Amended 3/11/2019

**Board Members Present:**
Thomas Fausel, Chairman  
Bruce Guilemette, Vice Chairman  
John Vecchitto  
Dean Cowger  
Wendy Darasz  
Brooke Joiner  
Assuntina (Susan) Baccaro  
Eleanor Parente  
John Goodno

**Absent:**
Paul Omichinski  
Kathryn Bergstrom, Junior Board Representative

**Also Present:**
Alan Beitman, Superintendent of Schools  
Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations  
Patricia George, Recording Secretary  
*Sam Dorman, Senior Board Representative

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<tr>
<th>Call to Order</th>
<th>The meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas Fausel at 7:03 p.m.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledge of Allegiance</td>
<td>The Pledge of Allegiance was cited</td>
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| Communications | **Student Representatives’ Reports:**  
Senior sports are coming to a close culminating with Senior Sport’s night.

The National Foreign Language Honor Society is hosting a French Immersion made possible by a Make-a-Mark Foundation grant. Participating students took an oath to speak only the French Language during the event, which will also showcase French cuisine. |
In preparation for the ensuing school year, underclassmen began the process of choosing courses. Report cards were distributed, and Club photos were taken.

**Superintendent’s Report:**
Out-of-country field trips will remain on the agenda moving forward to keep them at the forefront. The Montreal/Quebec field trip departs on Thursday; France, Spain and China remain scheduled for April of 2020.

Projected last day of school, at this juncture, is June 13th, with three days used for school closings due to inclement weather.

This evening’s presentation of the Superintendent’s Recommended 2019/2020 Estimate of Expenses launches the budget process.

Current dollar/percent increase for regular education without new funds is $853,403 or 2.14% and $564,485 or 1.41% for special education for a total increase of $1,417,888 or 3.55%.

Estimated impact to the towns is Burlington with $944,445 or 2.36% and Harwinton with $473,433 or 1.19%.

The largest dollar/percent increases emanate from:
- Noncertified salaries – special education dictates the needs
- Private school tuition for special education students that cannot be serviced in the Region 10 School District
- Certified salaries
- Health care benefits
- Special education transportation

New Funds include:
- Social worker for grades Prek-4
- Enrichment teacher for grades 5-8
- Superintendent’s search

Budgetary issues to closely monitor include proposed “new” state Educational Cost Sharing formula, possible “new” special education excess cost grant funding formula, magnet school tuition/transportation costs, enrollment fluctuations, decline of federal and state funding, healthcare, unfunded mandates, and regionalization legislation to name a few.

Budget workshops are scheduled for Monday, February 25th; Monday, March 4th; and Monday, March 11th (Regular meeting in addition to) in the Har-Bur Middle School Learning Center. The
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<tr>
<th>Approval of Minutes</th>
<th>Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 25th in the Lewis Mills Auditorium.</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A motion was made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Susan Baccaro to accept/approve the minutes as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minutes:</td>
<td>- Regular Meeting dated Monday, January 14, 2019</td>
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<td>- Facilities Committee, Monday, January 14, 2019</td>
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<td>- Curriculum Committee, Wednesday, January 23, 2019</td>
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<td>- Special Meeting, Expulsion Hearing, January 28, 2019</td>
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<td>Consent Agenda</td>
<td>A <strong>motion</strong> to accept/approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Eleanor Parente and seconded by John Vecchitto;</td>
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<td>Consent Agenda items:</td>
<td>- Financials dated January 2019</td>
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<td>- Resignations</td>
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<td>1. Casey Fortin, Grade 7 Science Teacher at Har-Bur Middle School, submitted a letter of resignation effective March 8, 2019</td>
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<td>- Retirements</td>
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<td>1. Diane Bennett, History Teacher at Lewis S. Mills High School, submitted a letter of retirement effective with the conclusion of the 2018/2019 school year.</td>
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<td>All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.</td>
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<td>For the record there were no leaves of absence or appointments.</td>
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<td>Public Participation</td>
<td><strong>Dan Durkin</strong></td>
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<td>18 Withe Pass</td>
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<td>Raised concerns regarding the proposed reduction in staff in 5th grade; encouraged the Board to research other avenues that will not have such an acute impact on the one grade.</td>
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<td><strong>Michael Criss</strong></td>
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<td>Speaking as the First Selectman/Harwinton</td>
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<td>Analyzing close to 14 different bills (State) that could have an impact on the Harwinton community to the tune of approximately 2.2 million dollars if they were to pass.</td>
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<td>Asked that the Board take this information under consideration as they develop the budget.</td>
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**Theodore Shafer**  
Speaking as the First Selectman/Burlington

Felt it would be useful to see actual numbers that come out of the unfunded mandates as a way of educating the residents on the issues.

**Melissa Roderick**  
Leadmine Brook Road

Has three boys in special education with a variety of learning disabilities. Special education is a huge population of schools; 1 in 5 students. Spoke as an advocate for the special education community.

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<th><strong>Action Items</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Recommendations from the Curriculum Committee:</strong></td>
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<td>A motion was made by Susan Baccaro and seconded by Wendy Darasz to accept/approve the recommendations of the Curriculum Committee regarding the following proposed courses:</td>
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<td>1. Family and Consumer Science: Unified Culinary</td>
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<td>2. Career &amp; Technical Education: Architectural Drawing II</td>
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<td>4. English: Literacy Workshop (Grades 9-12)</td>
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<td>5. English: Philosophy and Ethics through Literature</td>
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All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution to accept a donation of real property:**  
A motion was made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by John Vecchitto to accept/approve the donation of real property, consisting of approximately 7.17 acres located at 12 Nepaug Road, which is adjacent to the Lewis S. Mills complex; all were in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

The property is owned by (collectively, the “Owner”): (i) Melinda W. Belcher, Successor Trustee of the Audrey S. Weaver 1994 Revocable Trust a/k/a the Audrey S. Weaver Revocable Trust dated May 10, 1994, as amended, and (ii) Melinda W. Belcher, Successor Executrix of the Estate of Herbert F. Weaver.

Several usages were discussed including additional parking and/or storage for crew boats as some possibilities; however, there are no immediate plans.
One concern addressed the tower located on the property. After having discussions with First Selectman, Theodore Shafer and Eleanor Parente in her role as Finance Director with the Town of Burlington, Superintendent Beitman reported that the tax obligation remains with the cell tower’s owner.

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously

**Recommendations of the use of the 2018/2018 Surplus:**

The final audit report for fiscal year 2017/2018 noted an ending operating surplus of $708,347 in the General Fund.

A motion was made by Brooke Joiner and seconded by Dean Cowger to direct the Superintendent of Schools to provide a refund of the fiscal year operating surplus of $206,831 and $103,679 to the towns of Burlington and Harwinton respectively to offset the fiscal year 2019/2020 budget. Such refunds will be reflected as credits against the town payments in the fiscal year 2019/2020. The remaining surplus of $397,837 will be transferred into the district’s capital reserve to help fund the first year of the five-year capital plan; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

**Early Release for High School Students Legislation:**

A motion was made by Eleanor Parente and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to support the Ellington Board of Education as they solicit the State of Connecticut to follow the lead of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which allows for the early release of high school seniors and making the 180th school day as the date of graduation. In particular, that the State of Connecticut amend [State Statute Sec. 10-161 Establishment of graduation date;](#) all were in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

**Business**

**Teacher Leadership Council Monthly Update:**

Report provided by Stacy Begert

The council met in January and started to review all of the early release survey data from the teachers, which was reported as overwhelmingly positive.
Much of the discussion at their last meeting related to the necessity of additional support regarding the social and emotional needs of students at the elementary level.

**Regional School District #10 2019/2020 Calendars:**
First review – two options – calendars are identical except for the beginning of the school year. Committee members proposed to start the school year later or with Sept 1. On the flipside, the later start equates to a later finish.

Also proposing the first day of school be a half-day for students. In hindsight, this proved to be a favorable accommodation for students when they returned to school in August of 18/19 and were released early due to excessive heat. The balance of the day will allow for a one-half day of professional development for certified staff.

First review with a second review and vote to accept/approve a calendar for 2020/2021 scheduled for the March board meeting.

**Superintendent’s Goals for 2018/2019**

A draft of the Superintendent’s goals was provided; two goals were recommended by the Board with the Superintendent identifying one. Will be reintroduced at the March meeting.

**Change Middle School Field Trip Schedule**
For informational purposes.

Middle school administration is proposing several changes to the Washington, D.C. and Canada field trips with the purpose of providing access for more students to attend. The Quebec trip would take place in 7th grade and the Washington trip would remain an 8th grade trip. A reasonable expectation is that one tour a year will make it more affordable for families.

A proposed transition year would occur in 2019/2020 where all grade 7 and 8 students would have the ability to participate in the Quebec/Montreal field trip and only grade 8 students would be allowed to travel to Washington, D.C.
The committee met on February 6th and reviewed the plan that is tentatively scheduled to be brought before the board during the March 4th budget workshop, Facilities and Maintenance. A new meeting is reserved for February 26th.

**Curriculum:**

A number of classes were presented this evening for a vote to accept/approve. Next meeting is March 30th.

**Superintendent’s Evaluation:**
No report

**Finance Committee:**
No report

**CREC:**

The state has eliminated $109 million from their budget for a school that was going to be built (Two Rivers).

A very successful legislative breakfast was recently held.

Reminded the Board of the “Burden of Proof” piece of legislation.

**Technology:**

The Technology Committee met earlier this evening. Much of their conversations encompassed the theme, “The Power of Us”, brought forward by Dean Cowger; a shared vision of community participation. The premise is to take advantage of the talent there is in the two communities, to share it and have it help with our schools.

**Diversity**

Two previous items were discussed; (1) bias training for the security guards, (2) Halloween costumes and the need to be culturally sensitive.

Superintendent Beitman noted that all officers had completed bias training when they were active police officers. Additionally, to be proactive, he is preparing a comprehensive plan to have the entire district participate in bias training.
Mr. Rau, the principal of Lewis S. Mills High School, discussed the protocol that was in place at the high school to address Halloween costume approval.

| Upcoming Meetings | Budget Workshop, Monday, February 25, 2019  
|                   | Budget Workshop, Monday, March 4, 2019  
|                   | Budget Workshop/Regular Meeting, Monday, March 11, 2019  
|                   | Public Hearing, Monday, March 25, 2019 |

| Adjourn | A motion was made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Eleanor Parente to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously. |

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Parente, Secretary

Date 3/15/19

Board of Education Meeting Minutes are placed on our web page (www.region10ct.org) within seven (7) work days following the Board of Education Meeting.

The minutes are marked as DRAFT, pending Board of Education approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

When participating in or attending a Board of Education meeting or reviewing minutes, please note that the Board of Education uses formats prescribed by Robert's Rules of Order for conducting meetings and publishing minutes.

Robert's Rules state, "Minutes are a record of what was done at a meeting, not a record of what was said." [RONR (11th ed.), p. 468, ll. 16-18] which is the standard for which board minutes strive. For this reason, the minutes will typically not reflect the discussion surrounding a motion, only its outcome.

Additionally, Robert's Rules in brief advises "The name and subject of a guest speaker or other program may be given, but no summary of the talk." [RONR8 page 149]

Both books can be found at our local libraries for anyone interested in more information.

RSD10 Chair