

MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 11, 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
Dave Troiani – Student Representative

- I. Call to Order - The regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting was held at Harwinton Consolidated School 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 received retirement notification from Ken Platz, Har-Bur principal, and Nancy Moore, HCS 4th grade teacher, effective June 30, 2008.

Superintendent announced the District’s intent to create a Education Foundation. Anticipated date of implementation is January 2009.
- IV. Consent Agenda – A **motion** to approve the regular BOE meeting of January 28, 2008 and budget meeting of February 4, 2008 was made by B. Duffy and seconded by P. Penn. For the January 28th meeting, corrections include: V. Student Rep. Report, Dance of February 15, should be changed to February 8. In Section VIII, Item I, Policies to be deleted, #1340 was listed on the agenda but not included in the enclosures and not discussed..

Corrections to the February 4, 2008 meeting minutes include Section V, Item A, last sentence should read “Last year’s budget was \$31,749,669.”

A **motion** to approve both meeting minutes, as amended, was made by B. Duffy and seconded by P. Penn. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.
- V. Student Representative Report – D. Troiani reported that the LSM exchange students will be leaving for Spain this Sunday. They will be gone for two weeks. The recent student dance was a success and the Model UN trip is coming up.
- VI. Public Participation – Joseph Gasser of Burlington reported on the recent Mock Trial competition held at Yale University, which is in preparation for the State level spring competition. Students in the program meet approximately 5 hours a week and have, as their legal mentor, Ed Gasser, a local attorney and parent. Recommended adding a feeder program at the middle school.

VII. Business –

- A. Responses to Questions raised at the 2/4/08 Budget Presentation. D. Lenihan provided responses to the following questions. Moving a kindergarten teacher from Lake Garda to HCS (to add another Kindergarten class) will be held off until firmer enrollment numbers can be obtained. Currently, enrollment is below State projections. He is still working on the question of what precipitated increase in trash fees and will have more information for the next meeting. He will ask D. Tanner to provide more information on facility rentals (no time at this meeting). There were two LSM students who took classes at Tunxis Community College – one in Italian and the other in World History. Students can attend for free provided there is room. Students are responsible for fees, such as parking, etc. The increase in cost of library periodicals at Har-Bur was primarily due to the 5th graders moving into the complex. The salary for the Communications Specialist was not an offset against another position. The money to hire that individual will be taken from a variety of accounts and is expected to have a minimal increase to the budget.
- B. K-12 Presentation of Estimate of Expenses for 2008-2009. The budget presentation was broken down by school. D. Lenihan reported that the largest expense in each school is salaries. The various salary accounts fluctuate based on a variety of factors, including hiring new teachers at salaries above or below budgeted levels and enrollment.

HCS & Lake Garda Schools

There was discussion concerning copier usage and cost. The district generates approximately 8 million copies per year at a cost of 1.3¢ per copy. P. Omichinski asked if some of these copies were being made as a substitution for textbooks. D. Lenihan stated textbooks are ordered separately but copying is used for supplemental materials. Enrollment increases over the last 10 years have increased the volume of copies made.

Har-Bur

A ½ custodial position had been added in the '07-'08 budget. Now that 90,000 square feet is “on line” there is a need to add another ½ position. Athletic transportation costs increased, not only due to fuel costs but because our previous vendor, which serviced the District’s athletic needs, was no longer able to offer the excellent rate it had been offering for short trips. The cost of library periodicals increased due to 5th graders moving up. Professional Development also increased due to the fact it had been severely cut a few years ago and was now being brought back up to normal level.

The librarian is requesting space be set aside on each floor for library instruction. A SmartBoard and Mac Mini are also requested, which would be moved from floor to floor as needed.

LSM

An increase in the Wellness program is due to loss of a grant and additional costs associated with the Wellness Fair and June Family Fun Day.

The addition of a Spanish 5 level 2 course will require 25 CD roms instead of textbooks. The addition of the Contemporary Issues course will rely on periodicals, not textbooks. There was discussion of replacing art easels and going with a more durable metal material.

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Ted Scheidel of Burlington stated the Communications Specialist should not have been hired mid-budget. Also, he wanted to know how often library periodicals are used and if all of the various subscriptions are needed. He requested the job descriptions for media center personnel.

B. Duffy stated the Communications Specialist position was created for a variety of reasons. One was in response to the community's request (as evidenced in last year's survey) for better communication between the District and the community. Another reason was to consolidate a lot of tasks being handled by a variety of staff and having one person oversee and be responsible for disseminating information. It is not a full-time position and the money to pay the salary came from a variety of accounts.

- C. To establish an Ad-Hoc Committee to develop a policy for the Board of Education for Equitable Treatment of Extracurricular Activities. A **motion** to move this into the Action item portion of the agenda was made by B. Duffy and seconded by E. Schiavone. Also, first reading of Policy #1340 which had been included on the deletion list in the January 14, 2008 agenda was not included in the enclosure. Therefore, a **motion** to include that as an Action item was made by B. Duffy and seconded by E. Schiavone. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

VIII. Action -

- A. 1st Reading of Revised Combined Policy #1250, #1250A Parent/Guardian Observations, Lunch Visitation. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for parents/guardians and administration for when a parent wishes to, as an example, have lunch with their child on their child's birthday. A **motion** to accept the reading was made by R. Sikora and seconded by P. Penn. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

Superintendent is working on policy concerning parent volunteers.

- B. 2nd Reading of Revised Policy #1251 – Loitering or Causing Disturbance. No changes from the 1st reading. A **motion** to accept the second reading was made by B. Duffy and seconded by R. Sikora. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.
- C. A **motion** to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee to develop a policy for the Board of Education for Equitable Treatment of Extracurricular Activities was made by B. Duffy and seconded by E. Schiavone. Committee members include: B. Duffy, C. Bergstrom, J. Arcuri, E. Schiavone, and P. Omichinski. Interested public members are also invited to join. The purpose of the committee is to create a policy for the BOE to follow to provide equitable financial assistance to

the various academic, athletic and artistic groups who come before the Board. K. Sullivan reiterated the need for the committee to be fair to all groups. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

- D. 1st Reading of Policy to be Deleted: #1340 Access to School Procedures and Materials. A **motion** to accept the first reading was made by Jeanne Doerr and seconded by P. Penn. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.
- E. 2nd Reading of Policies to be Deleted: #1210A Parent Organizations; #1311 Staff Participation in Community Activities; and #1120.1A Prohibition on expenditures of Public Funds Relating to Referenda. A **motion** to accept the second reading was made by B. Duffy and seconded by R. Sikora. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

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IX. Board Committee Reports

- A. Facilities and Grounds Committee – Nothing to report.
- B. CREC Committee – Nothing to report.
- C. Curriculum Committee – Met 2/6/08. There was a presentation on the Spanish 5 level 2 program and a presentation by J. Deeb on the Fine Arts Program, which may be presented to the Board at the March 10th meeting.
- D. Technology Committee – R. Sikora tried Power School and liked it.
- E. Building Committee – Due to anticipated inclement weather, tomorrow night's meeting has been rescheduled for February 26th. Janet Burritt of Harwinton stated there have been complaints that the entrance doors near the high school gym are leaking air. There is speculation that they are interior and not exterior doors. She has spoken with Dave Fortin on this and wanted to bring this issue to the Board's attention. D. Lenihan will follow up with Mr. Fortin and construction manager.
- F. Community Relations Committee – Next meeting February 25th. They will be reviewing feedback on the website and newsletter.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by P. Penn and seconded by R. Sikora. All in favor none opposed. Meeting ended at 10:25 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on March 10, 2008 at Lake Garda School.

Raymond Sikora, Secretary