

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2011
REGION 10 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET WORKSHOP
THE LEARNING CENTER**

Board Members Present:

Joseph Arcuri – Chairman
Jeanne Doerr
Kathy Deprey (arrived at 9:40)
Beth Duffy
Paul Omichinski
Ted Scheidel
Elaine Schiavone
Ray Sikora, Vice Chairman
Noel Turner

APPROVED

Absent:

Phil Penn

Also Present:

Alan Beitman	Superintendent of Schools
Michael Landry	Assistant Superintendent
David Lenihan	Business Manager
Jordon Brault	Student Representative

<p>Chairman of the Board, Joseph Arcuri, called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:34 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>	CALL TO ORDER
<p><u>Superintendent’s Update of the 2011-2012 Estimate of Expenses:</u> Mr. Beitman presented an updated budget spreadsheet detailing referendum history, the estimated cost share to each town, reductions in certified and noncertified staff, new funding, projected enrollment, and the adjustments from the February 14, 2011 proposal. Mr. Beitman indicated that on February 14, 2011 he presented an estimate with a net increase of 1.73% and after negotiating with Cigna he is now able to reduce the net estimate to 1.59% increase. The allocations to each town would be 33.54% to Harwinton and 66.46% to Burlington. He reviewed the additional staff cuts that would be necessary to arrive at a 1% net increase. His presentation was followed by the Board’s questions and discussion. Ms. Schiavone asked about the 2011-12 kindergarten registration at both schools and what would happen if those numbers were to grow. Mr. Beitman indicated that he would need to add another section of kindergarten if that were to happen. She followed by asking if the superintendent thought that legislation would be passed mandating preschool. Mr. Beitman said that he thought there would be some legislation passed mandating preschool but he thinks it will first be in urban school districts. He feels that it will be several years before it reaches districts like Region 10. Mr. Sikora asked if there have been years when elementary enrollment went up so much over the summer that it was necessary to add an</p>	COMMUNICATIONS

additional section of a grade. Mr. Choiniere indicated that he has had to do that in the past, but not in recent years. Mrs. Dodd indicated that grade 1 is a concern for her because that grade level is at a volatile number.

Mrs. Duffy asked what the average class size is at the middle school and high school. Mr. Smith answered that grade 5 is between 23-25 students per class and grade 6-8 is between 25-26 students per class. Mrs. Lazaroski said that the high school average class size for the core classes is between 25-28 students per class.

Mr. Sikora asked Mrs. Lazaroski if she noticed a change in the number of students who elect to attend private school after 8th grade. Mrs. Lazaroski indicated that it remains quite consistent each year with approximately 25 students out of each 8th grade class choosing to attend private school instead of Lewis Mills High School.

Mrs. Turner asked what the role of the Student Resource Officer is. Mr. Beitman answered that the SRO is not there to enforce the law, although they do when necessary. The SRO is there to serve as a resource to the students, parents, and the school and that they teach DARE and are involved in civics classes at the high school.

This was followed by a discussion on how the \$410,000 Federal Jobs Bill would be reflected in the budget.

Mr. Sikora asked if the budget increase would appear as a 2.80% or a 1.59% increase on the ballot. Mr. Beitman said it would appear as a 2.80% increase because the \$490,000 in grant funds, which bring the estimate of expenses down to a 1.59% impact on the taxpayer, are considered a one-time revenue which is netted against that number to get to the amount the towns have to pay.

Mr. Scheidel expressed concern over how the net cost to each town is presented due to federal grant funds. He said it is hard to take the breakdown and apply it singularly to the figures because the percentages change each year. Mr. Lenihan answered that the expenses and the revenues are allocated based on enrollment and the enrollment fluctuates each year. Mr. Scheidel reminded everyone to base their decision on the \$780,000.

Ms. Schiavone expressed concern over the fact that an increase of 2.80% would appear on the ballot when the true impact will be 1.59% on the taxpayer due to grant funds. Mr. Beitman indicated that he would be meeting with the State Elections Enforcement Commission to investigate how Region 10 can get that information out to the communities without to taxpayers without violating the law.

Mr. Omichinski expressed concern over the federal jobs grant funds and the fact that they are a one-time only funding. He felt that as a result an increase would show up next year in a greater percentage increase.

Mr. Scheidel commented that he thinks the budget needs to be cut more. He commented that he is focused on what it means to the towns. Mrs. Duffy responded that if the Board members look at the budget history, they would see that the Board has been fairly consistent. Region 10 does not have a 2% increase one year and then a 10% budget increase the next year. She commented that the Board's job is to maintain a high quality education at a fair and tight cost to the

<p>taxpayers and certainly this is an unusual economic climate, but she hoped that the Board would remind themselves what they are looking at in this budget, which is again a tight, conservative, carefully thought out budget that maintains the quality of education that we have maintained in our communities for many years and she hoped that the Board will think hard about making cuts. She commended that she hoped that the Board would not make cuts because they feel as though they have to make cuts, just as the Board does not add money into the budget because they feel like adding money into the budget. Increases are driven by enrollment, state mandates etc. She stated that the Board doesn't just add money into the budget and she asked that the Board look at the flip side and not make cuts just because they are worried or feel that people won't support the budget. She stated that the Board needs to consider everything carefully and thoughtfully as they always have.</p> <p>Mr. Scheidel commented with regard to the special education busses and said that under this estimate, Region 10 would still own the Special Education busses. Alan said that grants funds were used to purchase the busses and Region 10 would own the busses only until the grant funds are no longer available, which is in three years. At that time, a determination would be made as to how to handle the buses. He explained the benefits of contracting the special education bus driver service out to All Star Transportation.</p> <p>Mrs. Turner asked for an explanation regarding football funding. Mr. Beitman explained the agreement that was reached with regard to funding and field use.</p>	
<p>Mr. Tim Bergstrom of Burlington commented that he feels that Region 10 will get the support they need to pass the budget with a 1.59% increase and he felt that further cuts were not necessary.</p> <p>Mr. Bruce Guillemette of Burlington agreed with Mr. Bergstrom's comment and said that the school community would work to get the support necessary to successfully pass the budget at a net 1.59% increase.</p> <p>Mrs. Michelle Shingleton of Burlington agreed with Mr. Bergstrom and Mr. Guillemette and asked that the Board not consider additional cuts to the proposed budget. She indicated that she thought the school community would be successful in pulling people together to support the 1.59% net increase.</p>	<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p>
<p>Chairman Arcuri called upon administrators to share their thoughts regarding their individual school budgets.</p> <p>Mr. Choiniere, Principal of Lake Garda School, said that in preparing Lake Garda's budget he looked at maintaining quality and complying with state mandates. He said that school supplies are very closely monitored as are all expenses. Mr. Arcuri asked Mr. Choiniere if he feels that he had to compromise the student's education in preparing this budget. Mr. Choiniere said that he feels they are fine for now but that moving forward the elementary schools will not be able to maintain quality at this level of funding and that the Board will need to address a number of items including new testing standards as it relates to professional development.</p> <p>Mrs. Dodd, Principal of Harwinton Consolidated School said that she</p>	<p>DISCUSSION</p>

worked very closely with Mr. Choiniere in developing their budgets and that their focus is very much the same.

Mr. Smith indicated that his slight increase is due to copying and postage costs. He indicated that the middle school is able to maintain standards, but he was not sure how long they would be able to maintain quality at this level of funding.

Mrs. Duffy asked if the new testing standards apply to the middle school and the high school. Mr. Beitman answered that the new standards are for grades K-12.

Mr. Omichinski asked about the proposed new funding for curriculum development and why it is necessary. Mr. Landry indicated that the State of Connecticut would be changing their testing standards over to the Common Core Testing, which is a national standard. He indicated that this funding request would be made again next year. Mrs. Gadue answered that the new standards are K-12 standards and that they have already been adopted by the State of Connecticut in the areas of language arts, math, science and social studies. To date there are 49 states that have adopted the national standards. They have not yet come up with a national test, but that is the direction they are headed in. The testing will come about in 2014-2015. Mrs. Gadue indicated that schools can't wait until the test is developed to address the new standards. She stated that schools will need to begin preparing now by developing curriculum modifications so we are ready for the new standards. Mr. Omichinski asked who is driving this change. Mr. Beitman indicated that the State Department of Education is.

Mr. Lazaroski said that when developing the high school budget she worked closely with the department coordinators to establish a responsible estimate. The increase at the high school level is a result of VOAG tuition and transportation.

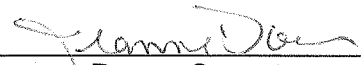
Mr. Scheidel expressed an interest in scheduling a celebration for Lewis Mills High School's 50th anniversary. Mr. Beitman, Mr. Lenihan and the Board members indicated that all would support such an event. Mrs. Gadue gave a brief overview of the library budget that came in a (-1.75%) reduction due to careful budgeting.

Mr. Scheidel asked if the students are able to take books home from the school libraries. The administration answered that yes students do indeed take books home. Elementary students visit the library every week and exchange books after the library media specialist has taught a lesson.

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Sikora and was seconded by Mr. Omichinski. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (8/0/0)

The meeting ended at 9:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



 Jeanne Doerr, Secretary

3/14/14

 Date