

MINUTES
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION
BUDGET HEARING
APRIL 6, 2009
LEWIS S. MILLS AUDITORIUM

Members Present: Joseph Arcuri, Cathy Bergstrom, Kathy Deprey, Jeanne Doerr, Paul Omichinski, Raymond Sikora, Elaine Schiavone, Karen Sullivan

Absent: Philip Penn, Beth Duffy

Also Present: Alan Beitman - Superintendent of Schools
Michael Landry - Assistant Superintendent
David Lenihan - Business Manager

I. Call to order – The District budget hearing was held at the Lewis S. Mills High School auditorium, and was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairperson Paul Omichinski.

II. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge was recited.

III. Election of Moderator – A **motion** to nominate Reid Matussek as meeting moderator was made by Mrs. Bergstrom and was seconded by Mr. Sikora. No other nominations were made. All in favor none opposed. (8/0/0)

A **motion** to nominate Mary Spitz as recording secretary for the meeting was made by Mr. Omichinski and was seconded by Ms. Schiavone. No other nominations were made. All in favor none opposed. (8/0/0)

IV. Secretary read the call of the meeting as follows “Legal Notice. Warning, Budget Hearing, Regional School District #10, Towns of Harwinton and Burlington. A Public Hearing for the purpose of presenting the proposed 2009-2010 Regional School District #10 Budget will be held on Monday, April 6, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Lewis S. Mills High School auditorium in Burlington, CT.

Paul Omichinski
Regional School District #10
Board of Education

This appeared in the Hartford Courant on March 25, 2009 and was posted at both town halls on March 20, 2009.

V. Discussion of Budget – Mr. Beitman reviewed the Region 10 referendum history, projected enrollment for 2009-2010, the original proposed estimate of expenses, revised additions and reductions, the increase over the 2008-2009 school year and the percent increase by town. (see attached)

The moderator opened the floor for questions and comments by the public asking that comments be limited to three (3) minutes, and that participants clearly identify themselves and the town they are from.

Janet Burritt of Harwinton voiced her disappointment over the fact that there are no funds set aside for the replacement of the Harwinton Consolidated School roof.

Chet Dunlop of Burlington asked if the Board of Education would consider having local merchants purchase advertising time on the Region 10 sign.

Kathy Zabel, Town of Burlington, First Selectman, commented that working with Superintendent Alan Beitman and the members of the Board of Education has been a positive experience. She read a prepared statement which indicated that all town employees will forgo cost-of-living raises next year and only receive small step increases. She asked that the teaching staff consider concessions so that all teaching staff can keep their job and so that the children will be less affected by the bottom line of this unusual budget.

Art Johansson of Burlington commended the Board for the budget that was presented and commented that it was a good start. He urged the Board to do more to bring costs down. He indicated that he is opposed to the addition of the preventative maintenance technician. He was delighted to see concessions by the superintendent, business manager and the assistant superintendent and urged all unions to consider making concessions. He was concerned about the increase in the funding of the football program. He stated that the Region 10 budget is 76% of the town's budget.

Ted Scheidel of Burlington questioned the need for a vehicle for a preventative maintenance technician. In addition, he urged the Board to keep as close to the contract with regard to class size (teacher/student ratio). He asked that teachers consider salary concessions.

Pam Markert of Harwinton commended the Board and the administrators for an excellent job on the budget. She questioned what she considered "luxury items and programs" such as the School Bell and the Partners in Literacy program.

Stephen Savino of Burlington asked how Region 10 plans to cut \$28,000 in energy costs. Mr. Beitman commented that this is the result of the renovations and the fact that more energy efficient equipment is now being utilized, and that we are already seeing savings. Now that we have had a year to determine the actual usage, Mr. Lenihan calculated that Region 10 would be able to save \$28,000.

Scott Tharau of Burlington urged the Board of Education and administration to speak with the teachers to consider concessions. Mr. Beitman commented that he contacted the unions and he is continuing to have discussions, part of the dilemma in the State of Connecticut is that the teacher's union is overseen by a larger bargaining group called the Connecticut Education Association and the trend right now is for no teacher concessions.

Art Johansson of Burlington asked for clarification on the class sizes with regard to the transfer of a teacher from Harwinton Consolidated School to Lake Garda School. Mr. Beitman explained the shifting and the effect on class sizes.

Liz Cornish of Burlington, president of the Harwinton Consolidated School PTA, spoke on behalf of the Harwinton Consolidated School PTA and urged the Board to not cut teachers or programs.

Ellie Parente of Burlington asked about the states standards for teacher to student ratios.

Deb Allen of Burlington commended the Superintendent and the Board of Education for not cutting teachers and programs and echoed the message of Liz Cornish.

Jim Chard of Burlington asked where the money is coming from for the preventative maintenance technician. Mr. Fortin explained that the money is coming out of the repair budget.

Janet Burritt of Harwinton defended the addition of the preventative maintenance technician stating that with the renovations and the addition of several new units there is a true need for this position.

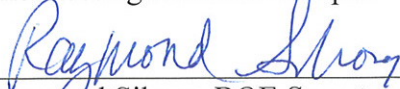
Robin Bodnar of Burlington asked what the estimated cost of the salary and benefits of the preventative maintenance technician would be. Mr. Lenihan indicated that it would be \$63,000 annually.

Art Johansson of Burlington asked if it was necessary to purchase tools for the preventative maintenance technician. He commented that considering all the comments, it seems that the preventative maintenance position is an item that should be cut from the budget. Mr. Fortin explained that if we don't add the position, approximately \$58,000 would need to be put back into the repair budget.

Kathy Zabel, Town of Burlington First Selectman, clarified that when she mentioned teacher concessions she did so with a clear conscience because the Burlington town staff, who are certified, and have been to school, and the garage union have given concessions.

As no additional comments or questions were forthcoming, a **motion** to adjourn the public hearing was made by Ms. Schiavone and was seconded by Mr. Sikora. All in favor none opposed. (8/0/0)

The meeting ended at 8:35 pm



Raymond Sikora, BOE Secretary



Date