Chairman of the Board, Raymond Sikora, called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:03 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent’s Report:
Mr. Beitman outlined the 2013-2014 Estimate of Expenses including each town’s share of the Estimate of Expenses, all budget reductions, the proposed new funds, staffing, projected enrollment and one-time expenses to be paid with last fiscal year’s surplus funds.

Board of Education Review of the 2013-2014 Estimate of Expenses:
Mrs. Duffy asked about the proposed new funds for the Lewis S. Mills High School Marching Band related to what type of items would be purchased with the new funding. Mr. Beitman indicated that items such as boots and gloves for Color Guard members and uniform cleaning for the entire band would now be paid through Board funds. He said that he would ask Mr. Deeb, Fine Arts Director, to attend the next budget workshop so that he may present a more detailed accounting.

Mr. Scheidel expressed interest in seeing a more accurate estimated share of region 10 increase but he understands that at this point in time it is difficult to provide precise numbers.

Ms. Schiavone asked the superintendent to confirm that the proposed budget including proposed new funds reflects a 1.46% increase over last year’s budget. Mr. Beitman did confirm that is accurate.
Mrs. Megan Mazzei, Principal Harwinton Consolidated School and Mr. Jack Gedney, Principal Lake Garda School presented the elementary schools' budgets. They each reported no significant changes and only slight adjustments. Each building’s operating budget reflects no increase in the 2013-2014 school year except for Lake Garda School has an increase of $50,025 for expenses related to students attending Elementary School Magnet Schools. This expense is something the school or district cannot control or predict.

Mrs. Mazzei and Mr. Gedney answered the Board’s few questions as they relate to their proposed budgets.

Mr. Kenneth Smith explained the budget process for Har-Bur Middle School and invited the Board’s questions. Mr. Penn asked Mr. Smith if he is noticing an increase in Magnet School enrollments. Mr. Smith indicated that last year there was an increase among students entering 6th grader. These students enrolled in the Science Magnet School.

Mr. Arcuri asked about the change in the World Language line item. Mr. Smith explained the increase in World Language and Art are the same reductions that were noted last year due to a drop in enrollment. Since the enrollment will increase next year the positions will need to be added back.

A brief discussion was held regarding the middle school proposed budget and Mr. Smith answered questions and provided details.

Mrs. Pamela Lazaroski, Principal Lewis S. Mills High School presented the high school budget and explained the slight changes to all the academic areas and departments. The presentation was followed by a brief discussion regarding the high school proposed budget and Mrs. Lazaroski answered questions as they related to the budget.

Mrs. Susan Laone addressed a question asked about the VoAg/VoTech transportation expense. She said that she would send a spreadsheet detailing a breakdown of the cost.

Mrs. Lazaroski explained that the high school has been lucky to receive grant funds from various organizations and thereby have been able to bring in many programs and presenters. Mr. Penn expressed an interest in seeing details on how the budget would be impacted if this funding were lost. Other Board members agreed and the administration offered to show the breakdown within the proposed budget.

There was no public participation.

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

The meeting ended at 8:48 pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Beth Duffy, Secretary

Date 3/25/2013