

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
The Learning Center
26 LYON ROAD, BURLINGTON, CT 06013
Monday, December 12, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Thomas Fausel
Bruce Guillemette
Eleanor Parente
Corey Rewenko
John Vecchitto
Paul Omichinski
Brooke Joiner
Susan Baccaro
John Goodno (arrived 7:02 p.m.)

Absent:

Phillip Penn, Chairman

Also Present:

Alan Beitman, Superintendent
Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations
Cheri Burke, Director of Student Learning
Savanna Arcuri, Student Representative
Brian Drisdelle, Student Representative
Patricia George, Recording Secretary

- I. Call to Order:
Superintendent Beitman called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Superintendent Beitman led the Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Election of Officers

Board Chairman

Superintendent Beitman called for nominations for the position of Board Chairman.

A nomination was cast by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Corey Rewenko to appoint Phillip Penn as Chairman of the Board; no other nominations were cast; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Board Vice Chairman

Superintendent Beitman called for nominations for the position of Board Vice Chairman.

A nomination was cast by John Vecchitto and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to appoint Thomas Fausel as Vice Chairman of the Board; no other nominations were cast; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Board Secretary

(John Goodno arrived 7:02 p.m.)

Newly appointed Vice Chairman and presiding Board Member, Thomas Fausel, called for nominations for the position of Board Secretary.

A nomination was cast by Corey Rewenko and seconded by Eleanor Parente to appoint John Vecchitto as Board Secretary; no other nominations were cast; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Board Treasurer

Vice Chairman, Thomas Fausel, called for nominations for the position of Board Treasurer.

A nomination was cast by Eleanor Parente and seconded by Corey Rewenko to appoint Bruce Guillemette as Board Treasurer; no other nominations were cast; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Communications:

A. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Robert Radar, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, otherwise known as CABE, was invited to attend the December Board meeting to illustrate the value of a membership with the organization to members of the Board of Education. A prominent advocacy group for public education at both the state level and in Washington, D.C., Mr. Radar explained that CABE offers a host of services to its members including field services, workshops, policy, employee relations, professional development and board training. A membership with CABE would be based upon student population, taking into consideration DRG, and the wealth and the size of the district.

B. Student Representatives' Reports:

Savanna Arcuri and Brian Drisdelle reported on the latest events at the high school including fundraising efforts, recent concert performances, the college application process and acceptance letters statuses, impending mid-term exams, and athletic standings.

V. A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by John Vecchitto to accept/approve the minutes from the regular meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, November 14, 2016 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Eleanor Parente to accept/approve the consent agenda items as presented. Items exhibited were:

- Financial Reports dated November 2016;
- Resignation of Megan Rochford, a Special Education Teacher at Har-Bur Middle School effective 11/23/2016;
- Appointments of Margaret Dunlop, a Special Education Teacher at Har-Bur Middle School effective 12/2/2016 and Renee Turley, Science Coordinator, effective 1/3/17.

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Public Participation

Robert Martinotti
Harwinton, CT

Mr. Martinotti offered his views regarding the potential move of the athletic program from the Berkshire League to the Central Connecticut Conference

VIII. Actions:

A motion was made by Corey Rewenko and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to accept/approve the action items as presented. Action items exhibited:

- A. A second review of the Board meeting schedule for the 2017/2018 school year with no further discussion or changes;
- B. A second review of four course proposals: Child Development, Advanced Video, Personal Safety, and Personal Finance with no further discussion or changes;
- C. A second review of the Superintendent's Goals, which were modified to meet the needs and priorities of the district from the previous year, rendered no further suggestions for changes.

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

IX. Business:

A. Teacher Leadership Monthly Update

The Region 10 Teacher Leadership Council, headed by Ms. Cheri Burke, the Director of Student Learning and several of its committee members were recently invited to present at Central Connecticut State University. The university, which recently began a Teacher Leadership Fellow Program, is facilitated by Betty Sternberg, the former commissioner and comprised of superintendents, assistant

superintendents and building administrators, and teachers at the district level. The presentation was designed to encourage other districts to follow in the footsteps of Region 10 by implementing teacher leadership initiatives at their local levels.

The council was also accepted to present at the upcoming "Compliance to Coherence" conference.

B. 2018/2019 School Calendar

The 2018/2019 school calendar was brought before the Board for a first review by Mr. Peter Bogen, Assistant Principal at Har-Bur Middle School, who has also chaired the Calendar Committee for many years. This year, the district was under mandate to follow a regional calendar and once reviewed by CREC, it was found to be in compliance with state regulations. The calendar will be brought before the Board in January for a second review and subsequent approval for adoption.

C. French Exchange Student Proposal

A primary goal of the proposal is to expand opportunities for students in authentic context. Dr. Tenney, the World Language Coordinator, is currently working on new connections with one organization in particular, FACES. With the Board's approval, Dr. Tenney would like to initiate hosting French exchange students in April 2017. It is then anticipated that Region 10 students would be afforded the opportunity to travel abroad the following year. The proposal is expected to go before the Board again in January for their approval.

D. Potential Move to Central Connecticut Conference

Mr. Christopher Rau, the Principal at Lewis S. Mills High School, provided the Board with a packet of information that had been distributed to the public at an informational meeting, which was held on Tuesday, December 6th. The report, also included in the Board packet, outlined the benefits of such a move including a decrease in transportation costs, a complete schedule for all JV programs, better competition to prepare teams for state tournaments, and the opportunity to play a diverse group of schools that offer all programs currently available in Region 10. He expressed concerns of the potential closing or consolidation of the Berkshire League due to lowering enrollment.

Mr. Rau indicated that the conference is looking to fill its last spot and therefore, minimally, the application process would need to commence prior to the end of the week.

Board member Paul Omichinski felt that the Board was not provided adequate time to gather data and felt the presentation was a sales pitch and extremely biased towards moving to the CCC. He also mentioned that there is an existing Board policy that governs school athletics and it has specific goals set forth within. Student feedback

was also under consideration. Superintendent Beitman was concerned about the students' opinions as they are the end users. Mr. Omichinski concluded the discussions by suggesting that the policy be found and reviewed, so that an appropriate solution could be reached.

E. New Courses (8)

Eight new courses were brought before the Board for a first read. The courses presented included Intro to Computer Science, Marine and Freshwater Science, Astronomy, Spanish 3178, UCONN French 3250, Advanced Topics in French, Chinese 4, and AP World History. A description of each was included in the Board packet. A second read and vote to accept/approve is tentatively scheduled for the January 4, 2017 Board meeting.

F. New Textbook

Traditions and Encounters: First read with second read and vote to accept/approve tentatively scheduled for the January 4, 2017 Board meeting.

X. Standing Board Committee Reports

A. Board Committee Reports

1. Facilities: No report
2. Curriculum Committee: The committee met last week and voted to bring the aforementioned eight new courses to the Board as a first review and subsequent approval.
3. Superintendent's Evaluation: The Board recently completed its approval of the Superintendent's goals for 2016/2017
4. Finance: No report
5. CREC: Board member John Vecchitto included documents in the agenda for Board members to review. He noted that there are two significant items under consideration that could have an impact on the district, a revision of the ECS formula to one that shows equity and moving the burden of proof for special education student services from the district to that of the parents. He suggested that many IEPs make unsubstantiated claims for services that can be very costly to the district.

He also provided several graphs comparing special education costs vs. enrollment and the total overall cost of an education.

6. Technology: No report


XI. Upcoming Meetings

Board members were reminded that their next regularly scheduled meeting is January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Learning Center.

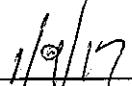
XII. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Eleanor Parente to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:12 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



John Vecchitto, Secretary



Date

For all agendas and minutes:

Board of Education Meeting Minutes are placed on our web page (www.region10ct.org) within seven (7) work days following the Board of Education Meeting.

The minutes are marked as DRAFT, pending Board of Education approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

When participating in or attending a Board of Education meeting or reviewing minutes, please note that the Board of Education uses formats prescribed by Robert's Rules of Order for conducting meetings and publishing minutes.

Robert's Rules state, "Minutes are a record of what was done at a meeting, not a record of what was said." [RONR (11th ed.), p. 468, ll. 16-18] which is the standard for which board minutes strive. For this reason the minutes will typically not reflect the discussion surrounding a motion, only its outcome.

Additionally, Robert's Rules in brief advises "The name and subject of a guest speaker or other program may be given, but no summary of the talk." [RONRIB page 149]

Both books can be found at our local libraries for anyone interested in more information.

RSD10 Chair