

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 10**  
**Public Hearing on Budget**  
**Zoom Webinar/Phone Conference**  
**Monday, May 4, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The following link was provided to join the Budget Hearing:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88901610267>  
 or call: 888 788 0099 Meeting ID: 889 0161 0267

**APPROVED**  
 6/8/2020  
 pmf

**Board Members Present:**

Bruce Guillemette, Chairman  
 John Vecchitto  
 Thomas Fausel  
 John Goodno  
 Paul Omichinski  
 Brooke Joiner  
 Dean Cowger  
 Scott Ragaglia  
 Ania Stolarz

**Absent:**

Eleanor Parente

**Also Present:**

Howard Thiery, Superintendent  
 Vonetta Romeo-Rivers, Director of Teaching and Learning  
 Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations

<b>Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Bruce Guillemette, at 7:00 p.m.
<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	The Pledge of Allegiance was recited
<b>Election of Secretary</b>	A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Thomas Fausel to appoint Patricia Paige as secretary; no other nominations were cast; motion carried unanimously.  Superintendent Thiery clarified that the traditional role of the secretary at this hearing would be to read the official call into the public record. Due to the revised process, there is no official call to a public meeting or a town referendum. The responsibility of the secretary for this meeting will be to keep and publish the minutes.

<b>Introduction</b>	<p>This is a duly noted meeting posted in newspapers throughout the state according to state statute. It was also posted in local communities a week ago. Public testimony was accepted until this evening by e-mail at <a href="mailto:testimony@region10ct.org">testimony@region10ct.org</a>. All testimony was shared with board members excluding one piece that arrived prior to the start of the meeting; all will be read into the record this evening.</p>
<b>Public Testimony</b>	<p>Superintendent Thiery read the testimony into the record.</p> <p>Carolyn Case Burlington, CT</p> <p>After a review of the proposed 20/21 budget, Ms. Case inquired what warrants the proposed Superintendent's 3% salary increase; it is not in alignment with Superintendent's salaries in neighboring districts. Tax payers' money is best spent on school teachers, who most directly impact the children and the towns.</p> <p>Michael Criss First Selectman Town of Harwinton</p> <p>Mr. Criss thanked everyone for their efforts in keeping any increases to a bare minimum this cycle. He noted that we are in the middle of a pandemic and a difficult time for the residents. He is looking to eliminate increases and is asking that the Board of Education find a way to cut the final increases to the Town of Harwinton for this year and/or pay for increases out of surplus savings to avoid the town from having to cut even deeper into its municipal budget. The increased mill rate will cause stress to an already stressful situation.</p> <p>Mary Art Burlington, CT</p> <p>Ms. Art feels that the Board should consider adding additional counselors; the ramifications of Covid19 will cause additional stress for the students.</p> <p>Tom Finan and Donna Eriksen Burlington</p> <p>First Testimony Assumed that the budget was based on circumstances prior to the Covid19 Pandemic and believes there might be cost savings due to</p>

the schools being closed. The economy is lousy; people are living paycheck to paycheck. The Board should revisit the budget to help ease the expense burden many will have to endure.

Second Testimony

Wished to raise their voices in opposition to the proposed budget increase submitted by the Board of Education; there are discretionary allowances; suggests that any increase to the coming year is unwarranted; operating at the current level should not be problematic.

Karen Martinelli

Asked the Board to consider adding a homeroom class to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade; has the largest classroom size; too crowded.

Michele and Anthony Czarzasty  
Burlington, CT

Disappointed to learn that upon Governor Lamont's executive order allowing school budgets to be adopted without voter approval, that the Board approved the budget presented rather than a more prudent austerity budget.

Alyssa Colasanto  
Burlington, CT

Currently Region 10 pays \$90/day for substitute nurses, the same as any sub in the district. A nurse has a license and special training along with greater liability to consider. At \$90, it wasn't worth putting her license on the line.

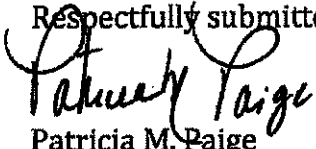
The Board Chair opened the floor for comment.

Mr. Guillemette noted that the Finance Committee held a meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> where a number of topics were discussed that would impact expenses. The meeting included discussions that were had with the two First Selectmen regarding their views on the budget, cash flow, impact to the towns, and the 90 day deferral for tax receipts in certain circumstances.

Finance and Operations Director, Susan Laone, added that a savings plan is being developed for this year which is on-coming; whether or not the schools remain closed will have a big impact on what is done moving forward.

	The anticipated 20/21 budget is based on a normal school year; however, discussions are being had on ways to flatten the payments from the towns using surplus or other cash flexibilities gained during the 19/20 school year.
<b>Adjourn</b>	A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Thomas Fausel to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Patricia M. Paige  
 Board Clerk

Approval:  Date: 7/15/2020  
 Brooke Joiner, Board Secretary

Board of Education Meeting Minutes are placed on our web page ([www.region10ct.org](http://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, li. 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." [RONRIB page 149]

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

RSD10 Chair