

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
Special Meeting of the Board of Education
(Rescheduled from June 13, 2016)
Har-Bur Middle School Learning Center
26 LYON ROAD, BURLINGTON, CT 06013
Monday, June 6, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Phillip Penn, Chairman of the Board
Thomas Fausel, Vice Chairman
John Vecchitto
Bruce Guillemette
Brooke Joiner
Corey Rewenko
Eleanor (Ellie) Parente
Susan Baccaro
Paul Omichinski
John Goodno

Absent: n/a

Also Present:

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

- I. Call to Order:
Board Chairman Phillip Penn called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Mr. Penn recited the Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Recognition of Retiring Staff Members/Teacher-of-the-Year
It was with mixed emotions that Superintendent Beitman, accompanied by the Board Chairman, Phillip Penn, paid homage to the district's retiring personnel; departing student representative; and the Teacher-of-the-Year, Robert Gauvain. All were presented with remembrances.

IV. Communications

A. Student Representatives' Reports (Jenna Sadecki and Brian Drisdelle)
The students presented reports consisting of information pertaining to final exams, National Honor Society elections, spring athletics, summer work, and several end-of-year events. Of particular significance, Jenna Sadecki reported that it was the first time in Lewis Mills' history that the senior crew team would be participating in the senior nationals.

B. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Beitman reflected back positively on the school year stating that it had been a wonderful year with the least number of snow days in some time. The year would soon be concluding with the graduation of the senior class on Monday, June 13th.

V. Approval of the Board of Education Minutes

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to accept/approve the minutes from the regular meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, May 9, 2016; all in favor; none opposed; John Goodno abstained; motion carried.

VI. Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Corey Rewenko to accept/approve the consent agenda as presented;

Further Discussion:

A. Approval of the financial reports dated May 2016:

Excess costs funds were received on May 31st and covered all but approximately \$100,000.

B. Appointments:

Superintendent Beitman introduced each of the district's new employees; Christopher Rau, Principal, Lewis S. Mills High School; Dr. Jodiann Tenney, World Language Coordinator; and Nels English, a part-time Technology teacher at Lewis S. Mills High School

C. Leaves of Absence:

There were no leaves of absence

D. Resignations:

Kristen Michalski, an elementary teacher at Lake Garda School

E. Retirements:

Brenda Crowell, a Family and Consumer Science teacher submitted her resignation effective with the conclusion of the 2015/2016 school year.

All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

-Brief Recess- 7:30 p.m. to 7:42 p.m.

VII. Public Participation

There was no public participation

VIII. Business:

A. Teacher Leadership Council

Faculty members Susan Geissler, Christina Rogers and Christina Flaherty were on hand to present the newly established Teacher Leadership Council's vision, mission, and goals. Objectives of the council include improving teacher voice and retention and fostering relationships with the two communities.

B. Homework Policy 6400

The district's current homework policy was adopted in July 1985. Board members Bruce Guillemette, Eleanor Parente, and John Vecchitto along with Ms. Cheri Burke, worked tirelessly to update the policy and are hoping to have it approved at the Board's August meeting.

C. Homework Policy 6400 Administrative Regulations
Informational piece

IX. Action Items:

A. Cancel Board of Education meeting scheduled for July 11, 2016

On a motion made by Bruce Guillemette and seconded by Susan Baccaro to cancel the Board of Education meeting scheduled for Monday, July 11, 2016; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

B. Proposed 2017 Spring Music Trip to Orlando, Florida (every three years)

On a motion made by Susan Baccaro and seconded by Thomas Fausel to accept/approve the proposed Orlando, Florida music trip as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

C. Proposed Washington Trip

On a motion made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by John Vecchitto to accept/approve the proposed Washington, D. C. field trip as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

D. Proposed Bermuda Trip

On a motion made by Corey Rewenko and seconded by Thomas Fausel to accept/approve the proposed Bermuda trip as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

E. Request to revise 2017/2018 School Calendar

Music teacher, John Deeb, made a request to the Board to revise the 2017/2018 school calendar to accommodate the New England Music Festival for that year. The calendar would be revised to move a professional development day from February 16 to March 16, 2018.

On a motion made by Brooke Joiner and seconded by John Vecchitto to revise the 2017/2018 school calendar as requested; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously

F. Policy 3170 Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers
(Second Read)

On a motion made by Eleanor Parente and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to accept/approve the revisions to Policy 3170 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

G. Policy 6167 Social Media

Ms. Cheri Burke reviewed the edits from their last meeting. Several concerns had been addressed in the interim with regards to language that was depicted in the original draft.

A motion was made by John Vecchitto/Susan Baccaro to accept/approve Policy 6167 as presented; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

H. Authorize the Superintendent to hire staff

The authorization would allow the Superintendent to hire staff over the summer if so needed and after communication with the Board Chairman.

On a motion made by Eleanor Parente and seconded by Bruce Guillemette to authorize the Superintendent to hire staff if so needed; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Eleanor Parente and seconded by Paul Omichinski to amend the agenda to include Item I; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

I. Authorize transfers at year end

A motion was made by Eleanor Parente and seconded by Paul Omichinski to authorize transfers at the discretion of the Superintendent and Director of Facilities and Operations; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

X. Board Committee Reports

There were no reports

XI. Upcoming Meetings

With the cancelation of the Board's July 11th meeting, Mr. Penn reminded Board members that their next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, August 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Har-Bur Middle School Learning Center.

XII. Executive Session

Mr. Penn, Chairman of the Regional School District No. 10 Board of Education called to order a hearing concerning a grievance filed by Bonnie Levandowski and her union, CSEA, Local 2001, SEIU.

This Board level grievance hearing was conducted pursuant to Article XVIII of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Education and CSEA, Local 2001, SEIU. Article XVIII concerns the grievance procedure and this is a Step 3 level hearing. The hearing concerned a grievance brought by Ms. Levandowski relating to her claim that she should not have been transferred following an investigation and report concerning parent complaints alleging her mistreatment of students.

Andrew Sochaczewski, staff representative of CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 was the person representing the complainant, Bonnie Levandowski.

Similarly, Attorney William Connon of Pullman & Comley, LLC was the person speaking on behalf of the administration of the Region 10 School District.

Non-contested exhibits included:

- Exhibit: Grievance
- Exhibit 2: Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement
- Exhibit 3: Investigative Report
- Exhibit 4: Letter informing grievant her position has been transferred

Attorney Connon explained that student names may be in several of the exhibits and is information protected under FERPA. During the course of hearing this information may be revealed and therefore suggested that the Board move into executive session. Mr. Penn concurred and asked for a motion to move into executive session.

Paul Omichinski made a motion that the Board of Education go into Executive Session to conduct the grievance hearing because they had been informed that anticipated documentary and testimonial evidence concern confidential information contained in student records, excluded from the Freedom of Information Act disclosure requirements under Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-210(b), in particular, subsection 11: names of students enrolled in a public school, and subsection 17, educational records which are not subject to disclosure under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; seconded by Susan Baccaro; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Penn invited the following people into executive session at 8:20 p.m.:

Bonnie Levandowski, the grievant
Andrew Sochaczewski, Ms. Levandowski's representative
William Connon, Attorney for the Board
Alan Beitman, Superintendent of Schools
Cheri Burke, Director of Student Learning
Susan Laone, Director of Finance and Operations
Stefanie Carbone, Principal at Lake Garda School
Joyce Grouten, Teaching Assistant, Lake Garda School (at Mr. Andrew Sochaczewski's request)

The Board returned to Public Session at 9:23 p.m.


VOTE OF THE BOARD

Thomas Fausel moved that the grievance be denied because the transfer was authorized by the collective bargaining agreement, in particular, management's express right to transfer, as contained in Article II and to discipline, as expressed in Article XXII, and that the Board's decision at this level be communicated in writing to the grievant and her union within ten working days of this meeting; seconded by Paul Omichinski; 8 were in favor, Bruce Guillemette abstained; motion carried 8/0/1.


XIII. Adjourn

A motion was made by Paul Omichinski and seconded by Susan Baccaro to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 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, 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." [RONRIB page 149]

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

RSD10 Chair