

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #19
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
FOR APRIL 1, 2008

EDWIN O. SMITH HIGH SCHOOL
1235 STORRS ROAD
STORRS, CONNECTICUT 06268
E.O. SMITH HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by chairperson, Fran Archambault.

PRESENT: Fran Archambault, Herb Arico, Janice Chamberlain, Bob Jellen, Therese John, Frank Krasicki, Bob Kremer, Elizabeth McCosh-Lilie, Elizabeth Peczuh, Debbie Potvin, Bill Ryan, Mike Sibiga, Bruce Silva (superintendent), Jeff Smith (finance director), Cherie Trahan (controller)

ABSENT: Sarah LaPrad (student representative)

CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION: by Bob Jellen, seconded by Debbie Potvin, to approve or receive the following items on the consent agenda:

That the Regional School District #19 Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 4, 2008 Board meeting.

That the Regional School District #19 Board of Education approve sabbatical request submitted by Marilyn Archibald for the second semester 2009, as outlined in the Master Agreement, Article IV, Section G. As recommended by the personnel committee.

That the Regional School District #19 Board of Education receive for review the 12A English curriculum, as recommended by the curriculum committee.

That the Regional School District #19 Board of Education approve overnight trip to Chicago, Illinois, May 23-25, 2008, submitted by Robert Pirrie.

That the Regional School District #19 Board of Education approve overnight trip to Atlanta, Georgia, April 24-30, 2008, submitted by Sue Biren.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Landscape Architect, Vincent McDermott, made a presentation to the board and members of the public regarding the proposed renovations to the athletic fields at E.O. Smith High School. He presented several different plans.

Board members and members of the members of the public had an opportunity to ask questions regarding the different plans.

Chairman Archambault indicated that a public hearing will be held on the proposed plans in the future.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK:

Mansfield Town Manager, Matt Hart, and Mansfield Mayer, Betsy Paterson, asked board members to consider cutting the proposed budget by \$200,000. They also indicated that they will be asking the Mansfield Board of Education to make a similar cut.

Kathryn Silversmith, Ashford finance committee chairperson, also asked board members to make cuts to the proposed budget in the amount of \$200,000.

Mr. and Mrs. Casey, Mansfield residents, asked board members to consider paying tuition for their son to attend the half-day program at the Hartford Academy of the Arts.

Willington resident, Peter Latinscics, asked what the board is considering doing in response to the decline in student enrollment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bill Ryan reported that the finance committee had met prior to the board meeting and recommended that the superintendent's budget be reduced by \$150,000.

Bob Jellen reported that the curriculum committee would be meeting in the near future.

Herb Arico updated board members on the activities of the EASTCONN Board of Directors.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Silva noted that as of this date the high school graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18th, 2008. Mr. Silva indicated he will wait until April 15th to confirm this date, just in case we have another school cancellation prior to the 15th.

Mr. Silva also updated board members on the Depot School. Student interviews are now being conducted with the first day at the Depot School being the first day of the 4th semester, April 21st.

MOTION: by Bill Ryan, seconded by Herb Arico, that the Regional School District #19 Board of Education adopt the proposed 2008-2009 Superintendent's Budget with a \$150,000 cut including the items recommended by the Superintendent.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Elizabeth McCosh-Lilie, Elizabeth Peczuh, Bill Ryan, Mike Sibiga

No: Fran Archambault, Janice Chamberlain, Bob Jellen, Therese John, Frank Krasicki, Bob Kremer, Debbie Potvin,

Motion Fails: 7.896 No 4.104 Yes

MOTION: by Bill Ryan, seconded by Bob Jellen, to adopt the proposed budget with a \$200,000 cut including the items recommended by the Superintendent.

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Bob Jellen, to amend the motion to include restoring the \$12,000 book reduction.

VOTE on Amendment: Yes: Herb Arico, Bob Jellen, Elizabeth McCosh-Lilie, Bill Ryan, Mike Sibiga

No: Fran Archambault, Janice Chamberlain, Therese John, Frank Krasicki, Bob Kremer, Debbie Potvin,

Abstention: Elizabeth Peczuh

Motion Fails: 6.792 No 4.562 Yes

VOTE on original Motion: Yes: Fran Archambault, Bob Jellen, Therese John, Frank Krasicki, Bob Kremer, Elizabeth McCosh-Lilie, Elizabeth Peczuh, Debbie Potvin, Bill Ryan

No: Herb Arico, Janice Chamberlain, Mike Sibiga

Motion Passes: 10.438 Yes 1.562 No

Discussion Item: Chairman Fran Archambault asked board members to consider conducting an outside evaluation on how to better handle special education costs and to also conduct a program evaluation and to discuss “what do want as an institution” taking into consideration the decline in student enrollment. Further discussion on this topic will be held at future board meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Breault, Board Clerk