Regional School District #10
Board of Education Minutes
November 7, 2011
Regularly Scheduled Board of Education Meeting
The Learning Center

Board Members Present:
Joseph Arcuri, Chairman
Jeanne Doerr
Beth Duffy
Kathy Deprey
Paul Omichinski
Phil Penn
Ted Scheidel
Elaine Schiavone
Ray Sikora, Vice Chairman
Noel Turner

Absent:

Also Present:
Alan Beitman          Superintendent of Schools
Michael Landry        Assistant Superintendent
David Lenihan         Business Manager
Rebecca Spitz         Student Representative
Matthew DiSorbo       Student Representative

Chairman of the Board, Joseph Arcuri, called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invited Town Officials:
Mr. Beitman explained that each year town officials are invited to the regularly scheduled November Board of Education Meeting to offer their views on the development of the following year’s estimate of expenses.

Mrs. Cathy Bergstrom, Town of Burlington First Selectman, indicated that she understands that the Board works hard to balance quality education with responsible spending and she knows that a good education begins in the classroom, therefore, she would like Board Members to look at non-classroom positions when considering reductions.

Mr. Frank Chiaramonte, Town of Harwinton First Selectman, said that Harwinton officials would prefer to see no increases. He reported that there was little that had changed in Harwinton over the past year. He indicated that he feels that the Board of Education needs to hold the line when planning the 2012-2013 Estimate of Expenses.

Mr. Art Johanson, Chairman of the Burlington Board of Finance, thanked the Board for the fine job they did last year. He commented that he is looking for the Board to do even better this year. He reported
on upcoming projects in the Town of Burlington and he asked Board Members to do as well as they did last year or better.

Mr. Peter Thierry echoed what Mr. Johanson said. He asked that the Board do as well as they did last year or better. He reported that the grand list has seen very little increase and the Town of Harwinton has some projects coming up with no capital increase.

Mr. Roger Powell, Town of Burlington Board of Finance, indicated that Burlington’s grand list remains the same this year as last.

**Student Representative Report:**
Miss Rebecca Spitz reported that on October 27 Lewis S. Mills High School supported a campaign entitled “Say the Word to End the Word”. Students signed a large banner promising to no longer use the “r word”. She reported that students enrolled in Chinese classes will be taking a trip to Chinatown in New York City to visit a Chinese museum and to dine on authentic Chinese food. The Fall Drama Production has been rescheduled to Nov. 18 & 19 and the Mr. Mills competition has been rescheduled to Dec. 10. Mr. Matt DiSorbo reported that the boy’s and girl’s cross country teams competed in the Class M championship and the boy’s team placed 4th out of 22 teams. Kevin Sullivan qualified for the state open. The girls placed 16th out of 21 teams and Stephanie Deccy finished 4th out of all runners and will compete in the girl’s state open. He also reported that the first senior sponsored Courtyard Dance was very well attended and that everyone had a good time. Mr. DiSorbo reported that the Lewis Mills 50th Anniversary celebration was held and was a great success. Finally on Friday, October 28th Senior Halloween was celebrated and seniors showed off their creativity and wit by dressing in funny and creative costumes.

**Superintendent’s Report:**
Mr. Beitman indicated that everyone’s focus the past week has been on the storm and the cancellation of school. He reported that just prior to the storm, the State Department of Education met to discuss the lawsuit and he reported that a mediator will soon be assigned to hear the arguments sometime in the coming weeks on the responsibilities for public schools to pay for pre-school and magnet half-day tuition.

**Consent Agenda:**
A motion to approve the financial report dated October 31, 2011 was made by Mr. Sikora and was seconded by Mrs. Duffy. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries (9/0/0)

There was no public participation.

**Approval of Funding for Lewis S. Mills High School Overnight Fieldtrip for Social Studies Club to the National High School Model United Nations:**
Mr. Beitman reminded the Board that this field trip is a reoccurring field trip. He indicated that at the October meeting the Board decided that reoccurring field trips would come before the Board for just one meeting for approval. Only newly proposed field trips would be brought before
the Board for two meetings. He indicated that this field trip is a reoccurring field trip.

A motion to approve the Lewis S. Mills High School field trip for the Social Studies Club to the National High School Model United Nations and to approve funding in the amount of $300 for bus transportation was made by Mr. Sikora and was seconded by Mrs. Duffy. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (9/0/0)

Approval to hold Regular School Days on Nov. 10, February 21, and March 16:

Mr. Beitman explained that as a result of the unusually long weather-related school closings during the week beginning October 31, 2011, he and the administration recommend that school be in session on November 10, 2011, February 21, 2012 and March 16, 2012. He further explained that February 21 would have been a vacation day and that November 10 and March 16 would have been professional development days. He reminded the Board that last year the 2011-2012 school year calendar was revised to include the phrase “the Board of Education reserves the right, under unusual circumstances, to consider scheduling a regular school day on February 21, March 16, and/or April 16-20, beginning on Monday, April 16”. He commented that he would like to hold off, for now, on adding days to the April vacation.

The Board discussed other options for adding additional school days including adding back Veteran’s Day and January 2nd. Mr. Beitman commented that he would look into exploring these and other options.

A motion to approve a revision to the 2011-2012 school year calendar to include November 10, February 21 and March 16 as regular school days was made by Mr. Sikora and was seconded by Ms. Schiavone. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries. (9/0/0)

Review of Revised Policies and Regulations:
Mr. Beitman indicated that each year during the legislative session new state statutes are developed and as a result policies need to be revised. The revisions to the policies listed below are the result of changes to existing state laws. He asked that the Board members review all of the revised policies and regulations and if they have any questions to please contact him. The policies and regulations are:

Policy #5152 Bullying/Guidelines For Safe School Climate Plan
Policy #5114 Student Discipline
Administrative Regulation #5115A Student Attendance and Truancy
Policy #1500 Award of Diplomas to Veterans
Policy #5122 Weighted Grading
Administrative Regulation #5125A Education Records

Mr. Beitman further explained that in each of the policies/regulations listed below the revision was limited to the addition of the language “gender identity or expression” whenever the policies refer to the
various protected classes of people.

Policy #4111.1 Equal Employment Opportunity
Administrative Regulation #4111.1A Procedure for Employee
Complaints of Discrimination
Policy #4118.10 Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment
Administrative Regulation #4118.11A Sexual and Other Unlawful
Harassment - Personnel
Policy #5118 Equal Educational Opportunity
Administrative Regulation #5118A Equal Educational Opportunity
Policy #5150 Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment of Students.
Administrative Regulation 5150A Sexual and Other Unlawful
Harassment of Students

CREC:
Mrs. Duffy reported that for the first time since she began serving on
the CREC council they did a very comprehensive overview of all of the
CREC magnet schools, including where the students come from, where
they are at now, tuition cost, etc. She indicated she has the information
for anyone who is interested in reviewing it.

She reported that the lawsuit is being watched very closely by many
school districts. They are all waiting to see where it goes with great
interest. Mr. Bruce Douglas, Executive Director of CREC, brought up
the half-day program at the last meeting and commented that it is not
really a half-day program, he seemed to be justifying it a bit.
She also reported that there is a lot of talk about economizing through
shared services and that there is a push for a common calendar
because of magnet schools and the number of students coming from
other districts to attend magnet schools. The State has a template and
she suggested that Region 10 consider the template when developing
future calendars.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Penn and was
seconded by Mrs. Turner. All in favor none opposed. Motion carries.
(9/0/0)

The meeting ended at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Jeane Deorr, Secretary

[Signature]

12/12/2011

Date

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