Business Meeting

Bolton Board of Education

July 12, 2011

The Bolton board of Education held its regularly scheduled business meeting on July 12, 2011. Karen Bergin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the following board members in attendance; John Hambrook, Paula Meyers, Trace Maulucci and Matthew Giuffre.

B. Comments from the Audience: No comments were made.

C. Additions to the Agenda: No additions were made.

D. Routine Business Items

1. Communications to Board Members: Trace Maulucci reported that she received several emails and had conversations with parents regarding the possible addition of a first grade or second grade teacher. Many parents were in favor of adding a teacher to second grade.

2. Approval of Minutes, June 9, June 16 and June 22: A motion was made by John Hambrook, seconded by Matthew Giuffre to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed. Paula Meyers abstained from voting on June 9th as she was not in attendance.

3. Board of Education Committee Reports

a. Personnel: No meeting was held, however, discussions will be held regarding the BEA and BAA contracts coming up for negotiations.

b. Policy: No meeting was held.

c. Curriculum Committee: No meeting was held.

d. Buildings and Grounds: No meeting was held.

e. Finance: No meeting was held, however, Paula Meyers received a budget status from the Superintendent indicating that we currently have approximately $41,000 that will be given back to the town, $20,000 of which are directly related to Pupil Services. Paul Smith noted that the school recently had work done on treads in Bolton Center School which came in $7,000 under what was anticipated and that figure is also included in the surplus.

f. Transportation: No meeting was held.

g. Pupil Services: No meeting was held.

h. Community Information: No meeting was held.

4. Community Meeting Reports/Board of Education: Graduation was a success, despite the threatening weather. Karen Bergin noted that all four student speakers had a common thread in their speeches regarding their experiences in Bolton. John Hambrook noted that the combination of Columbia, Hartford and Bolton graduates made the evening special.

5. Superintendent of Schools Report

a. Staffing Update: Paul Smith provided the board with an update on the status of the hiring for the new school year. Mary Grande provided information regarding the need in first grade for an additional teacher based on current enrollment numbers. Karen Bergin requested that Ms. Grande provide information on the increased level of support that will be available in second grade due to the concerns of parents. Cindy Martin advised that given the number of needy students in second grade, there will be intensive learning centers in the resource room to address the needs, rather than in the regular classroom. The school has increased IA support in both first and second grade classes. Karen Bergin questioned what the action plan will be in order to address issues if, and when, they arise in the classrooms mid-year. Mary Grande noted that when teachers prepare class lists the try to balance out the needs of students in their classrooms, noting that there was a vertical articulation between first and second grade teachers in order to assist with the process. Paula Meyers questioned how administration will know if their program is working. Mary reported that teachers will need to let administration know if something is not working and the issue will be addressed. Karen Bergin noted that the expectation is that in any grade level if something is not working that teachers will come to the principals and let them know.

Parent, Mary Catherine Sonntag has a daughter in who was in Mrs. Kemp’s class last year and noted that her experience was that it was a difficult group of students who would benefit greatly from addition support. Paula Meyers noted that she did not disagree. Ginger Sciarra questioned if you make a motion to allow the incoming first graders to have a new teacher what can we do to help the second grade teachers, noting that she was fearful for the teachers. Karen Bergin noted that there is an additional plan for support so that we know when and if additional resources are needed.

b. Cafeteria Update: Carrie Burba advised the board that the cafeteria has a $15,000 surplus this year. She has purchased a new point of sale system through Nutrikids. The system will be up and running September 28/29th. She explained the value of the program and how it will work for students. The Nutrikids system links to our current Rediker student information system. As the years progress, Carrie plans to add additional components to the program, such as Nutritional Analysis. Students will be provided a code number to purchase their lunches. Parents will have the ability to log into the system and put funds into their student’s accounts. Parents will also be able to see the balance as well as what purchases their child has made. Matthew Giuffre and Paula Meyers questioned the utilization of the $15,000 surplus and Carrie indicated that she is bound by the state to to utilize the funds on cafeteria equipment or supplies.

In addition, Carrie advised that she will be increasing her lunch pricing from $2.25 to $2.30 per hot lunch, in accordance with State of CT. Actually, she noted that the State of CT allows for pricing to be increased by $.10 per year, however, she has not raised lunch prices for 5 years. A motion was made by Paula Meyers, seconded by John Hambrook to approve the increase to the hot lunch prices as proposed by Carrie Burba. MUP.

c. Veteran’s Day Honors: Paul Smith advised that on Thursday, November 10th Bolton Center School will host a Veteran’s Day breakfast, inviting local Veteran’s and planning a program. In addition, any Veteran who attends will get a ticket to the performance on that evening for the Yale Woofinpoofs.

E. Unfinished and On-Going Business

1. 2010-2011 Budget: As discussed, we will be returning $41,000 to the Town.

2. Second Read Curricula: A motion was made by John Hambrook, seconded by Matthew Giuffre to approve the following curricula: 3rd Grade Math, Grades 5, 6 & 8 Language Arts. MUP.

3. Second Read Policies: A motion was made by Matthew Giuffre, seconded by John Hambrook to approve the following policies: Policy #5131.11 Video Cameras on School Buses and Policy #6154 Homework. MUP.

F. New Business

1. District Goals: Paul Smith presented the district goals for first read.

2. First Read Curricula: Paul Smith presented the Architectural Design curricula for first read.

Matthew Giuffre questioned what professional development is provided to teachers to assure that they are current on the most recent teaching methods. Claudia Danna noted that the district looks for as many opportunities that we can find tor workshops for teachers. We use the K12 Curriculum Committee leaders to attend workshops so that the core leaders are learning new strategies and passing along the information to the teaching staff. Matthew Giuffre requested that the board be provided information regarding the professional development at their next meeting.

3. Appointment of Assistant Principal: At 7:40 PM the Board recessed the meeting in order to interview the Assistant Principal. At 8:40 PM the meeting resumed.

A motion was made by John Hambrook, seconded by Paula Meyers to appoint Andrew Gonzalez to the position of Assistant Principal for the Bolton Center School. MUP.

G. Executive Session: A motion was made by John Hambrook, seconded by Matthew Giuffre to move into Executive Session in order to discuss the Superintendent’s contract. MUP. AT 8:47 the executive session was adjourned by consensus.

A motion was made by Matthew Giuffre, seconded by John Hambrook to renew the Superintendent’s Contract and extend from 2011-2014 with recommended changes.MUP.

J. Adjournment: A motion was made by John Hambrook, seconded by Matthew Giuffre to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. MUP.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Walsh

Board Clerk