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 (arrived 7:05 p.m.)
Theresa Foley

Absent:
 n/a

Also Present:
Alan Beitman, Superintendent
Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations
David Fortin, Director of Facilities
Eric Uhl, Student Representative
Jenna Sadecki, 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 7:03 p.m.

II. Mr. Arcuri led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Election of Officers:
Superintendent Beitman called for nominations for Board Chairman:

A motion was made by Phil Penn and seconded by Ellie Parente to nominate Joseph Arcuri as Chairman of the Board; no other nominations were cast; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.
Board Chairman Joseph Arcuri called for nominations for Vice Chairman:

A motion was made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Beth Duffy to nominate Phil Penn as Vice Chairman of the Board; no other nominations were cast; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Board Chairman Joseph Arcuri called for nominations for Treasurer of the Board:

(Paul Omichinski arrived 7:05 p.m.)

A motion was made by Phil Penn and seconded by Beth Duffy to nominate Paul Omichinski as Treasurer of the Board; no other nominations were cast; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Board Chairman Joseph Arcuri called for nominations for Secretary of the Board:

A motion was made by Susan Baccaro and seconded by Beth Duffy to nominate Theresa Foley as Secretary of the Board; no other nominations were cast; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Board Chairman: Joseph Arcuri
Board Vice Chairman: Phil Penn
Board Treasurer: Paul Omichinski
Board Secretary: Theresa Foley

IV. Communications:
A. Superintendent’s Report:
   1. The Lewis S. Mills’ Field Hockey Team was recognized as the Connecticut State Champions for the 2014 season. Members of the team were introduced by Coach Kristin Grecula.
   2. A review of the financial audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 was presented by Mike VanDeventer and Lauren Blair of Mahoney Sabol CPAs and Advisors. The presentation included Scope of Work, Auditor’s Reports, Financial Highlights, Required Communication and a question and answer period. Mr. VanDeventer concluded by stating that it was a clean audit overall and that he was very happy with the results.

B. Student Representatives’ Reports:
   Jenna Sadecki reported that members of the many after school activities were busy planning events; the Model UN club’s recent field trip, National Foreign Language Honor Society’s senior citizen prom, Mills’ Club holiday cheer events and the festive spirit within the halls and classrooms of Lewis S. Mills.

   Eric Uhl’s report included information on a recent trip to the New England Aquarium and Quincy Market in Boston; the annual Mr. Mills
contest was won by Joe Calabrese and the recent success of the drama production, "April Fools".

V. Approval of the Board of Education Minutes
On a motion made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Phil Penn to accept/approve the minutes as presented:

A. Superintendent’s Evaluation Procedure Committee meeting dated Tuesday, October 14, 2014
B. Regular meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, November 3, 2014
C. Special meeting of the Board of Education dated Tuesday, November 4, 2014
D. Special meeting/workshop of the Board of Education dated Saturday, November 8, 2014

All in favor; none opposed; Susan Baccaro abstained (November 3, 2014); motion carried unanimously.

VI. Consent Agenda
A. Approval of the Financial Reports dated November 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: (Jillian Fountain)
   1. A motion was made by Phil Penn and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to accept/approve the leave of absence as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

D. Resignations: n/a

E. Retirements: n/a

VII. Public Participation:

Jay (Student)

Jay spoke in favor of keeping the class rank system.

Emma (student)

Emma echoed Jay’s sentiments.

Superintendent Beitman indicated that the topic would be on the agenda for January.
VIII. Actions

A. Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule for 2015/2016 – First Review

The new schedule was constructed using information and formats from previous years. First review, no action anticipated. The Board was asked to review the dates, which will be brought back to the Board at their January meeting for final approval.

B. Board Policy #6145.5 regarding ATA – First Review

A revision to the policy was brought forward at the request of Pam Shechy, READ 10 President and teachers and is supported by the Superintendent of Schools.

Over time, ATA clubs "turn over" and because of the current policy, while funds generally exist to pay stipends, stipends are not provided in year one. This results in fewer opportunities for students who wish to be involved in after-school activities. The policy revisions address this concern.

C. Board Policy #5152 Safe School Climate Plan/Bullying – second review

On a motion made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Phil Penn to accept/approve policy #5152 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

D. Board Policy #4118.25 Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect – second review

On a motion made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Ellie Parente to accept/approve policy #4118.25 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

E. Board Policy #1313 Smoking Prohibited – first review*

F. Board Policy #5131.6 Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco – first review*

G. Board Policy #5114 Student Discipline*

*The focus on policies #1313, #5131.6 and #5114 is related to the electronic nicotine delivery system, which is currently being sold. The policy speaks to restrictions on age and possession in school. This is a first review with no action.

H. Formal request from Center Stage Dance – Rental Fee Adjustment

Superintendent Beitman received a formal request from Center Stage Dance to adjust the rental fee for their upcoming dress rehearsal and recital to what was paid in previous years, before the fee structure was revised and implemented by the Board. The Board heard from David Fortin, the Director of Facilities and several members of the audience.
There was no action on this item. The current fee structure applies. The rehearsal date is contingent on end-of-year school activities. The recital date of June 13th has been approved.

Brief Recess: Board Member Photo

IX. Business:
A. Fall Athletic Fields Review
   In the Athletic Director’s (Dave Frascalangia) absence, David Fortin, Director of Facilities, provided the Board with an overview of the school fields. Several teams played later into the year and the normally scheduled maintenance work was not able to be performed, but would be completed in early spring. Overall, the condition of the fields is good.

B. Grade 7/8 Field Hockey Update
   In preparation for the 2015/2016 budget, Superintendent asked that Principal Ken Smith and Katie Blore provide an update regarding the 7/8 grade field hockey team, which was implemented for the 2014 season. It was reported that the team had a successful year with 6 wins, 2 loses and 2 ties. All 23 members had equal playing time.

   To sustain the team moving forward, transportation costs, cost of officials, supplies, totaling approximately $6,000 would be needed. The balance of their fundraising efforts would be applied, so the actual cost would be in the vicinity of $4800.

   In the first year of implementation, the team would be considered an activity. The Board now as the option of moving it forwarded as a sport.

C. Administrative Regulations 4118.16A/4218.16A Family and Medical Leaves (presented for informational purposes)
   The change addresses the eligibility requirement for paraprofessionals. Those paraprofessionals who meet 950 hour requirement after May 12, 2014 will now be eligible for FMLA protection.

D. Administrative Regulations 5131.6A Drug Policy (presented for informational purposes only) Changes to included electronic cigarettes.

E. Calendar Committee
   The state has passed a law indicating that school districts must follow a regional calendar. Currently, Region 10 has a three year calendar for the convenience of parents, staff and community. The mandated regional calendar will go into effect with 2017/2018 and the district will be following the CREC calendar.

   Assistant Principal, Peter Bogen, will chair a calendar committee to bring proposals before the Board for the final Region 10 calendar for the 2016/2017 school year.

X. Committee Reports: n/a
XI. Next Meeting
The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2015

XII. Adjourn
On a motion made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Beth Duffy to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 9:14 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Theresa Foley, Secretary

Joseph Aron, Chairperson

1/20/15
Date