

MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION
July 9, 2007

Members Present: Joseph Arcuri, , Beth Duffy, Barbara Gilbert, Paul Omichinski, Elaine Schiavone, Jayne Stocker, Karen Sullivan-Shepard, Peter Turner

Members Absent: Catherine Bergstrom, Ray Sikora

Also Present: Paula Schwartz - Superintendent
Michael Landry – Assistant Superintendent

- 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 Beth Duffy.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge was recited.
- III. Communications, Resignations - Superintendent read letters of resignation from: Lisa Spino, HCS pre-school Special Ed. teacher, and from Rick Dubois Har-Bur Science teacher.

The Boys' Volleyball Team were awarded the 2007 sportsmanship award from the Connecticut Volleyball Referee Association.

The DiNicola family, attendees at the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Conference in Chicago had their flight cancelled and ended up driving to the Conference.

- IV. Consent Agenda - A **motion** to accept the meeting minutes of June 11, 2007 was made by P. Turner and seconded by P. Omichinski. All in favor none opposed. Abstention by B. Gilbert.

V. Public Participation -

Marion Thierry of Harwinton thanked the Superintendent, Board, and Dave Fortin for all their hard work and efforts to make Region 10 an outstanding school system.

Dave Crompton of Harwinton asked for an update on the Anthem demutualization issue. B. Duffy stated there had been a special meeting, that money would be distributed and more details would be forthcoming in September.

VI. Business -

A. Staffing Update. P. Schwartz distributed to Board members a list of retirees, resignations, and transfers in conjunction with the 5th graders moving to the Har-Bur complex. All positions have been filled except for pre-school special ed.

B. Language Arts Curriculum – Gina Gadue discussed the need in the language arts program to develop guidelines for teachers to follow to make sure students learn what they need to within a particular grade level. The guidelines are broken down into content, skills, learning activities, resources and assessments, what they mean for a particular grade level and specific instructions on how to achieve the goals within each of these categories. The outcome is a

detailed document providing specific instruction to language arts teachers so that when a student advances to the next grade level, that teacher will know what skills the student was taught in the prior level. The guidelines provide standardization in instruction. The guidelines will go into effect in the fall and be implemented for the school year. There will be opportunity for tweaking and refinement of the guidelines as the year progresses.

Paul Omichinski liked the format and suggested it could be used for other core subjects. E. Schiavone suggested it be given to all new incoming language arts instructors.

VII Action -

- A. Appoint Firm for Superintendent's Search Committee. P. Turner provided information on 3 recruitment firms that are available for searching and screening candidates for the superintendent's job. The District has used two of them in prior searches. Fees range from \$10k - \$14k. P. Turner suggested using a new firm represented by Aliza Holcomb.

A **motion** to hire CABE Search Services represented by Aliza Holcomb was made by P. Turner and seconded by J. Stocker. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.

Phil Penn of Burlington asked if there was any information on how many superintendent openings there were in Connecticut. B. Duffy stated that there were probably about 6 openings.

- B. 2nd Reading of Building Use Fee Schedule #3513A. A **motion** to approve the second reading was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by P. Turner. All in favor none opposed. K. Sullivan-Shepard stated that some events occurred over multiple days and suggested that cost per event be changed to cost per event day. A **motion** to approve the second reading, as amended, was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by P. Turner. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.
- C. Approve Teachers' Requests for Leave of Absence. Two teachers requested maternity leave. A **motion** to grant the requests was made by P. Turner and seconded by P. Omichinski. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.
- D. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Terms and Conditions of Employment for Non-Bargaining Union Employees. To be discussed in Executive Session.

VIII. Board Committee Reports

- A. Facilities and Grounds Committee – Nothing to report.
B. CREC Committee – Nothing to report.
C. Curriculum Committee – Nothing to report.
D. Negotiations Committee – Nothing to report.
E. Technology Committee - Nothing to report.

- F. Building Committee – Work is progressing. Science wing is being worked on. Floors in auditorium lobby and café are being replaced, at contractor’s expense. New windows are being installed at central office, and tentative date for grand opening ceremony is October 12.
- G. Community Relations Committee – Nothing to report. P. Schwartz suggested that committee might be able to assist Music Director John Deeb with promoting the summer arts program next year.

A **motion** to go into Executive Session was made by P. Turner and seconded by Paul Omichinski. Regular meeting ended at 8:45pm.

A **motion** to come out of Executive Session was made by P. Omichinski., seconded by K. Sullivan-Shepard at 9:15 p.m. All were in favor.

A **motion** was made by P. Omichinski, seconded by B. Gilbert, to approve the contract for the business manager effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010. All were in favor.

A **motion** was made by P. Omichinski, seconded by K. Sullivan-Shepard to approve the interim contract for the Superintendent effective July 1, 2007. All were in favor.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. was made by P. Omichinski, seconded by P. Turner. All in favor.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on August 27, 2007 at the Learning Center of Har-Bur Middle School.

Karen Sullivan-Shepard, Secretary