

**Regional School District #7
Board of Education Minutes
October 24, 2006**

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gregor, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Kenneson, High School Principal Mr. Conner, Middle School Principal Ms. Perez, Superintendent Dr. Ohotnicky, Director of Finance and Operations, Mr. Roger Newbury, Student Representatives Ryan Leblanc and Mike Welch.

Chairman Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CALL

TO ORDER

ORDER

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak on agenda items at this time.

PUBLIC

MOTION by Mrs. Yard, seconded by Mrs. Sweeney and passed unanimously, to approve the Sept. 26th minutes of the Board of Education meeting.

**MINUTES
10/10/06**

Mrs. Chichester presented the Special Education Department Curriculum Report. She stated that there were 131 Special Education students in grades 7-12, with an additional 17 students in the After School Program. The department is concentrating on increasing reading activities with the help of two volunteers that come in two days a week and assist with reading fluency. The department is also developing ways to address numeracy deficiencies. In addition, the department offers help to prevent students from “falling through the cracks”. Mrs. Chichester also told the Board members about *Highlander Transition Academy*, which is a partnership between The Special Education Program and the University of Connecticut. The Mission of the *Highlander Transition Academy* is to provide students, between the ages of 18-21, with enhanced learning experiences in an age appropriate setting while gaining the skills and experiences in career and independent living environments. **CURR. RPT.**

Mr. Wass presented the Art Department Curriculum Report. He stated that the main goal of the department is to help students become better, creative thinkers. The department offers individualized instruction, project based curriculums with focused hands-on experience, as well as group learning, which allows the students to be creative and to share that creativity among their peers. Last year 12 students went to Italy with Dana Curtis, Art Instructor. There was also a visit to a pottery art studio in Simsbury, with Kathy Cady, Ceramic Instructor. This year, Dale Rogers, a professional sculptor, will be coming to Region #7 to provide students with the opportunity to meet and talk with a professional artist from the outside community.

Dr. Ohotnicky passed out invitations to the Board members for the CAFE Leadership Awards and New Board Members Reception being held on November 17, 2006 at the Annual CAFE Conference.

UPD.

Dr. Ohotnicky and Chairman Thomson reported that Phase I of the Land Acquisition **LAND**
has shown some chemical breakdown in the soil. Phase II and Phase III **PURCHASE**

are on hold, pending a response from the seller, as to the costs for Phase II and III,
as well as remediation, to be deducted from the purchase price. A response is requested
within two weeks.

Jim Fitzgerald of New Hartford expressed concerns and had questions for the Board **PUBLIC**
members regarding the land acquisition. Shelley Lloyd commented on the land acquisition,
as well as school safety procedures.

- 1) Plans for updating school security to be discussed in Nov. 14th meeting **FUTURE**
- 2) Land Acquisition **AGENDAS**
- 3) Board Evaluation Meeting to take place prior to Reg. Meeting on Nov, 14th.
- 4) Curriculum Presentations

MOTION by Mr. Gregor, seconded by Mr. Jerram and passed unanimously, to go EXEC. into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations at 8:34 p.m. SESSION

Present in Executive Session: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Gregor, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Jerram,
Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Kenneson, Superintendent Ohotnicky, Director of Finance
and Operations Newbury.

MOTION by Mr. Gregor, seconded by Mr. Jerram and passed unanimously, to come out of Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.

MOTION by Mrs. Sweeney, seconded by John Griffey and passed unanimously, ADJOURN to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Ann Bocchetta
Board Clerk