

MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 13, 2007

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

Members Absent: Karen Sullivan

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

Prior to official start of meeting, Chairperson introduced new Board of Education members, Jeanne Doerr and Phillip Penn, who will be starting next month. She also extended thanks and presented certificates of appreciation to outgoing Board members, Jayne Stocker, who has served for approximately two years, and Peter Turner, who has served for 14 years.

- I. Call to Order - The regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting was held at Harwinton Consolidated School, and was called to order at 7:42 pm by Chairperson Beth Duffy.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge was recited.
- III. Communications, Resignations - Superintendent read retirement request from Ken Daniels, Special Ed. instructor at LSM. Received letter from Cary Dupont, President and CEO of United Way, accompanied by a check in the amount of \$15,000 to the Board of Education in support of the “Kids in the Middle” initiative for 2007-08.

P. Schwartz read a thank you note, for gift, from retiring school bus driver Dolores Monroe. She also read a letter from homeowner Helen Mader, who lives across the street from new auditorium, suggesting a line of trees be planted for privacy and noise reduction.

Fifth grade students will be participating in West Hartford’s Mini-moo cow decorating contest. The four entries will be displayed beginning on November 20 from 4:15 -5:00 at the West Hartford Town Hall and then joining displays throughout the town.

- IV. Consent Agenda - A **motion** to approve the following: Regular BOE meeting of October 15, 2007, Special BOE meetings of October 9, 12, and 15, 2007, Community Relations Meeting of October 29, 2007 and financial report of October 31, 2007, was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by R. Sikora. All in favor none opposed.

Corrections to the October 15th meeting, Page 2, Item C, 2nd sentence should read “Another round of interviews had been scheduled for Thursday and Friday...” For the October 15th Special BOE meeting, Call to Order was made by C. Bergstrom, not B. Duffy and adjournment by B. Gilbert and seconded by J. Stocker.

- V. Public Participation – None.
- VI. Business –

- A. Introduction of “STEP-UP” (Students, Town Members, Educators and Parents – United to Protect Lives Committee. Members were introduced – Michelle McCard, Mandie Maher, School Psychologists and student Elyse Pedra. The group was formed in response to the recent rash of student deaths. Areas that will be discussed include student safety, drug and alcohol use, violence, risky behaviors, etc.

P. Schwartz announced that “The Line in the Sand” play, which deals with many of these topics and the Columbine tragedy, will be held on November 20, at 7:30 p.m. for parents, seniors, and community members, and on November 21 at 9:30 a.m. for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors. A discussion with the author will take place after the performance.

- B. Strategic School Profiles. P. Turner pointed out that Region 10 continues to adhere to fiscal responsibility by providing a quality education for less cost per pupil than other comparable schools in the same and other DRGs.

- C. Discussion of Role of Student Representative. J. Evans, student rep., had been asked by the BOE to define the role and selection of student representatives. J. Evans’ proposal includes a rep. and alternate from the junior and senior classes elected by their peers. After the first year, the juniors would continue their role as seniors and new elections held at the junior level. Alternates would fill in as needed. Basic function would be to update the BOE on past, present, and future events at LSM and work on projects assigned by the Board.

R. Sikora and P. Omichinski liked the idea of the reps. report and suggested the use of alternates be tabled until next year. R. Sikora suggested obtaining information on the functionality of student reps. at other schools. Project for next meeting is an update on student activities and how the District should go about obtaining feedback on what types of activities students would like to see offered and become involved in. Student representative report will also be included at each Board of Education meeting.

VII Action –

Chairperson asked that the first two items be reversed.

- B. Discussion and Approval of Band Trip. J. Deeb gave a presentation on the proposed band and choir trip scheduled for the April school break including a 4-day cruise ship sailing along Southern California. Most of the adjudication would occur on board and it is likely other schools will be involved. Cost of trip is \$1,558.00 per student. The Board was not asked for any funding assistance.

P. Omichinski asked why J. Deeb had gone ahead and made reservations and other plans prior to coming before the Board. J. Deeb responded that in order to make arrangements for that time period, he had to act quickly to make the necessary reservations. Stated deposits will be fully refunded if Board did not approve trip. Currently, 140 students have signed up.

A **motion** to approve the April 2008 band and choir trip was made by R. Sikora and seconded by J. Stocker. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

- A. Discussion and possible action on Football Program 2008-09. D. Tanner reviewed all of the items discussed at prior meetings such as student and District costs, fundraising, field use, student interest and participation, etc. going out 5 years. The proposed 5 year cost sharing operating budget plan is as follows:

	Parent*	Annual	Booster	Reg . 10	Estimated
	Contribution	Fundraising	Contribution	Contribution	Annual cost
2008-09	\$10,500	\$10,000	\$24,500	\$ 5,000	\$50,000
2009-10	12,000	10,000	9,500**	7,500	39,000
2010-11	13,500	10,000	8,500**	10,000	42,000
2011-12	15,000	11,000	4,000**	15,000	45,000
2012-13	16,500	11,000	4,500**	15,000	47,000

* Based on \$350 per student with increased participation over time

** Based on interest from Booster Fund account.

Lori Natale of Harwinton stated that parents have always borne the cost of their children's involvement in sports and other recreational programs, and did not feel the cost per family would be a hardship. E. Schiavone discussed the types of injuries football players would incur and stated it was important to educate players to report injuries. P. Omichinski identified other potential, future costs such as land purchase, a building facility, and maintenance to keep in mind. John Bergstrom of Burlington asked that the football program be given a chance and if it fails or does not meet expectations, then at least the District can say it tried. A list of expectations including participation rates, budget review, community service and facility report was established for yearly review.

A **motion** to approve a 5-year Lewis S. Mills football program, in concept, subject to yearly program and financial review, was made by K. Bergstrom and seconded by P. Turner. All in favor except E. Schiavone.

- C. Discussion and Approval of New Courses. M. Landry presented three new courses. They include Construction and Renovations Processes. These would be the typical projects and tasks a homeowner would undertake. The second would be a Multimedia Communications course covering such topics as digital photography, imagery, sound distortion, etc. The third course would be a Wellness course and required for seniors. Topics would include substance abuse, family life and parenting, self-defense, sexuality and continue with the family health history begun in the 10th grade.

A **motion** to approve the three courses was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by R. Sikora. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

- D. Discussion and Approval of New English Textbooks for new electives. G. Gadue, Supervisor of Language Arts, gave an overview of the proposed literature which includes: "A Solder's Play," "Gumbo: An Anthology of African American Writing," "The Great White Hope," "Fences," "Roots," "Emma," "A Room of One's Own," and "The Norton Anthology: Literature by Women, Vol. 2."

A **motion** to approve the above-listed textbooks and plays was made by R. Sikora and seconded by B. Gilbert. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

- E. 2nd Reading of Policy #3170 – Board Budget Procedures and Line Items Transfer. Policy states expenditures cannot exceed the budget and gives superintendent authority to move funds from various line items in an emergency.

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- F. 2nd Reading of Policy #3323 – Purchasing Procedures – Soliciting Prices (Bids & Quotations). Policy defines purchasing and bidding guidelines including use of consortiums and state contracts. A **motion** to approve both readings was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by R. Sikora. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

VIII. Board Committee Reports

- A. Facilities and Grounds Committee – Working on developing preventative maintenance program for all buildings.
- B. CREC Committee – Nothing to report.
- C. Curriculum Committee – Next meeting November 28.
- D. Negotiations Committee – Nothing to report.
- E. Technology Committee – Nothing to report.
- F. Building Committee – Open house went well. Every contractor is at least 95% complete.
- G. Community Relations Committee – Tracking website traffic. Next meeting scheduled for November 26. Newsletter scheduled for late Fall.

A **motion** to go into Executive Session to discuss the new superintendent's contract was made by E. Schiavone and seconded by P. Turner. Regular meeting ended at 10:05 pm.

A **motion** to resume regular Board of Ed. meeting was made at 10:33 p.m. by P. Omichincki, seconded by R. Sikora. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** to approve the contract for the new superintendent, Alan Beitman, was made by P. Turner, seconded by J. Stocker. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** to adjourn meeting at 10:37 p.m. was made by E. Schiavone, seconded by C. Bergstrom. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on December 10, 2007 at the Har-Bur Learning Center.

Karen Sullivan, Secretary