Bergstrom suggested a survey on what types of activities teens would be interested in participating in, in and out of school. P. Turner and K. Sullivan suggested J. Evans review the above policy and develop a revised version and bring that to the Board for consideration. B. Duffy suggested student reps. get underclassmen involved in student meetings.

The 1st reading was tabled until the next meeting.

- C. Approval of Anthem Demutualization Disbursement for Qualified Bargaining Unit Members, Retirees, and Non-Certified Staff. In July 2007, the Board directed the administration to calculate a distribution of the proceeds from the Anthem Demutualization and obtain necessary waivers from eligible participants not covered by the arbitration award (May 2007) granted the teacher association. A **motion** to approve the Anthem demutualization disbursement for eligible participants was made by R. Sikora and seconded by P. Turner. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

D. Lenihan said that waivers have been sent to all eligible participants and that once received, the distribution will be made. The total distribution is approximately \$17,000.

- D. Discussion and Approval of Summer Arts 2008 Proposal. P. Schwartz reviewed the proposal and reported that the only differences between the 2007 and 2008 program includes some recreational time during the day and individual lessons. The program would be self-funded; i.e. no Board contribution. Cost is the same and schedule may change depending on student participation. Laura Austin of Burlington suggested intermediate band courses. B. Duffy stated that that was something to consider in the future.

A **motion** to approve the 2008 Summer Arts Program was made by R. Sikora and seconded by E. Schiavone. All in favor none opposed.

- E. Discussion and Possible Action on Athletic Uniform Costs. Item was tabled.

- F. Discussion and Approval of 2008-'09 Budget Timeline. A **motion** to approve the 2008-'09 budget timeline was made by B. Gilbert and seconded by K. Sullivan. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

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- G. 1st Reading of Policy #3170 – Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers. D. Lenihan stated this was the first update in policy in approximately 20 years. A **motion** to approve the first reading was made by R. Sikora and seconded by K. Sullivan. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.
- H. 1st Reading of Policy #3323 – Purchasing Procedures – Soliciting Prices (Bids & Quotations). A **motion** to approve the first reading was made by R. Sikora and seconded by K. Sullivan. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.
- I. Discussion and Action of Assistant Superintendent Contract – to be discussed in Executive Session.

VIII. Board Committee Reports

- A. Facilities and Grounds Committee – Group met last week with Dave Fortin and Paula Schwartz in attendance. The committee discussed developing a new preventative maintenance program for all buildings.
- B. CREC Committee – Nothing to report.
- C. Curriculum Committee – Viewed Andy Komar’s presentation. Also are looking at a couple of new courses.
- D. Negotiations Committee – Nothing to report.
- E. Technology Committee – A couple of new improvements have been made to the website. Anticipate major overhaul in two years.
- F. Building Committee – Committee is meeting tomorrow. All spaces are in use and open items are being addressed.
- G. Community Relations Committee – The committee met on September 24th. Reviewed website and made suggestions to M. Landry. Next meeting is scheduled for October 29th.

A **motion** to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and Item I above was made by K. Sullivan and seconded by R. Sikora. Regular meeting ended at 10:22 pm.

A **motion** to resume the regular BOE meeting was made by K. Sullivan, seconded by E. Schiavone at 10:31 p.m.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by R. Sikora, seconded by K. Sullivan at 10:32 p.m. All were in favor.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at Harwinton Consolidated School.

Karen Sullivan, Secretary