

Board of Education Minutes  
Special Meeting  
March 15, 2005

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Egbertson, Mr. Jerram, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Kenneson, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Lafave, Superintendent Dr. Roberta S. Ohotnicky, Director of Finance and Operations Mr. Newbury, High School Principal Conner, Middle School Principal Osypuk.  
Visitor: Ms. Candy Perez, Athletic Director.

Chairman Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Matt Lafave expressed his support for maintaining the position of Athletic Director. He stated that as a taxpayer it is important to get community building usage and service for the school. He said that he feared that this would be lost if the position was not kept as full time. Mr. John Griffey stated his support for the position. Molly Sexton-Read expressed her support for a full time Athletic Director and indicated that if there were a change from a full time position, the Board members must specify what activities of the Athletic Director's position are being eliminated to make the position viable. Linda Pieszak voiced her support for a full time Athletic Director position. She noted that what existed in the past did not provide adequate support for all students, particularly female athletes and the full time position has allowed time to support new programs and to develop programs like developmental soccer and the Athletic web-site. Barbara McQueen indicated that not only does this position support the Athletic program, but provides much support for school activities such as the "Names Program." Jody Height of Barkhamsted stated that the Board of Education has cut a number of sports such as freshman basketball, and that before they continue to eliminate other sports they need to look at this position.

PUBLIC

The Board of Education members invited Ms. Perez to outline the activities that are presently included in the job of Athletic, Activities, and Physical Education/Health Administrator. She explained the historical development of the position in 1998-99 and the hiring of the first Administrator to fill this position in July of 1999. She outlined all activities that are part of the responsibility of the Administrator. (See attached "Power Point" presentation.) Chairman Schuyler Thomson asked Ms. Perez to outline the function of the Unified Sports program. She explained that it was instituted to provide an opportunity for special needs students and regular students to be integrated. Mr. Jerram asked Ms. Perez to briefly discuss what was taking place as far as the development of the intramural programs. Ms. Perez explained that the Middle School students tend to want to be part of a regular team and thus the function of intramural activities is accomplished by a "No Cut Policy" on the teams. Interest at the High School level has lead to intramurals tennis and flag football. Intramural activities developed at the High School level includes developmental soccer and a basket ball clinic. The opportunity is there for programming, however, there has not been a high level of interest in areas other than noted. Ms. Perez was also asked to explain what is included in the Health Education program. She explained briefly that curriculum covers grades 7-12 and includes areas such as HIV infection, diet and general health.

PEREZ  
OUTLINE

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Chairman Schuyler Thomson called for a five minute recess for the purpose of rearranging tables for the budget workshop session.

RECESS

Chairman Schuyler Thomson asked the Board members what direction they wished to go on the Athletic Director Position. Mr. Stephen Egbertson stated that the Board members were asked to take a look at the position. He further explained that the Board has reviewed the administrative study and the position. I believe that we have one of the best programs for a school of our size. He further stated I support the position of a full time Athletic Director. Mrs. Terri Kenneson stated that she also supports the position and said we as a Board of Education need to take a stance. Mr. Dan Jerram stated that when you go out to the voters they give you guidance; and you then need to consider or re-consider your position. Having said this, I do not know that there is at this time a better solution to the present situation. I think we need to educate our constituents as to the importance of the position. We always need to look at reallocating and modifying our resources over time. This I think is part of the budget process; however we do not change without a substitute for the services being provided. Mrs. Kaye Sweeney stated that she fully supports this position. Mrs. Tara Yard said that she feels most of the Board members back the position She further explained that she supported the position fully. Mrs. Jean Lafave stated that she supports this position and has from day one. It is the job of the Administration and the Board of Education to review the position. I fault both for not doing it sooner. This position is working well and I support it. Mr. Dan Jerram stated that we need to describe exactly what the job position entails and make it know to the public that the administration study is available for their review. Chairman Mr. Schuyler Thomson stated to the Board members that they are scheduled on March 22, 2005 to come up with a figure to take to the budget hearing. He asked where do you think that figure should be? Mr. Dan Jerram said that he was comfortable with one under five percent but would like to see the smaller items in the Capital Plan moved into the regular maintenance budget. Mrs. Jean Lafave indicated that she was comfortable with the budget at this level and said that we need this year to take care of infrastructure needs and staffing options because of the greater increase that will occur in the salary account in 2006-07. Mr. Dan Jerram did indicate that at some time in the future, prior to the budget meeting, new positions may need to be looked at again. He stated that his first priority in this area was the hiring of a foreign language instructor.

BDGT.  
WORK  
SHOP

The consensus of the Board was to have administration bring back to the March 22, 2005 meeting a budget that reflects the changes in the Capital Plan as outlined above.

MOTION by Mr. Egbertson, seconded by Mr. Jerram, and passed unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Re Johnson  
Clerk

