

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
Regular Meeting/Budget Workshop
Har-Bur Middle School Learning Center
26 LYON ROAD, BURLINGTON, CT 06013
Monday, March 13, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Phillip Penn, Chairman
Thomas Fausel, Vice Chairman
Paul Omichinski
Corey Rewenko
John Vecchitto
Bruce Guillemette
Susan Baccaro
Eleanor Parente
Brooke Joiner (arrived 7:01)
John Goodno (arrived 7:32)

Absent: n/a

Also Present:

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

- I. Call to Order:
Board Chair, Phillip Penn, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

- II. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Penn led the pledge of allegiance.

Motion

A motion was made by Corey Rewenko and seconded by Thomas Fausel to amend the agenda to include Item VII. B. A discussion regarding student transportation to the Music Festival Field Trip in Norwalk; all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

*Brooke Joiner arrived 7:01p.m.

III. Communications:

A. Student Representatives' Reports

Savanna Arcuri and Brian Drisdelle reported on recent events at the high school including the recent Drama Club production of *Legally Blonde Junior*; the commencement of spring sports; progress reports, which marked the midpoint of the third quarter; the anticipated National Foreign Language Honor Society Annual Cultural Event; the conclusion of senior superlatives; the expectation of SAT testing; and the initiation of the class election process.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Update of the 2017/2018 Estimate of Expenses

Superintendent Beitman indicated that there were no changes to the original Estimate of Expenses that was presented to the Board on February 13th; it remains at 1.89%. He also added that there was no new information to report on the state deficit.

The district received notice from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) that they have rescheduled their visitation for accreditation from 2019 to 2020. Superintendent Beitman warned that this will be a costly budget item as the district pays for hotels, meals, etc. and one that will need to be considered when developing the budget for that year.

2. Breakfast Program

The State of Connecticut has asked district's to voluntarily implement a breakfast program within their schools. With a successful program already in place at the high school, plans are to incorporate a program at each of the elementary schools beginning March 20th and one at the middle school starting in the fall.

IV. Approval of the Board of Education Minutes

A. Budget Workshop dated Monday, February 27, 2017

A motion was made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Susan Baccaro to accept/approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

V. Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Corey Rewenko and seconded by Eleanor Parente to accept/approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Items exhibited included:

- Financial Reports dated February 2017;
- Resignation notification submitted by Tara Fischer, Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher, Har-Bur Middle School, effective with the conclusion of the 16/17 school year;
- Retirement notification submitted by Phyllis Norton, Social Studies Teacher, Lewis S. Mills High School, effective with the conclusion of the 16/17 school year.

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Public Participation:

Board chair, Phillip Penn, prefaced Public Participation by recognizing that most speakers present were there to speak about a potential move to the CCC from the Berkshire League. This evening's public comment was to seek parent/student input into the process with a final decision of the Board anticipated at their April 3rd meeting.

Steve Schibi

Mr. Schibi expressed appreciation for the process, specifically the formation of a committee to oversee the potential move to the CCC. He brought forward several key points for the Board to ponder based upon conversations he has had with parents which included transportation, loss of class time, level of competition, enrollment in sports programs, and the availability of scholarships.

Patrick Schmitt (Lacrosse coach)

Mr. Schmidt provided a breakdown of the lacrosse team's standing this year. He indicated that he was less concerned about the CCC and getting to the state tournament, than his players being able to play past the first quarter.

Melissa Haras

Ms. Harris asked the Board to consider sending more students to Wamogo. She advocated for her son to attend.

Stacy Foote

Spoke in support of Melissa Harris.

Chris Loomis (Farmington High School Counselor)

Mr. Loomis, a coach at Farmington High School, has coached both tennis and basketball in the CCC. He spoke in support of the CCC and offered comments on some of the concerns noted previously. He indicated that the teams in the CCC are very diverse and he believes that the teams' exposure to that diversity is essential to meeting the cultural competency student's should have when they graduate from Lewis Mills High School.

Michael Chadwick

Mr. Chadwick referred to an informational meeting on the CCC that was presented approximately a month ago. The information provided consisted of data which he had indicated he had questions on, some of which have been answered; some pieces have not. Mr. Chadwick offered his view and asked that all the data be considered so that an informed decision could be made.

Betsy Chadwick

Ms. Chadwick asked the Board to keep in mind that a decision should be made for the majority. She felt that some teams would benefit from the move, but most would not.

Tim Mischke (Spoke on behalf of a 4th grade team in a CCC Basketball League)

Mr. Mischke offered a brief summation of his own personal experiences of playing against CCC teams with students at a younger age. He noted that the CCC is a big league and it may take a few years for the fallout. He believes that a tougher challenge is the way to go, but not necessarily with the CCC.

*John Goodno arrived 7:32 p.m.

John Gentile

Mr. Gentile felt that there was some credit in playing in a tougher league and bringing up the caliber of play and noted that he was in favor of the CCC.

VII. Actions:

- A. A motion was made by Thomas Fausel and seconded by Eleanor Parente to authorize the Superintendent of Schools on April 1, 2017 to set the date for the Lewis S. Mill's High School graduation; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.
- B. A motion was made by John Vecchitto and seconded by Corey Rewenko to accept/approve the transportation of a student to the New England Music Festival with the Litchfield team; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Business:

A. Teacher Leadership Monthly Update

Kevin Barlow, representing the Teacher Leadership Committee, thanked the Board for their support. Two important objectives of the committee are teacher retention and morale, to which he noted that there had been significant changes in all the schools. Members of the committee continue to encourage other teachers to participate.

Mr. Penn said that the level of feedback has been terrific from the Board's standpoint and asked that Kevin share his comment with the committee members.

B. Board of Education Review of the 2017/2018 Estimate of Expenses

Mr. Penn began the budget segment of the meeting stating that the goal of the evening is to come up with a number for the public hearing.

Curriculum and Instruction

No longer new to the process, Ms. Cheri Burke, the Director of Student Learning, sat before the Board with a real vision as to what she expects to achieve through the Curriculum and Instruction budget in the new year.

The emphasis of her presentation was to speak to the line items that designated increases and field any questions that the Board members had concerning those increases.

Paul Omichinski asked for a description of the Dues and Fees line item and asked that Ms. Burke share those organizations which encompass the allotted monies with the Board.

Phillip Penn asked for clarification on the Columbia University Project – were consultants coming to the district or were teachers going to the day long or week long program at Columbia, and at what point does the professional development acquired become self-sustaining.

Thomas Fausel inquired about the year-to-year fluctuations on the 320 budget line item. Ms. Burke, whose employment postdated last year's budget process, could only offer a theory, but indicated that she would acquire the details and then share them with the Board.

Technology

Leigh Pont, Head Technology Teacher, delivered the technology budget rationale. Mr. Pont noted that there were four accounts; three noted decreases from the prior year and only one indicated an increase.

Facilities and Maintenance

Mr. David Fortin, the Director of Facilities and Operations, presented the budget for his department. He explained that much of the increases noted are pushed by increasing energy rates. The cost of energy is going up as fast as the district is finding ways to save.

District-Wide Administration/Operations/Security

Ms. Susan Laone, the Director of Finance and Operations, concentrated her presentation on the budget lines which noted increases. Of significant relevance, she explained, were the three contracts currently under negotiations.

Phillip Penn expressed concern regarding the \$60,000 increase in social security and Medicare, which equates to almost 1,000,000 in salaries. Ms. Laone indicated that she would provide the logic; it was easier to illustrate, than to provide an oral explanation.

Final Review/Set Estimate of Expenses for April 17, 2017 Public Hearing

A motion was made by Brooke Joiner and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to set the Estimate of Expenses for the April 17, 2017 Public Hearing at \$39,721,734 inclusive of new funds totaling \$11,200.

A "Roll Call" vote yielded all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

- IX. Committee Reports:
- A. Facilities: no report
 - B. Curriculum: no report
 - C. Superintendent's Evaluation: no report
 - D. Finance Committee: no report
 - E. CREC: Two points of interest: Commissioner Wentzell will sit on the CREC Council with a real strong focus on regionalism and one of the CREC schools will not be built, which equates to a huge savings.
 - F. Technology: no report
 - G. Ad hoc Central Connecticut Conference Committee (CCC): no report

Superintendent Beitman reminded the Finance Committee that a meeting needed to be planned to review the bus contract. The consensus of the committee was to schedule the meeting on April 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

The March 27th Budget Workshop is canceled as the presentations concluded this evening.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, April 3rd, 7:00 p.m., in the Learning Center.

The Public Hearing is scheduled for April 17th, 7:00 p.m. in the Lewis S. Mills Auditorium.

X. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by John Vecchitto to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



John Vecchitto, Secretary

4/3/17

Date

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