

MINUTES  
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
September 10, 2007

Members Present: Joseph Arcuri, Catherine Bergstrom, Beth Duffy, Barbara Gilbert, Paul Omichinski, Ray Sikora, Jayne Stocker, Peter Turner

Members Absent: Elaine Schiavone, Karen Sullivan

Also Present: Paula Schwartz - Superintendent  
David Lenihan - Business Manager  
Michael Landry – Assistant Superintendent

- I. Call to Order - The regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting was held at Lake Garda School library, and was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairperson Beth Duffy.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge was recited.
- III. Communications, Resignations - Superintendent read resignation letter from LSM Technology Education teacher Heinz Beier.

Read letter from Sue Homrok, principal of Henry James Memorial School in Simsbury, and Karissa Niehoff, who accompanied six students honored by the National Federation of High School Association's Student Leadership Conference. One of the students, Jonathan Adamski, attends LSM. Letter was sent to Governor Rell.

The Cable Advisory Council of Nutmeg Public Access TV in Plainville, serving the towns of Avon, Canton, Bristol, Burlington, Farmington, New Britain, and Plainville, is looking for an educational representative to the Council.

The Harwinton Energy Task Force awarded a \$500 grant to the "Kids in the Middle" program and a grant to the LSM Eco Club to promote "green" project. Amount of grant was not known at the time of the meeting.

- IV. Consent Agenda - A **motion** to approve the meeting minutes of August 27, special BOE meeting of July 25, and August 31, 2007 Financial Report was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by R. Sikora. Corrections include IV. K. Bergstrom should read C. Bergstrom and in Section VIII, Item G., "Website punch list for the next newsletter" should read "Website and punch list for next Community Relations Meeting." All in favor none opposed. J. Stocker abstention.

Chairperson asked that the order of agenda items be somewhat modified.

VI. Business

- A. Introduction of Region 10 Teacher of the Year. P. Schwartz introduced Brennan Glasgow, Elementary Math Curriculum Specialist, as Region 10's nomination for the 2008 Teacher of the Year award.

- V. Public Participation - As in prior meetings, Chairperson asked that along with problems being brought forth, solutions should also be included.

Beth Duffy read a statement that will be going to the press regarding the Avery Doninger lawsuit. Prior to this time, the District was not allowed to publicly discuss the matter. The statement provides the District's perspective and encourages Avery to participate in other school activities. It also encourages people to read the court's decision. Copies were available for those in attendance.

Wayne Carter of Burlington expressed support for a football program at LSM and stated P. Schwartz will be difficult to replace. In response to his question on amount budgeted for legal matters, D. Lenihan stated it was \$85,000. In the past, costs have been below this figure and sometimes above. In addition, there is a contingency fund for unanticipated costs in any part of the budget.

Dave Crompton of Harwinton requested an update on the Anthem settlement in regard to retired teachers. P. Schwartz stated the matter is expected to be resolved shortly and the outcome made public in a couple of weeks.

Laura Austin of Burlington requested that the Board look at a disciplinary policy for dealing with infractions to school bus rules. Stated it seems students can break the rules many times before they are punished, particularly with regard to eating on the bus. She would like to see stronger enforcement regarding food occur sooner.

VI. Business –

B. School Opening Report, Class Size Report, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition. P. Schwartz stated opening day and 5<sup>th</sup> grade transition have gone well; no major problems. Enrollment figures indicate there are 50 more students from last year.

C. CAPT Results – M. Landry presented the results of the CAPT tests taken in the Spring of 2007. All scores are above last year's even though this was a new version of the test.

Proficiency is the State's minimum acceptable standard of achievement. Goal is the next level up. The district is always trying to improve performance at goal level. In comparison to 2006, the CAPT results are significantly higher. All teachers and administrators were thanked for their efforts in improving student performance.

Results include:

Math  
92.6% at or above proficiency  
62% achieved goal

Science  
67.3% at or above proficiency  
55% achieved goal

Reading  
74.4% at or above proficiency  
59% achieved goal

Writing  
73.9% at or above proficiency  
61% achieved goal

- D. 2007 Adequate Yearly Progress Results. Results from the CMT and CAPT tests are used to determine how the District is doing under the No Child Left Behind mandate. The District has achieved its AYP goals in all schools and in the district.
- E. Football Program (Robert Dunn Booster Club Spokesperson, and Dave Tanner Athletic Director). The Football Booster Club has raised approximately \$123,000 to-date, to fund a 3-year football program at LSM to begin in the Fall of 2008, as a JV status. Anticipated cost for a 3-year program is \$131,000. After three years, the cost would be about \$45,000 per year to maintain, which the club is requesting the School Board include in the Athletic Budget for 2011. Approximately 40-50 students would be served.

There was much discussion on field use and sharing facilities at both the Har-Bur complex and at Nassahegan State Park. During the first year most football games would be away games. There was the discussion of moving soccer to Nassahegan. John Bergstrom of Burlington, stated that the soccer teams prefer playing at Nassahegan due to superior fields and new lighting which allows night games. There's an additional commitment from the Burlington Lion's Club to allow field use for football.

There was discussion on CIAC rules and allowing current varsity players to remain with St. Paul-Goodwin Tech rather than play on a JV team. The district would apply for a waiver to allow juniors/seniors in 2008 to play on the tri-op team rather than the new JV team.

Chairperson requested that the Board review the information presented and be prepared to vote upon the matter at the October meeting. P. Turner and J. Stocker expressed their support for a Lewis S Mills football team. P. Omichinski reminded the Board that it still needed to complete the policy governing the formation of funded extra-curricular activities..

- F. Superintendent Search Committee Update – A Leadership Profile survey is now available. It can be obtained at various locations such as schools, libraries, town halls, and can be dropped off at those locations as well. There is a downloadable version, but not one that can be filled out and submitted online.

There will be public forums and specific focus groups forming and meeting soon. J. Arcuri suggested that dates and times for these meetings be printed on postcards and mailed to households, along with a reference to website that people can go to obtain more information.

## VII Action -

- A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Community Relations Coordinator Job Description. A **motion** to accept the second reading was made by C. Bergstrom and seconded by R. Sikora. All in favor none opposed.
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of the Remedial Reading Teacher Job Description. A **motion** to accept the second reading was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by R. Sikora. All in favor none opposed.

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- C. Discussion and Possible Action on Assistant Superintendent Contract. Proposed for Executive Session.

VIII. Board Committee Reports

- A. Facilities and Grounds Committee – Nothing to report.
- B. CREC Committee – Meeting next week.
- C. Curriculum Committee – Meeting October 10.
- D. Negotiations Committee – Nothing to report.
- E. Technology Committee – Nothing to report.
- F. Building Committee – Nothing new. Need date for open house.
- G. Community Relations Committee – Meeting on September 24. Sent notice to members to discuss website.

A **motion** to go into Executive Session to discuss the Assistant Superintendent's contract was made by P. Omichinski and seconded by P. Turner. Regular meeting ended at 10:20 pm.

A **motion** to end executive session at 11:00 p.m. was made by P. Turner, seconded by P. Omichinski. All in favor.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 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 October 15, 2007 at the Harbor Learning Center.

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Karen Sullivan, Secretary