MINUTES

Board Members Present:
Joseph Arcuri, Chairman
Phil Penn – Vice Chairman
Beth Duffy
Tom Fausel
Brooke Joiner
Bruce Guillemette
Susan Baccaro
Ellie Parente
Paul Omichinski

Absent:
Theresa Foley

Also Present:
Alan Beitman, Superintendent
Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations
Robert Choiniere, Director of Student Learning
Eric Uhl, Student Representative
Jenna Sadecki, newly appointed student representative
Patricia George, Recording Secretary

I. Call to Order:
Board Chairman Joseph Arcuri called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.

II. Mr. Arcuri led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Communications:
A. Superintendent’s Report
   Superintendent Beitman stated that the tennis courts are now open for play and he encouraged the community to take advantage of them.

   He made the decision not to provide an official report on student enrollment numbers at this juncture because students continue to enroll in magnet schools or are returning to the district. This pattern should subside by next month.
Superintendent Beitman introduced and welcomed Jenna Sadecki, a junior at Lewis S. Mills, who will serve as a student representative to the Board.

Eric Uhl reported on several student activities including the distribution of yearbook photos and student I.D.s to those in grades 9-12, Pride Time day, activities encompassing Spirit Week, Homecoming Dance, and Senior Halloween.

Jenna reported on fall sports stating that Lewis Mills is off to a good start with several victories captured. Significant triumphs were also hailed by the Lewis S. Mills marching band with four excellent recent performances including the Bristol Mum, where they achieved best overall.

IV. Approval of the Board of Education Minutes
On a motion made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Phil Penn to accept/approve the minutes from the regular meeting of the Board of Education dated September 8, 2014 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

V. Consent Agenda
A. Approval of the Financial Reports dated September 2014:
   On a motion made by Phil Penn and seconded by Paul Omichinski to accept/approve the financials as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

   B. Appointments: n/a

   C. Leaves of Absence:
      On a motion made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Paul Omichinski to accept/approve the leaves as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

   D. Resignations: n/a

   E. Retirements: n/a

VI. Public Participation

Christine Kryzwick
Burlington

Ms. Kryzwick spoke about BoE minutes and asked that they be posted in draft form within 7 days of the meeting as noted in the bylaws.

Ms. Kryzwick suggested that the Board members engage the student representatives in conversations that deal directly with student issues.

VII. Actions
   A. Policy #5144
On a motion made by Beth Duffy and seconded by Paul Omichinski to accept/approve Policy #5144 and the respective regulations as presented;

Board member Phil Penn made an inquiry regarding training as it relates to the policy.

Superintendent Beitman noted that Linda Carabis, Director of Student Support Services, as well as outside consultants, provide training to the appropriate staff members.

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. Fall Cheerleading Pilot Proposal

Superintendent Beitman deferred to Athletic Director, David Francalangia and Principal Pam Lazarakoski of Lewis S. Mills.

Mr. Francalangia explained the benefits of the program to include gaining school spirit, motivating the players, creating a positive attitude, and involving the community. It would also help to prepare the cheerleaders for the winter season.

He asked the board to approve $1,200 to $1,300 dollars, which would cover transportation and supervision costs.

Discussions ensued regarding what budget lines would be affected and where the money would emanate from.

On a motion made by Ellie Parente and seconded by Tom Fausel to accept/approve the pilot proposal utilizing funds from the athletic budget; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Side note: Superintendent Beitman asked Business Manager Sue Laone to prepare for the November board meeting, the total cost of the program and where the money originated.

C. Harvard Model UN Conference/Josh Krampitz, Advisor

Students who attend the Model UN conference historically have traveled to New York. This year, the decision was made to travel to Boston as a significant cost savings measure. Additionally, the Boston conference runs Thursday through Sunday as opposed to Wednesday through Saturday, keeping students in their classrooms one additional day.

The structure of the field trip remains the same.

On a motion made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Beth Duffy to accept/approve the field trip as presented with a board contribution of up to $300; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.
VIII. Business:
   A. School Climate Update/Building Principals

   An anonymous survey is made available annually to the district's students, staff, and parents regarding their perceptions on teaching and learning, environment, safety, and interpersonal relationships.

   Each of the building administrators shared with the Board the results from their respective buildings and then identified the actions, steps and goals they planned to implement once the numbers had been reviewed and problem areas recognized.

IX. Committee Reports:

   A Superintendent Evaluation Process Committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 14th.

   The Board was reminded of their retreat anticipated for November 8th. A call for topics of discussion was made.

   Joe Arcuri recently sat in for Paul Omichinski at a meeting with state representatives for the towns of Harwinton/Burlington, First Selectman, Mike Criss, and Dean Cowger regarding a means to obtain state funding to implement all or parts of field development.

X. Next Meeting
   The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, November 3, 2014.

XI. Adjourn
   On a motion made by Phil Penn and seconded by Paul Omichinski to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:45 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Foley, Secretary

Date 11/3/14