

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10**  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education/Budget Workshop  
**The Learning Center**  
**26 LYON ROAD, BURLINGTON, CT 06013**  
Monday, March 14, 2016  
7:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Phillip Penn, Board Chairman  
Paul Omichinski  
Thomas Fausel, Vice Chairman  
John Vecchitto  
Eleanor (Ellie) Parente  
Bruce Guillemette  
Susan Baccaro  
Brooke Joiner  
John Goodno  
Corey Rewenko

**Absent:** n/a

**Also Present:**

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

I. Call to Order:  
Board Chairman Phillip Penn called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.

II. Mr. Penn led the pledge of allegiance.

**Amendment:**

The agenda was modified to include an additional "Action" item herein noted as item A1 – A discussion on the Middle School Field Hockey Program.

III. Special Presentation: Youth and Community Development Awards  
Vice Chairman, Thomas Fausel provided a brief history of the award's origin and nomination criteria. The award was instituted three years ago to recognize Region 10 staff for outstanding efforts and dedication in developing its youth and for building a strong Region 10 community. This year, the award recipients were Linda Carabis, Director of Student Support Services and Mr. Robert Cook, President of the Burlington Lions Club. Board

Members Bruce Guillemette and Brooke Joiner presented the awards respectively.

IV. Communications:

A. Student Representatives' Reports

Student representatives Jenna Sadecki and Brian Drisdelle reported on activities at the high school including the National Foreign Language Cultural Extravaganza, Make-a-Mark Chess Tournament, Year Book, winter and spring athletics, and the much anticipated April vacation.

B. Superintendent's Report:

1. Potential Lawsuit regarding Excess Cost Grant

Previously, discussions were had regarding moving forward with a class action lawsuit against the state of Connecticut for failure to pay their fair share of the Excess Cost Grant. CABE and CAPSS also expressed an interest.

The Board's attorney was contacted and it was revealed that an amendment was put forward by the Legislature in 2003 which added language to the grant whereby taking preventative actions to ensure the state did not have to fund 100 % of the eligible costs.

Although it appears to serve as a deterrent, Superintendent Beitman is optimistic that, either through pressure from legislatures or several organizations, the issue can be kept on the front burner.

2. Update of the 2016/2017 Estimate of Expenses

Superintendent Beitman provided an update of the 2016/2017 Estimate of Expenses from the previous budget workshop. He was happy to report a further reduction of \$75,000 was realized. The decrease was achieved through several health care initiatives.

Currently, with new money, the increase over last year's estimate of expenses stands at \$991,026 or 2.61%; without new money, the increase is \$928,026 or 2.44%.

V. Approval of the Board of Education Minutes:

A motion was made by Eleanor Parente and seconded by Corey Rewenko to accept/approve the Board minutes for:

A. Special Meeting dated Thursday, February 11, 2016

B. Special Meeting dated Monday February 22, 2016

C. Budget Workshop dated Monday, February 29, 2016

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of the Financial Reports dated February 2016:
- B. Appointments: Christopher Weaver, Assistant Principal, Lake Garda School
- C. Resignations: n/a
- D. Leaves of Absence: Casey Fortin
- E. Retirements: Pamela Lazaroski

A motion was made by Susan Baccaro and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to accept/approve the consent agenda as presented;

Further Discussions:

Superintendent Beitman introduced Mr. Christopher Weaver, as the committee's recommendation for the position of Assistant Principal at Lake Garda School, referring to him as a "diamond in the rough".

And with genuine sadness, he then paid homage to departing Principal Pamela Lazaroski, who will be retiring from her position on June 30, 2016.

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Public Participation

**Kirsten Bergstrom**

Spoke in support of the swim time/concerned about the late practice hours

**Julie Yescott**

Spoke in support of the swim time/concerned about the late practice hours

**Kim Cavoli**

Spoke in support of the swim time/concerned about the late practice hours

**Nancy Gottfried**

Spoke in support of the swim time/concerned about the late practice hours

**Kevin Dawicyk**

Spoke in support of the swim time/concerned about the late practice hours

**Terry O'Connor**

Spoke in support of the swim time/concerned about the late practice hours

VIII. Business :

A. Homework Policy: Cheri Burke

A presentation on homework practices in Region 10 was heard. It included a District Policy Overview, Current Practice, Trends in Homework Practices today and recommendations moving forward.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Board Chair, Phillip Penn called for members who might be interested in sitting on an ad hoc committee to further review the policy.

B. Mission Statement

Superintendent Beitman asked for the Board's permission to share with the community a draft mission statement with the objective of obtaining feedback. His goal is to have a short, concise, and meaningful mission statement in place and adopted by the Board for the 2016/2017 school year.

C. 2017/2018 School Calendar

A draft Region 10 2017/2018 school calendar was presented to the Board for a first review and consideration. Many of the recommendations made by CREC were followed as the district moves to a common regional calendar. If legislation were to pass, penalties for not following a regional calendar would include loss of funding.

D. Food Services Review

1. Lunch prices

With the cost of food, labor, supplies, utilities and maintenance of equipment on the rise, the lunch program struggles to remain in the black as noted by Maggie Dreher, the Director of Nutritional Services. At this point in the year, they are at a breakeven. Handouts were prepared with three estimated budget scenarios - no increase, .25 cent increase and .50 cent increase.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture USDA paid lunch equity formula, which the district as a participant is required to follow, the average lunch price for a paid lunch should be a minimum of \$2.78. Region 10's lunch price is currently \$2.50. With a .28 cents difference, the lunch program is not in compliance according to the formula. The district is scheduled for a review by the State Department, Office of Child Nutrition in June and will be cited if the lunch fees are not addressed now.

2. Draft policy 3560/Nutrition Serving Charge Policy

The policy addresses the consequences when students do not pay for lunches. A first draft was presented to the Board for consideration. Ms. Dreher presented a quick overview.

3. Policy 6161.2

The Board was asked to consider an amendment to the existing policy, which addresses lost and/or damaged instructional materials, to include outstanding lunch charges. The policy allows the district to withhold report cards, transcripts, and grades until restitution has been made. Policy 6162 would dovetail with policy 3560.

IX. Action:

A. Healthy Food Certification

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by John Vecchitto to accept/approve the Healthy Food Certification as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

A1. A discussion on the Middle School Field Hockey Program

Coach, Katie Blore; Middle School Athletic Director, Robert Samudosky; and Principal Kenneth M. Smith were on hand in support of the 7/8 Middle School Field Hockey program.

The Board was asked to consider adding the program to the 2016/2017 budget for the ensuing year, with an estimated cost of approximately five to six thousand dollars. The dollar figure is inclusive of transportation, officials, and coaching stipends. Through fundraising efforts, a \$7,000 reserve has been achieved for the team.

Several options were now before the Board on how to fund the team utilizing the reserve moving forward.

It was heard that all other middle school sports are funded by the Board and with no added fundraising efforts.

Thomas Fausel made a motion to establish the 7/8 Grade Field Hockey as a Middle School Interscholastic program and for the Board to fund the program at half the cost in year one and half the cost in year two with the remainder of the funds secured by the team; seconded by John Goodno;

The votes were cast as follows:

Yes: Phillip Penn, Corey Rewenko, John Vecchitto, Thomas Fausel,  
John Goodno, and Bruce Guillemette

No: Paul Omichinski, Susan Baccaro, Brooke Joiner, and Ellie Parente

Motion carried.

Eleanor Parente and Susan Baccaro noted that they were not saying no to the team, just the manner of the funding.

B. PSAT

A proposal was on the floor to fund PSAT testing for students in grades 9-11. Ms. Lazaroski, Principal of Lewis S. Mills high school reported that the newly designed SAT is the first iteration of the test where teachers of all content areas can make data driven decisions regarding students' literacy skills in ELA, Social Studies, Science, Math, and technical subjects. The PSAT will help departments make informed decisions about course expectations and levels of rigor. It will also streamline assessment practices which will lead to fewer assessments for students.

A motion was made by Corey Rewenko and seconded by Brooke Joiner to accept/approve PSAT test funding for students in grades 9-11 at the revised cost of \$3,572; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

C. Lewis S. Mills Graduation Date

A motion was made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Eleanor Parente to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to establish the Lewis S. Mills Graduation date on April 1, 2016; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

D. Final review and approval of the 2016/2017 Estimate of Expenses

A motion was made by Thomas Fausel and seconded by Brooke Joiner to accept/approve the budget as presented, minus \$5,000 from the Har-Bur Middle School budget and inclusive of new money for a total of \$38,983,675 which represents an increase over prior year's estimate of expenses in the amount of \$989,597; 9 in favor; Eleanor Parente opposed; motion carried.

E. Public Hearing

A motion was made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Corey Rewenko to accept/approve Monday, March 28, 2016 as the Public Hearing date for Region 10; all in favor; none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

X. Committee Reports: n/a


XI. Next Meetings:


Phil Penn reminded the Board members that the Public Hearing will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> in the Lewis S. Mills High School Auditorium.

XII. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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John Vecchitto, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Board of Education Meeting Minutes are placed on our web page ([www.region10ct.org](http://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