

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
The Learning Center
26 LYON ROAD, BURLINGTON, CT 06013
Monday, January 9, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Phillip Penn, Chairman
Thomas Fausel, Vice Chairman
Corey Rewenko
John Vecchitto
Paul Omichinski
Susan Baccaro
John Goodno

Absent:

Bruce Guillemette
Eleanor Parente
Brooke Joiner

Also Present:

Alan Beitman, Superintendent
Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations
Cheri Burke, Director of Student Learning
Savanna Arcuri, Student Representative
Brian Drisdelle, Student Representative
Patricia George, Recording Secretary

- I. Call to Order:
Board Chairman, Phillip Penn called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Penn led the pledge.
- III. Communications:
 - A. Superintendent's Report
 1. Annual Audit Report for 2015/2016
Superintendent Beitman deferred to the Director of Finance and Operations, Susan Laone, in the absence of the auditor. Ms. Laone, who made the audit reports available to Board members, read from the auditor's e-mail noting comments that the audit went well from the firm's perspective and that they have issued clean reports on the financial statements and on compliance with major federal and state programs. She asked Board members to pay specific attention to page

20 of the actual financial report, where the surplus from 2015/2016 was noted to be \$332,005. Superintendent Beitman indicated further discussions would be had later in the evening on the topic.

2. Concussion Update

Superintendent Beitman compared concussion stats at Lewis Mills High School and Har-Bur Middle School for the same period in the prior year. Board member, Paul Omichinski asked to have the information in spreadsheet format so that it can be easily tracked over time.

3. Matching Donation

On Friday, December 23rd, Superintendent Beitman received a donation of \$5,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Hu, who made the donation on behalf of their children who attend school in the district. With the added feature of a double match from their employer, AIG, their \$5,000 donation will result in an additional \$10,000, all of which is earmarked to the refurbishing of the weight room.

- B. Student Representatives' Reports: (Savanna Arcuri and Brian Drisdelle)
Returning from a long holiday break, it was reported that students were acclimating back to the school year with the first semester wrapping up and mid-term study sessions underway. Activities included the Senior Citizen Prom sponsored by the NFLHS and the Activity Fair designed to provide incoming freshman information on the clubs that will be available to them.

- IV. Approval of the Board of Education Minutes for Monday, December 12, 2016:
A motion was made by Susan Baccaro and seconded by Paul Omichinski to accept/approve the minutes dated December 12, 2016 as presented.

It was noted that the minutes from items 3 and 4 were missing from the board packet due to copy machine collating. The Board Recording Secretary will provide those missing items the following day; all in favor, none opposed; Phillip Penn abstained due to absence; motion carried.

V. Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Corey Rewenko and seconded by John Vecchitto to accept/approve the consent agenda as presented. Items exhibited were:

- Financial reports from December 2016
- The resignation of Paula Moscato-Biondino, Speech and Language Pathologist, Har-Bur Middle School/Lewis S. Mills High School, effective January 31, 2017

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

- VI. Public Participation
Jacob Paciotti, Student and President of the Lewis S. Mills National Foreign Language Honor Society.

Jacob's comments referenced Item C4 under VII. Actions, Spanish 3178.

Although the UCONN course would be a viable course after AP Spanish, Jacob felt that the AP Spanish Literature course would be of better use to students.

VII. Actions:

A. 2018/2019 Region 10 School Calendar

Currently, there is a state mandate that school district calendars within their RESCs, must align. Region 10 is unique in that it falls within the confines of two separate RESCs, Hartford County and Litchfield County.

After reviewing the proposed 2018/2019 calendar, a Board member questioned the timing of the April vacation. The proposed calendar notes a vacation from April 8th through April 12th with Good Friday scheduled for the following week, or the 19th. It was suggested to move the April vacation to the following week to encompass Good Friday thus offering a more preferred academic schedule. Superintendent Beitman suggested removing the item from the agenda and referring it back to the Calendar Committee for a response.

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Thomas Fausel to table the item until the February board meeting; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. French Exchange Student Proposal

A motion was made by Susan Baccaro and seconded by Paul Omichinski to accept/approve the French Exchange Student Proposal as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

C. New Course Approvals

Discussions were had regarding the ECE courses, items 4-7. Ms. Burke, the Director of Student Learning, explained that ECE and AP courses can both exist at the high school, giving students two different types of experiences. ECE (Early College Experience) allows students to have a more authentic experience and also earn college credit. ECE credits are accepted at a variety of colleges; between 80 and 85% of colleges accept these college credits.

Brian Drisdelle, a student representative, provided findings from his research that contradicted the acceptance of these college credits.

It was suggested to table the world language courses for further review. Ms. Burke also thought it would behoove the Curriculum Committee to have a student voice.

A motion was made by Susan Baccaro and seconded by John Vecchitto to approve items 1, 2, 3, and 8; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

D. New Textbook

A motion was made by Corey Rewenko and seconded by John Vecchitto to accept/approve the *Traditions and Encounters* textbook as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Business:

A. Teacher Leadership Monthly Update

Two members, Darren Murphy of Harwinton Consolidated School and Marlanea Elsdon from Lewis Mills, were present to provide an update to the Board. Currently, the Leadership Committee is looking into school wide interaction to bolster positive ways of communicating. Committees have formed at each of the four schools to open lines of communication in an effort to boost morale, which will ultimately improve student learning.

B. Spain Exchange (First Review)

The World Language Department is looking to expand opportunities for authentic experiences for the students and is seeking permission to move forward and have this relationship with Spain. The item is a first review and is scheduled for approval at the Board's February 13th meeting.

C. STEM Update

Ms. Burke shared that she is working aggressively to continue to grow the STEM offerings. She explained that the CMT Science exam will be administered on line this year, a change from the paper and pen exam. Next year, the tests will go away, and the following year, they will be replaced by the newly designed CMT.

A full Professional Development day is scheduled for February 17th with a "select your own courses" menu. Ms. Burke was happy to provide a list of workshops being offered that are aligned with STEM to any interested Board member.

D. M.O.R.E/ECS Reductions

After Christmas and before New Year's, Commissioner Barnes, applied the MORE Lapse to the \$20,000,000 maximum to the Educational Cost Sharing Grant (ECS), which is the largest grant given to public schools.

Burlington received a 1.3% reduction or \$57,989 and Harwinton also received a 1.3% reduction or \$34, 473, which equates to a total loss of \$92,461 dollars to the two towns.

In addition, the Transportation Grant, which is provided to school districts and totaled \$150,000 in Region 10, was eliminated in August, after the budget referendum.

Superintendent Beitman met with the first selectmen and members of the town finance committees to share his recommendations, which were to offset the decrease in ECS funding by utilizing part of the 2015/2016 surplus mentioned earlier in the evening. The towns would decrease their final payment to the school district equal to the amount of the ECS state reductions in an effort to keep them whole. A soft freeze to the 2016/2017 budget will be implemented and a memo to the community will be sent providing a district budgetary status. The Board Finance Committee will consider the payment reduction at their January 28th meeting.

IX. Standing Board Committee Reports

1. Facilities: No Report
2. Curriculum Committee: No Report
3. Superintendent's Evaluation: Superintendent's mid-year evaluation
4. Finance Committee: Scheduled to meet on January 28th, prior to the Board Retreat
5. CREC: No Report
6. Technology: No Report

X. Upcoming Meetings

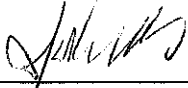
Board members were reminded of the retreat, which is scheduled for January 28th and were asked to provide topics to member, Brooke Joiner.

Board members were also reminded that their next regularly scheduled meeting is set for Monday, February 13th.

XI. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Susan Baccaro to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:36 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



John Vecchitto, Secretary



Date

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, II. 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