



**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes regarding minutes of meetings, the following will be used to record information during all public meetings that take place. An original must be submitted to the Town Clerk of Rocky Hill within 24 hours of the meeting being adjourned. Motions should be complete, showing the maker and second of the motion as well as how each member voted. Unanimous votes may be listed as unanimous.

NAME OF PUBLIC BOARD OR COMMISSION	Board of Education
DATE MEETING AGENDA POSTED	June 18, 2008
LOCATION	Rocky Hill Town Hall Council Chambers
DATE OF MEETING	June 19, 2008
TIME MEETING STARTED	7:00 p.m.
PERSON PREPARING MEETING MINUTES	Jo-Anne Booth, Recording Secretary
VERBATIM NOTES TAKEN	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
AUDIO, VIDEO OR LIVE TRANSMISSION OF MEETING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING

1. William MacDonald (Chairman)	2. Nadine Bell
3. Raffaella Calciano-Coler	4. Charles McMonigle
5. Maria Mennella	6. Frank Morse
7. Charles Wisnioski	8. Catherine Vargas

NUMBER REQUIRED FOR QUORUM 5 QUORUM PRESENT Yes No

TEXT MOTIONS AND RESULTS VOTES

1st MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Nadine Bell, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, to approve the minutes as amended, of the May 15, 2008 Board of Education meeting, the May 22, 2008 Personnel and Negotiations Committee meeting, the May 22, 2008 Special Board of Education meeting, the May 28, 2008 Personnel and Negotiations Committee meeting and the May 28, 2008 Finance Committee meeting.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

2nd MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, seconded by Catherine Vargas, to move New Business Item 12. through Item 16. up on this evening's agenda before the Consent Calendar.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

3rd MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, seconded by Nadine Bell, that the Board of Education accept Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar's recommendation of Mario J. Almeida for the High School Principal position and that the negotiation process be moved forward with.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

4th MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Nadine Bell, to take a brief recess at 7:40 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

5th MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Charles McMonigle, to come out of recess at 7:58 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

6th MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Nadine Bell, to accept the Consent Calendar of June 19, 2008 (with regret).

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

7th MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Charles McMonigle, seconded by Catherine Vargas, to accept Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar's proposed adjustments to the 2008-2009 School Budget and to adopt the 2008-2009 School Budget which was approved by the Finance Committee on March 28, 2008.

**FAVOR: MacDonald, Bell, Calciano-Coler, McMonigle, Mennella, Morse, Vargas
OPPOSED: Wisnioski
MOTION CARRIED**

8th MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, to accept the NESDEC Report with regards to the enrollment projections pending data confirmation.

**FAVOR: MacDonald, Bell, Calciano-Coler, McMonigle, Mennella, Morse, Vargas
ABSTAIN: Wisnioski
MOTION CARRIED**

9th MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Nadine Bell, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, to support Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar’s request of up to four additional days for early release of the high school faculty for the purposes of meeting NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) requirements.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

10th MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

LINK TO WORKING NOTES (will be attached if available)

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:30 p.m..

TIME DELIVERED TO TOWN CLERK: _____.

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING OF JUNE 19, 2008**

Members Present: William MacDonald (Chairman)
Nadine Bell
Raffaella Calciano-Coler
Charles McMonigle
Maria Mennella
Frank Morse
Catherine Vargas
Charles Wisnioski

Members Absent: Rene (Skip) Rivard

A meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 19, 2008 in the Council Chambers of the Rocky Hill Town Hall. Chairman William MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Nadine Bell, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, to approve the minutes as amended, of the May 15, 2008 Board of Education meeting, the May 22, 2008 Personnel and Negotiations Committee meeting, the May 22, 2008 Special Board of Education meeting, the May 28, 2008 Personnel and Negotiations Committee meeting and the May 28, 2008 Finance Committee meeting.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Dr. Villar notified the Board members of the resignation of Shannon Turlis who is a Guidance Counselor at Rocky Hill High School.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said Rocky Hill High School received a letter from Nina Webb who thanked the Athletic Booster Club, the Football Booster Club and the Above the Rim Foundation for the donation of a golf cart that will be used on the school campus.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said very positive correspondence was received about teacher Michelle Castagno. She did an outstanding job working with a family's child.

Superintendent Dr. Villar congratulated Michelle Castagno and thanked her for her hard work.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chairman MacDonald asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak at this time. There was no one who wished to speak.

Moved by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, seconded by Catherine Vargas, to move New Business Item 12. through Item 16. up on this evening's agenda before the Consent Calendar.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

12. High School Principal Appointment

Superintendent Dr. Villar told everyone that he was faced with the challenge of beginning a search process for a new high school principal very shortly after his assuming the role of Superintendent of Schools in this town. He explained what this search process involved. After going through two rounds of interviews, the people involved were not satisfied with what they had seen and they had not found "the right fit for Rocky Hill". This position was re-advertised for and during the second process in the first interview, the Committee realized that it had the right candidate. Superintendent Dr. Villar explained what type of instructional leader was being looked for and he went over what the successful candidate needed to have experience with and knowledge of. Superintendent Dr. Villar was very happy this evening to announce that he was suggesting and recommending Mr. Mario Almeida to the Board of Education. The Search Committee was unanimous with this recommendation. Superintendent Dr. Villar asked the Board of Education to accept this recommendation.

Mrs. Bell said she had the opportunity to meet Mr. Almeida at an interview last Friday. Mrs. Bell explained how Mr. Almeida captured her with his love of children, his focus on children, as well as his love of education which she felt was a very important attribute to have. She thanked the parents who were on the Search Committee.

Chairman MacDonald echoed what Mrs. Bell said. Chairman MacDonald referred to the interview that they had with Mr. Almeida and what came across very quickly was the passionate, inspiring and energetic advocate for the students. Chairman MacDonald explained that Mr. Almeida is very student centered. Chairman MacDonald is really encouraged that Mr. Almeida is definitely the right person to take the high school from "good to great". Chairman MacDonald really appreciated the time that he has spent so far with Mr. Almeida and he looks forward to spending a lot more time with him.

Mrs. Calciano-Coler said that she also had the opportunity to meet Mr. Almeida last Friday. She referred to the one phrase that Mr. Almeida used which was "You have to capture their hearts before you can capture their head". Mrs. Calciano-Coler said the one quality that she really admires about Mr. Almeida is his warmth that comes through.

Mrs. Calciano-Coler said she echoed what Chairman MacDonald and Mrs. Bell had said. They were unanimous and after speaking with Mr. Almeida they felt that he was the right person for this job in this town.

Moved by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, seconded by Nadine Bell, that the Board of Education accept Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar's recommendation of Mario J. Almeida for the High School Principal position and that the negotiation process be moved forward with.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman MacDonald congratulated Mr. Almeida. Chairman MacDonald asked Mr. Almeida if he would like to say a couple of words. Mr. Almeida thanked Chairman MacDonald, the Board members, Superintendent Dr. Villar, Assistant Superintendent Boutilier, and the parents who were on the Search Committee. Mr. Almeida felt honored that he has been chosen and he can't wait to serve the parents of the community of this town.

13. Recognition of Jennifer C. Viggiano

Superintendent Dr. Villar said Ms. Jennifer Viggiano had been a member of the Board of Education. It is unfortunate that she moved to Willington, Connecticut and could no longer serve as a Board member.

Chairman MacDonald said the first time he met Ms. Viggiano was during the election campaign. Ms. Viggiano had been on the Board for almost seven years and Chairman MacDonald said her insight and knowledge were invaluable. Ms. Viggiano's focus is the children and children are number one. What she has done for the children at Stevens School is remarkable. Chairman MacDonald said he was very happy and proud to have worked with Ms. Viggiano for a short period of time. Ms. Viggiano was presented with a gift.

14. Recognition of Assistant Superintendent

Superintendent Dr. Villar said this was going to be difficult to speak on Assistant Superintendent Boutilier's behalf and on her retirement. Assistant Superintendent Boutilier was the first person to truly welcome him to Rocky Hill as an employee and as a friend. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he was personally very happy for Assistant

Superintendent Boutilier but he was also selfishly a little upset. Assistant Superintendent Boutilier has so much wisdom, experience, and so much knowledge of the town. Superintendent Dr. Villar explained that Assistant Superintendent Boutilier has decided to move on to an opportunity that will be wonderful for her professionally and personally. She has been working immense hours to help Superintendent Dr. Villar get organized with regards to trying to figure out where they are going while conducting the search for a new Assistant Superintendent. Superintendent Dr. Villar said Assistant Superintendent Boutilier's professionalism is absolutely incredible. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he will miss her more on a personal level. Everyone is losing someone who has dedicated years of her life and countless hours. Assistant Superintendent Boutilier has done great things for the children of Rocky Hill.

Superintendent Dr. Villar presented Assistant Superintendent Boutilier with a small gift on behalf of the Rocky Hill Board of Education and the employees of Rocky Hill Public Schools. Assistant Superintendent Boutilier thanked Superintendent Dr. Villar. Assistant Superintendent Boutilier spoke about her decision to leave Rocky Hill, to retire and to continue to work on a statewide basis on education with the Center for School Change.

Over her thirty-four years of education, she feels very fortunate to have worked with some incredible Board of Education members, Superintendents, principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, custodians, cafeteria workers and bus drivers, etc. She told the Board members that she hoped they, as well as the Town of Rocky Hill, appreciate the work these people do day in and day out. She especially feels fortunate and more blessed to have discovered Rocky Hill. When she was seeking the position of Assistant Superintendent for this town, she spent some time here. She has come to appreciate the wonderful community that Rocky Hill has. She explained that family values are strong and wonderful. Respectful children have been created who are delights to work with. This is the norm for the children and this is what she will miss the most. She thanked everyone for sharing themselves and more importantly for sharing their children with her. Her life is richer as a result of the opportunities that everyone has given her. She thanked everyone very much.

15. Recognition of Coach Bill Pacelia

Chairman MacDonald said they were fortunate this evening to recognize Mr. Bill Pacelia for receiving the Outstanding Coach Award from the Connecticut Association of High School Coaches. A dinner had been held at the Aqua Turf in May where several coaches were awarded the Outstanding Coach Award. Chairman MacDonald has known Mr. Pacelia for twelve years now. Chairman MacDonald said it was really encouraging to see a lot of the children who were really young go all the way through the school system and end up playing on great teams. These children learn a lot about life skills and leadership well beyond the high school field. He thought these were a lot of the reasons for the outstanding nature for which Mr. Pacelia has coached. Chairman MacDonald told Mr. Pacelia that they are really proud this evening to give him a small plaque and to congratulate him on a great accomplishment.

Mr. Pacelia thanked the Board of Education and he said good-bye to Assistant Superintendent Boutilier. Mr. Pacelia said it was really humbling to be selected by the other coaches in the state and for him to receive this award. In 1993, he had been asked if he was sure he wanted this job and he said yes. He would have lacked so much in his life if he had ever been talked out of it. It has been a tremendous experience and there are a lot of trials and tribulations with regards to coaching high school sports. He can't wait to meet the new principal and get some advice from him. Mr. Pacelia said for the fifteen years that he has coached at Rocky Hill High School that Ray Grasso was a great mentor but Mrs. Donna Hayward has provided "deep rooted advice in very key areas". Mr. Pacelia said this has allowed him the ability to work with girls as well as he does. He explained some more about this. He said he would be remiss if he didn't recognize Mrs. Hayward as being a key ingredient of his success as well as a tremendous support and he thanked Mrs. Hayward. He told everyone a very sad story that had happened approximately six years ago and he said as a coach this is something that no one ever wants to hear. He told everyone what a great loss Rocky Hill is going to have with Mrs. Hayward leaving this school system. He thanked everyone very much for his plaque.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said the next person the Board wanted to recognize this evening was Mrs. Hayward. Mrs. Hayward is going to be the principal of Suffield High School after ten years of successful service in Rocky Hill. Superintendent Dr. Villar presented Mrs. Hayward with a small token of appreciation for all of the hard work that she has done and all of the lives that she has touched in this town. Superintendent Dr. Villar thanked Mrs. Hayward very much for that service.

Mrs. Hayward extended her congratulations to Mr. Almeida. Mrs. Hayward is looking forward to working with Mr. Almeida towards a smooth transition and “passing the torch of caring” onto him for a school that she has loved for ten years. Mrs. Hayward’s first impression is that Rocky Hill has chosen well by choosing Mr. Almeida. Out of five decisions that Mrs. Hayward considers being the most important in her life which were really monumental and that she has been sure about, one of these was when it was time to join Rocky Hill and one of these was when it was time for her to leave. She told everyone that she is leaving with a full heart and she is very happy with her experience here. She thanked the long time Board members especially Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Vargas and Mr. McMonigle. She humbly thanked them for their continued support over the last ten years and she told them they are outstanding public service people. The best part for Mrs. Hayward has been the students and the faculty of Rocky Hill High School who she loves very much and who she will always carry with her. She thanked everyone very much.

16. Recognition of Retirees

Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is done on an annual basis. He asked Mrs. DiMaggio, Principal of West Hill School, to come forward so that she could introduce her retirees.

Mrs. DiMaggio introduced the following retirees: Ms. Maria Szwez who has been a Special Education Paraprofessional for twenty-two years at West Hill School; Ms. Lee Brawley who has worked for twenty-eight years in Rocky Hill as a Special Education Paraprofessional; Ms. Nikki DiFazio who has been employed as a Paraprofessional for eighteen years in the Rocky Hill school district; and Ms. Barbara Caronna who has been employed by this town in the cafeteria for thirty-five years. Mrs. DiMaggio spoke briefly about each of these women and she presented each of them with a gift.

Superintendent Dr. Villar asked Ms. Audrey Boutaugh to come forward to introduce the retirees of Stevens School and Moser School. Ms. Boutaugh said the retirees were not present this evening because they were helping the rest of the staff to celebrate Ms. Janice D’Amico’s retirement. Ms. Boutaugh spoke about Ms. D’Amico who came to Rocky Hill first as a mathematics tutor and then she was a classroom teacher first in fourth grade, then in fifth grade. Ms. Boutaugh spoke next about Ms. Liz McInerney who was hired in 1992 as the art teacher for Stevens School and Moser School. Ms. Boutaugh spoke next about Ms. Cindy Rischall who has been a Speech/Language Pathologist in the Rocky Hill school system for the past twenty years. Ms. Boutaugh spoke next about Ms. Peg Spelas who worked at Stevens School for over twenty years as a full time Paraprofessional dedicating the majority of her time to kindergarteners. On behalf of herself and these retirees, Ms. Boutaugh thanked everyone for the opportunity to recognize a group with whom it has been a privilege to work for.

Mrs. Hayward thanked Connie from Sodexo for helping her prepare remarks for this evening about three food service employees who are retiring this year. Mrs. Hayward spoke about Ms. Anne Marie Donatelli, who was not able to attend this evening's meeting, and she has been with the food service for twenty-one years. Mrs. Hayward spoke about Ms. Flo Bruno, who also was not able to attend this evening's meeting, and she has been an icon for years and years in this town as a server on the main hot lunch line. Mrs. Hayward spoke about Ms. Nella Liberatore, who was present this evening, and she has been working with Rocky Hill for thirty-two years. Mrs. Hayward spoke briefly about each of these women as she mentioned their names and she asked Ms. Liberatore to come forward.

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Nadine Bell, to take a brief recess at 7:40 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Charles McMonigle, to come out of recess at 7:58 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

1. Consent Calendar

Superintendent Dr. Villar said the Consent Calendar listed the retirement of Assistant Superintendent Boutilier.

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Nadine Bell, to accept the Consent Calendar of June 19, 2008 (with regret).

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2. Personnel and Negotiations

No report was given.

3. Policy

No report was given.

4. Finance

No report was given.

5. Curriculum

No report was given.

6. Professional Development

No report was given.

7. Facilities

No report was given.

8. Technology

No report was given.

9. Transportation/Accommodations

No report was given.

10. Liaison

No report was given.

OLD BUSINESS

11. March 13, 2008 Meeting Minutes – Tabled from May 15, 2008

Superintendent Dr. Villar explained that these Minutes had been tabled at the Board of Education meeting which was held on May 15, 2008 but these Minutes had actually been approved at the Board of Education meeting that had been held on March 20, 2008. This was a clerical error and this just needed to be taken off of the table with no further action needed.

17. Budget Approval

Superintendent Dr. Villar told the Board members that he was asking them to accept his proposed adjustments to the 2008-2009 School Budget which had incorporated nearly \$600,000 worth of cuts. He explained that this budget is not perfect but it represents his best effort at meeting the needs of the district within the financial constraints and the time constraints that were presented to him. He went over what was accomplished in the last few months and what he intended on doing. He explained that he is charged

with the responsibility of managing the current system which in itself is a very demanding job and he asked the Board to accept his recommendations this evening.

Moved by Charles McMonigle, seconded by Catherine Vargas, to accept Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar's proposed adjustments to the 2008-2009 School Budget and to adopt the 2008-2009 School Budget which was approved by the Finance Committee on March 28, 2008.

**FAVOR: MacDonald, Bell, Calciano-Coler, McMonigle, Mennella, Morse, Vargas
OPPOSED: Wisnioski
MOTION CARRIED**

Before this motion was voted on, Chairman MacDonald asked the Board members if they had any comments or if they wanted to have a discussion with regards to this. Mr. Wisnioski said he would make a comment after he voted.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Mr. Wisnioski recognized the effort that Superintendent Dr. Villar and the staff made to deal with an extremely difficult situation of a substantial cut and an attempt for basic

changes to be made in how the district curriculum will be determined and managed. Mr. Wisnioski said he and Superintendent Dr. Villar have talked about the issues in the budget that he disagrees with and he was not going to vote for it. Chairman MacDonald told Mr. Wisnioski that he appreciated his candid conversations. Chairman MacDonald's opinion was that the best of a bad situation was made. He applauded Superintendent Dr. Villar for his work in coming up with this really tough list.

18. NESDEC Enrollment Projections

Superintendent Dr. Villar said the district has contracted NESDEC (New England School Development Council) to do an enrollment projection in order to satisfy the State Department of Education's requirements for school construction projects. He explained some more about what NESDEC does and about the cohort survival technique model that it uses. NESDEC is projecting steady growth in this town through the year 2015-2016 in the school age population and it is projecting an increase of 3.5 % of students through this timeframe. Dr. Prawda had projected an increase of 7.2% through this same timeframe. The Connecticut State Data Center had projected a decrease of 3.3%. He explained that this projection from NESDEC falls nearly in the middle of the two extremes that are represented by existing projections. He recommended that the Board of Education adopts this necessary projection this evening. He passed out to the members of the Board a recent correction that he received in an e-mail from Don Kennedy of NESDEC. Superintendent Dr. Villar explained what the error had been. He read a synopsis from this e-mail and he explained how this error should have no impact on the projections.

Mr. Wisnioski made some comments about the accuracy of the information that was provided. He gave to Superintendent Dr. Villar data from the Department of Economic and Community Development. Mr. Wisnioski thought that the report with the state that this town might rely upon should be as accurate and complete as it can be. He asked that there be some statement about the distinction between Active Adult permits, Adult Housing permits and permits for houses in which children can reside.

Chairman MacDonald asked Superintendent Dr. Villar if he could follow up on this and if there are any modifications to the report in the tables or the index that need to be made for them to be made. Chairman MacDonald's feeling is that this is a mid-ground position between the two. He felt there was enough data in this report that is reliable enough for the Board members to act on tonight to adopt as the enrollment projection for which the process will want to be continued on.

Superintendent Dr. Villar explained that the process was that this district became a member of NESDEC in the efforts to secure this report. He explained some more about this. His understanding after having discussed this with David Wedge from the State Department of Education was that this district's obligation is to do due diligence in securing accurate accepted enrollment projections from an accepted authority in that area. NESDEC meets their requirements.

Mr. Wisnioski started to refer to the accuracy of this. Chairman MacDonald said there is a due obligation of Superintendent Dr. Villar as well as of NESDEC to get back to this Board if this report is revised, if there is any erroneous data and if it changes the overall projection. Chairman MacDonald says everybody wants transparency and accuracy. He told Superintendent Dr. Villar that he thought he heard him and understood that if there are omissions, errors, or changes that need to be made as a result of some of the data that had just been passed around that he would coordinate this with NESDEC and there will be a revised report if it changes the overall direction of the enrollment. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he would contact NESDEC tomorrow and verify the accuracy of all of the data again with them. Chairman MacDonald said he is comfortable with this report and he told the members of the Board that if any of them aren't for them not to vote for it. He told the Board members that he didn't think it was their call to tell NESDEC to add in different data but if there is data in this report that is inaccurate then everyone agreed it will get fixed.

Mrs. Vargas asked if this was being accepted this evening so that when a presentation is being made to the Town Council that it can be said this is the source for the enrollment projections. Superintendent Dr. Villar said yes.

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, to accept the NESDEC Report with regards to the enrollment projections pending data confirmation.

FAVOR: MacDonald, Bell, Calciano-Coler, McMonigle, Mennella, Morse, Vargas
ABSTAIN: Wisnioski
MOTION CARRIED

19. Full Day Kindergarten

Superintendent Dr. Villar distributed to everybody a copy of a handout and he explained that what he was presenting this evening was a suggestion for the Board to consider. He was hoping to get feedback from the Board in the sense of consensus that this is a reasonable way to proceed as he is meeting weekly with the Architects who are currently in the process of designing the total costs and configuration of the new third elementary school for referendum purposes. The Board had approved Option One in the Elementary Facilities Plan and had sent that to the Town Council for their information and for them to act to the process in their hiring of Friar Associates and O & G Industries. Superintendent Dr. Villar explained about some of the work that he has been doing with the Architects. One important aspect of the educational specification is the accommodation for a full day kindergarten. He wanted to bring this to the Board to get consensus on a potential way of implementing a full day kindergarten in this town over time. He went over the implementation plan that everyone had and how it consisted of two phases. In the first phase model, an option of full day kindergarten would be able to be provided at each of the elementary schools. This would be dependent on a blind lottery that would be conducted within each school's home district to select the children who would be eligible for a full day kindergarten. Other students would have the opportunity to be provided with part time kindergarten. This would allow the town the opportunity to grow into the idea of full day kindergarten. He went over numbers that were presented in this model. This would be based on a class size of a maximum of twenty students. He went over the costs associated with Phase One. One figure that was used to budget for each of the two additional kindergarten teachers (two full time FTEs) would be \$61,000 which would also include benefits. An additional two Paraprofessionals have also been budgeted for as well as curriculum development funds and instructional materials. The estimate at this time is approximately \$207,000 of costs for full day kindergarten as an option in Phase One.

With regards to Phase Two, some type of renovation and addition will have to be successfully completed on Stevens School. There will be approximately ten additional rooms and this will provide the town with the capability of adding additional full day kindergarten classes districtwide. Some of the streets in districting would also have to be examined in order to ensure that there will be the necessary equal distribution among the three elementary schools. Moser School would have four full time sessions of kindergarten, Stevens School would be capable of having three full time sessions of kindergarten and West Hill School would have four full time sessions of kindergarten. There would still be the option that could be decided much later on by the Board with regards to having some part time kindergarten and this would not require additional facilities.

Superintendent Dr. Villar explained that under Connecticut Statute, families are not required to enroll their children in kindergarten. For Phase Two, the costs would be an additional three kindergarten teachers, an additional three Paraprofessionals and some classroom materials. Some savings would be seen in transportation because midday runs would be eliminated for part time kindergarten. There would be an additional cost of approximately \$229,000.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is the best plan now with regards to how he would recommend this district look to implement full day kindergarten. There could be significant changes and he explained about these. He wanted to give the Board information about all of this because he is meeting with the Architects tomorrow morning and he wanted to get some feedback to see if there is consensus that this is the direction the Board intended when it approved Option One in the Facilities Plan.

Mrs. Bell told Superintendent Dr. Villar that she supports all day kindergarten in the proposal that he had before them. Mrs. Bell asked Superintendent Dr. Villar if he had any ideas as to how the quality and the consistency of curriculum would be balanced between full day and half day kindergarten. Superintendent Dr. Villar said there are significantly different approaches in instruction between full day kindergarten and half day kindergarten. The core curriculum would be the same but the issue will be the time that will be engaged in different learning styles with different children. He also said there are many families who believe that they can offer their own educational opportunities in the afternoon. He explained why he likes the idea of being able to phase full day kindergarten in.

Mrs. Bell referred to the transportation savings that Superintendent Dr. Villar had spoken about. In the past, bus runs had been set up by neighborhood and now different kinds of bus runs would be done. She explained some more and she wanted it to be taken into account that in the future this wouldn't necessarily be a one for one savings. Superintendent Dr. Villar said part of the costs of a new elementary school will be the additional bus runs that are required. He told Mrs. Bell that she was right and there will be more routes as well as more transportation but technically, money will be saved from the midday although three more buses in total will have to be added on for a new elementary school to come online.

Mrs. Vargas mentioned how from a state perspective that full day kindergarten was going to be mandated at some point and she asked if there was a status on this. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he has met with the Commissioner several times. Superintendent Dr. Villar's personal perspective is if the state decides to mandate full day kindergarten that it will happen in priority school districts that are failing to make adequate progress under NCLB (No Child Left Behind). Rocky Hill is doing very well overall. He explained about the new legislation that was passed in July. He is not certain if the Commissioner would have the authority to mandate this to Rocky Hill. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he would suggest it because it is a very sound practice educationally but he didn't think in the next five years that people would see a mandate.

Mr. McMonigle said he liked the first model in which there is the ability to give parents a choice. He asked Superintendent Dr. Villar what his forecast is for a Pre-K impact on Rocky Hill and its space needs as it goes forward. Superintendent Dr. Villar said Rocky Hill is under a mandate for preschool education. A Child Find has to be done under the law and the district has to begin to work with the community to identify children between birth and three years old who may have Special Needs and need preschool education. Rocky Hill does offer this program. There is also the mandate that these children attend preschool with nondisabled peers of a similar age. He went over what the plan would be in Rocky Hill with regards to preschool.

Mr. Morse said he is in favor of all day kindergarten and he understood that this will have to be phased in. He didn't like hearing that five or six years down the road people will

still be given the option of all day kindergarten versus half day kindergarten because he would like to see everybody going into first grade with the same advantages. Once the buildings are built, he would like to see this district going to all day kindergarten.

Mrs. Calciano-Coler agreed that full day kindergarten should be an option and she thinks that parents should have the option as to whether or not this would be the thing for their children. She read some articles with regards to whether or not full day kindergarten or half day kindergarten gets children to an advanced level and she elaborated on this some more.

Mrs. Mennella said she supports Phase One but she was concerned about the lottery for full day kindergarten. Superintendent Dr. Villar stated that this plan has two phases which he explained about again. He then explained about the blind lottery in which he has experience with regards to running.

Mr. Wisnioski said that he didn't fully understand this plan which the Board members received this evening. He asked Superintendent Dr. Villar if his intent was dependent upon an affirmative vote on a referendum. Superintendent Dr. Villar said it was. Mr. Wisnioski asked if this will be put off until the next anticipated referendum question if the community rejects the building of a new school in November of this year. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this was correct. Mr. Wisnioski went over Phase One and what it would add to the annual operating budget. Superintendent Dr. Villar clarified what the associated cost for this plan would be. Mr. Wisnioski said he didn't understand the additional cost of the Pre-K with regards to the operational part of it and how many children there presently are in Pre-K. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he would have to get back to the Board with this information. Mrs. Bell said the town provides some of the funding for Bright Beginnings. Superintendent Dr. Villar explained about the budgeting process for Pre-K and how it is a much more elaborate budgeting process. Mr. Wisnioski asked if the taxpayers of this town pay this or if the money is channeled from the state, to the Town Council and back to the Board. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he would have to get back to the Board with this answer.

Mr. Wisnioski asked if there are variations that can be offered (i.e. transitional program) that would take away the argument that students who attend full day kindergarten will be learning at a different rate from those who attend half day kindergarten. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he hasn't given a lot of thought to a transitional program but it would be something that would be worth talking to the Assistant Superintendent and staff about. Mr. Wisnioski asked if the lottery is only for those students who chose to participate in the full day kindergarten. Superintendent Dr. Villar suggested that there be a survey for the interest in this. He went into more detail about this. He referred to Cromwell and how there are not a significant number of families there who aren't interested in the full day kindergarten option and he suspects that Rocky Hill would be equally popular. Mr. Wisnioski referred to the handout that was given out this evening and he asked what NESDEC is projecting for 2011-2012 and how this compares to the numbers that

Superintendent Dr. Villar used in the kindergarten presentation this evening. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the peak projection is two hundred and five students in 2015. Mr. Wisnioski asked at what point 80% of the children would be in full day kindergarten and 20% would be in half day kindergarten. Superintendent Dr. Villar went over what this plan would recommend. Mr. Wisnioski asked if Pre-K is a full day program and Superintendent Dr. Villar said it isn't. Mr. Wisnioski asked if there would be a classroom out of use for half of a day. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the classroom would be used the majority of the day but it wouldn't be filled with children all day. Mr. Wisnioski asked if the classroom could be used for half day kindergarten but Superintendent Dr. Villar explained that there would be different seating arrangements and curriculum materials, etc. Mr. Wisnioski asked if there could be some flexibility if it came down to the last question for the last voter to have the referendum approved or not approved. Superintendent Dr. Villar said there is significant flexibility in the capacity of full day kindergarten. Mr. Wisnioski clarified what Phase Two is.

Chairman MacDonald said he has always been in favor of full day kindergarten and he hopes that Rocky Hill will be able to provide full day kindergarten availability to everyone who wants it with the referendum. He asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak with regards to this. Mr. Ed Chiucarello said he had asked a couple of his fellow colleagues from Hartford who were two kindergarten teachers to come and address the Board this evening. These two teachers weren't present this evening but Mr. Chiucarello explained how they had taught half day kindergarten in the past and they transitioned to full day kindergarten. With half day kindergarten, the children did a lot of letter recognition and with full day kindergarten, the children read. The students will be much more advanced. He said how he heard this will be based off of the referendum and he mentioned how a survey was suggested. He suggested that there be a public hearing on this.

Mr. Wisnioski asked if it was being anticipated to have a community forum about a full day kindergarten prior to the referendum. Superintendent Dr. Villar said if this is the will of the Board that it can be done and he would be happy to facilitate this. Mr. Chiucarello asked when a survey could be done. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this could be done prior to having any blind lottery and even an online survey can be looked at.

Mrs. Vargas confirmed with Superintendent Dr. Villar that this would help to figure out the space part of this in order to figure out what is being done with the Architect. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this would give more of a concrete basis in his conversation with the Architect. Mrs. Vargas didn't think a public hearing could be done now because this is going quickly towards a November referendum. She explained some more about. She said a decision is being made as to whether space should be provided for full day kindergarten with the anticipation that parents will use it at some point. Superintendent Dr. Villar said it definitely has to be known if space has to be built and he sees the referendum as a survey. The Board will have to make a policy decision at some point that this is the educational model like Mr. Morse said. Chairman MacDonald said there will be public hearings as part of the referendum process.

Mr. Wisnioski asked how this plan as presented this evening and the numbers that are presented in the NESDEC enrollment projection coincide with the effort that Assistant Superintendent Boutilier made with staff in three equal elementary schools. Mr. Wisnioski asked if there was any difference in the number of kindergarten classrooms. Superintendent Dr. Villar explained that he just needed a general consensus this evening as far as this being a reasonable manner for him to proceed in and Chairman MacDonald told him that he thought he has this consensus.

20. NEASC

Superintendent Dr. Villar said at a previous Board meeting that he had requested the members to authorize him to provide the high school with up to four early dismissal days so that the faculty would be provided with enough quality time to complete its self study process for the NEASC (New England Association of Secondary Schools) accreditation process. This evening he was asking for this very same thing to hopefully be approved by the Board. He explained what the self study would involve and what the focus question was. He also explained about the NEASC accreditation process. His plan is to include the use of districtwide professional development days but he is fearful that this won't be enough time for them to "put their best foot forward as a community". He found a packet online from the Commission and there are thirty-two pages with regards to how to conduct a self-study. He stressed the importance of Rocky Hill High School maintaining its accreditation. He asked the members for a motion to approve up to four days and he will work with the new Rocky Hill High School Principal to ensure that these are scheduled in a very judicial manner. Superintendent Dr. Villar also said that it is very important to have this done right the first time because if it isn't done well then a lot of follow-up reports will have to be done with the Commission.

Moved by Nadine Bell, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, to support Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar's request of up to four additional days for early release of the high school faculty for the purposes of meeting NEASC (New England Association of Secondary Schools Accreditation Process) requirements.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Before this motion was voted on, Mr. McMonigle said that generally speaking he dislikes the idea of taking teachers out of the classroom. He asked if the entire staff would be devoted to working on this during these four days and he asked if there might be a better way to extend the school day and compensate the staff for staying late. Superintendent Dr. Villar agreed that it is not a good thing any time that instructional time is lost. He explained that just about every faculty member will have to participate on a committee for a period of time. He would like the bulk of the work done for this during the full professional development days.

Mr. Morse said as long as there is proper notification to parents and this is up to four days that it would be fine. He would like to see fewer days used though.

Mr. Wisnioski inquired about when the half day would begin and how many periods that would be. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the half day would begin at approximately 11:30 a.m. and with regards to how many periods there would be that this would be dependent upon how the day was structured. Mr. Wisnioski said he would like the new principal to get back to Superintendent Dr. Villar and then he wanted him to get back to the Board with regards to a number of things. Mr. Wisnioski referred to how high school students are released early on days they have CAPT tests and final exams each semester. He wants Mr. Almeida to take a census of what is done, what the one hundred and eighty days of instruction are supposed to be and how many of these days there are. Mr. Wisnioski then referred to maybe having motivational speakers come to talk to the students on these early release days. He told Superintendent Dr. Villar and Mr. Almeida to be creative with these students and to motivate them to do something.

Chairman MacDonald said he echoed what Mr. Wisnioski said. Chairman MacDonald didn't think the execution of something like this should be micromanaged by the Board members. He told Superintendent Dr. Villar and Mr. Almeida that the members want the students in the classroom being taught and he would leave this up to them with regards to how this can be done most effectively while still providing the resources and the time needed for the NEASC accreditation process. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he and Mr. Almeida will work together on this.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

21. Magnet Schools

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he had attended two meetings and he will most likely be meeting with the Commissioner several more times as a member of the Hartford Area Superintendents Association. Recently with regards to Sheff v. O'Neill, there was a ruling from the state court system that the State of Connecticut has not met the expectations of the original settlement and it has to revisit this and come up with new levels. He read a letter that he had received from Bruce Douglas, Executive Director of CREC, that gives factual information. CREC is seeking to expand the Choice Program and to entice districts into designing and developing magnet schools. Currently there are twenty students from the Hartford public schools in the Choice Program (in Rocky Hill).

He said there is potential in the future for state action to increase the requirements to accept more students in the Choice Program and there might be changes in the formula for the building of magnet schools. Rocky Hill currently receives \$2,500 for students in the Choice Program from the Hartford public schools and Superintendent Dr. Villar shared his concerns with the Commissioner that this is not the equal amount to educate the students. Superintendent Dr. Villar is trying to support this district and he is not sure where the conversations that he had with the Commissioner will go. Superintendent Dr.

Villar said after the meeting, he understood that the Commissioner is under a great deal of pressure to make something happen with desegregation of the Hartford public schools. Superintendent Dr. Villar told the members that he thought it was important they are mindful of what is going on in the Sheff v. O'Neill stipulation because Rocky Hill is nearly directly bordering on Hartford. Rocky Hill is a member of the Hartford area district and this will impact it at some point.

Mrs. Bell said there are timing constraints with regards to moving forward preparing the November referendum. She still reflects on the opportunities that a magnet school can provide for this community. She is struggling with whether due diligence is being done with the magnet school as everything moves forward to referendum. Superintendent Dr. Villar said there is a funding model in place and this town could receive approximately \$7,000 for each student from the Hartford public schools who would be attending Rocky Hill schools plus an additional amount for transportation for each of these students. He explained what the potential savings and potential ongoing funds would be if there was the development of a third elementary school. He told the members what his concern is with this model of funding. He thinks this town needs a third elementary school and there could be a magnet school which would have pros and cons or the town could go with its own school which also has pros and cons. He certainly supports Option One which has the three equal size elementary schools and for the others he would take the lead from the residents in Rocky Hill.

Mr. McMonigle didn't think that the timeline given by the Town Council lets the Board fully explore the magnet school option. There would need to be a tremendous amount of input received by the public. He hates to not be able to fully explore this issue because of being constrained by the November vote and he would be comfortable bringing a referendum to the residents where everything has been looked at. He is not comfortable with the November timeline and he would like more time to explore the magnet school option.

Mrs. Calciano-Coler referred to the presentation that had been made from the State Department of Education about the magnet schools a couple of Board meetings ago and she still has a question about the continuing funding. She didn't know if anyone would even have an answer by November. She said the 95% reimbursement is awesome but it is not guaranteed that this town will get this continued funding. She didn't think the answers would be received before November in order to make a real informed decision.

She is comfortable with the November referendum.

Mr. Wisnioski asked if Project Choice would go away if the community approved the magnet school option. He also asked if the state wants Rocky Hill to get 9% students or if it wants 9% of Hartford students distributed to the suburbs. Superintendent Dr. Villar understood that if Rocky Hill had 8% or 9% of its students from Hartford and if every other surrounding town was able to do this too then this would meet the goals of Sheff v. O'Neill. Mr. Wisnioski said the state could decide to increase the 9% to 17% and tell

Rocky Hill that it had to take these students into its middle school and through the high school. He said the uncertainty is very disturbing. He thought this added a huge complexity in an economy that is hugely speculative as to what the future is going to bring. He explained some more. What is best for Rocky Hill has to be done now.

Mrs. Bell just wanted to make sure that a conscious decision was being made and not that there isn't time to consider it. Chairman MacDonald said he would echo many of the comments and he thought a conscious decision has been made. He encouraged Superintendent Dr. Villar to continue reaching out to the state and to keep the Board members up-to-speed if there is anything of interest. Chairman MacDonald thought what is best for Rocky Hill has to be done at this time. He thought Option One is what is best for Rocky Hill and they should continue to progress with this. He also said to let the taxpayers speak on what they want.

22. Senior Citizen Tax Deferral Program

Assistant Superintendent Boutilier told the members they had a report from Marguerite Alpert, Enrichment Coordinator, in their packets. There have been twenty-two senior citizens who have worked more than fifty hours in the school buildings. She supported Marguerite Alpert's request that these senior citizens can come to a Board meeting next year in honor of their tenth year anniversary with this program.

23. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Villar said there recently was a significant fire in one of the condo complexes in this town on a day that was 100 degrees outside. Finance Director Turansky went to this particular street to make sure that the children got home safely. Superintendent Dr. Villar thanked Finance Director Turansky publically for going above and beyond the need.

Superintendent Dr. Villar referred to how at the last Board meeting, Chairman MacDonald had made him aware about the issue of the cheerleaders' mats. Superintendent Dr. Villar found out that the cheerleaders did have access to mats but these weren't the type of mats that would have been preferred to be used for the activities they are involved in. He was very impressed with their efforts with regards to the fundraising they did in order to purchase more specialized mats. The district is in a situation where it will be able to assist them and provide them with the proper mats for next season. The cheerleaders will be able to use the fundraising funds to continue to support their cheerleader team.

Superintendent Dr. Villar wanted to bring the Board members up-to-speed with regards to major topics that have been consuming his time in central office. These include: 1.) Conducting a search for an Assistant Superintendent; 2.) Securing enrollment projections, and he thanked the Board for approving this, this evening; 3.) Beginning the process of

reviewing district procedures for annual notification (i.e. HIPPA, Bloodborne Pathogens); 4.) Completing reorganization of the Technology Department and seeking to employ additional technicians; 5.) Conducting a search for the Athletic Director and Coordinator of Student Activities; 6.) Conducting a search for the Coordinator of Language Arts; 7.) Human Resource procedures have begun to be reviewed and redefined beginning with hiring practices; 8.) A Policy Proposal for Request for Information is being developed and this will be presented to the Board in the future; 9.) Educational specifications for the three elementary schools with particular focus on the Moser School site is being developed; 10.) The district Technology Plan is being reviewed and redefined; 11.) The Program of Studies is being reviewed and class and course size offerings at the high school are being examined; and 12.) Organizational Chart for the school system is being developed.

24. Chairman's Report

Chairman MacDonald said the Rocky Hill High School graduation will be held on June 24, 2008. He is looking forward to being a part of this. Rocky Hill students have been selected to over sixty colleges. He thought this is a great accomplishment to the education system within this town.

Chairman MacDonald said many of the Board members attended the Honors and Awards Ceremony and Scholarship Ceremony at the high school. He thought the amount of the scholarships given out was in excess of \$75,000.

Chairman MacDonald mentioned how the Rocky Hill Concert Choir had performed at Carnegie Hall. He told the Board members when they have opportunities that they have to make sure the public knows some of the positive things going on in the schools. He referred to the 25th Connecticut Invention Convention where twenty-two students attended this and six of these students received awards.

Chairman MacDonald referred to an article, from the *District Administration Magazine* with regards to small schools and large schools that he asked Superintendent Dr. Villar to share with the Board members as well as with the public. There has been a discussion in the news with regards to whether it is better to have bigger schools or smaller schools. This clearly distinguishes the benefits of smaller schools versus larger schools. He encouraged everyone to read this article.

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth
Recording Secretary

Accepted by: _____ Date: _____