



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

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 48 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	October 9, 2009
LOCATION	Rocky Hill Town Hall Council Chambers
DATE OF MEETING	October 15, 2009
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. Rene (Skip) Rivard, Vice Chairman
3. Nadine Bell	4. Raffaella Calciano-Coler
5. Maria Mennella (Entered at 7:27 p.m.)	6. Charles McMonigle
7. Frank Morse	8. Catherine Vargas
9. Charles Wisnioski	10. Also present: Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar
11. Assistant Superintendent Marian Hourigan	12. Finance Director Frank Connolly

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 and Working Notes of the September 8, 2009 Finance Committee meeting, the September 17, 2009 Executive Session (Minutes only), the September 17, 2009 Board of Education meeting and the September 28, 2009 Personnel & Negotiations Committee meeting. (Maria Mennella was absent for this motion.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

2nd MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, to accept the Consent Calendar of October 15, 2009. (Maria Mennella was absent for this motion.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

3rd MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Nadine Bell, that any student (Rocky Hill) who wants to attend an event (at RHHS) goes for free.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

(Before this motion was voted on, a friendly amendment listed below was made and voted on.)

Moved by Rene (Skip) Rivard, seconded by Charles Wisnioski, to make a friendly amendment to allow all students access without fee.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

4th MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Nadine Bell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

LINK TO WORKING NOTES (will be attached if available)

ACTION

CORRECTION(S) (will be attached if available)

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:42 p.m.

TIME DELIVERED TO TOWN CLERK: _____.

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2009**

Members Present: William MacDonald (Chairman)
Rene (Skip) Rivard (Vice Chairman)
Nadine Bell
Raffaella Calciano-Coler
Charles McMonigle
Maria Mennella (Entered at 7:27 p.m.)
Frank Morse
Catherine Vargas
Charles Wisnioski

Also Present: Dr. Jeffrey Villar (Superintendent)
Marian Hourigan (Assistant Superintendent)
Frank Connolly (Finance Director)

A meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, October 15, 2009 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 and Working Notes of the September 8, 2009 Finance Committee meeting, the September 17, 2009 Executive Session (Minutes only), the September 17, 2009 Board of Education meeting and the September 28, 2009 Personnel & Negotiations Committee meeting. (Maria Mennella was absent for this motion.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Dr. Villar said there was no correspondence at this time.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Meeting Open to Public

Chairman MacDonald asked if there was anyone from the audience who wished to speak on any item. Mr. Bill Pentland, 325 Old Main Street, R.H. thanked everyone who helped and participated in the band show on behalf of the Royal Blues Marching Band and the Bandbackers' Association. This was a great success. The Royal Blues Marching Band has now finished two other competitions. They have one more left and then there will be the championships in New Britain. Mr. Pentland said anybody that he spoke to was right there for him. Superintendent Dr. Villar and Finance Director Connolly supported him and answered his questions. Principal Almeida and his staff took care of any problems they had. Also, the Parks and Recreation Department, town employees and staff are always there to help out. Mr. Pentland said it makes them proud to represent Rocky Hill and to put on this show. The Royal Blues Marching Band enjoys supporting the football games. They are looking forward to this being their next big thing to support along with the other sports' teams. He thanked everyone in "T.V. land" also. He is looking forward to their next season.

Chairman MacDonald asked if there was anyone else from the audience who wished to speak. There was no one else.

Report of Student Representatives

Christine Pergolizzi and Varun Sachdeva were present from Rocky Hill High School to give a report. They were representing the Rocky Hill High School Student Council. They had their 10th Annual Lend-a-Paw to kick off the month of October. There was a record number of over three hundred students who participated in this. These students received t-shirts thanks to the Bell family.

Spirit Week was held last week to recognize all sports' teams. There was a theme everyday. There was a pep rally that was a great success. They are planning on having two more pep rallies this year. The students annihilated the faculty in record speed for the first time in dodge ball and tug-of-war.

Some trips are planned. The choir has been invited back to Carnegie Hall for the second time in three years. Fundraising is being done now for the New Orleans trip which will be held in February.

They are doing very well this year after joining the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) for sports and they are doing better than they did in the Northwest Conference. The Boys' Soccer Team is second in the state and it has a record of eight wins and one loss. The Girls' Soccer Team is in the top ten and it has a record of seven wins and two losses. The Girls' Volleyball Team has eight wins and four losses.

The football team won its homecoming game against Wethersfield. The football team's record is four wins and one loss. They are hoping for another win against Newington tomorrow. Rocky Hill High School is one of the smallest schools in this conference but it is making a name for itself.

The Advisory Advisee Group which is the extended homeroom has been working around monthly themes this year and last month they had their literature circles for summer reading. They talked about civic and personal responsibilities today along with their involvement in Lend-a-Paw. They listened to President Obama's speech to students as part of this and they had a discussion with their homeroom teachers. They are planning on talking about public service next month in honor of the Veterans. The Advisor Advisee Group gives the students an opportunity to connect with their teachers and allows for a student-teacher relationship.

The PSATs will be held at Rocky Hill High School this Saturday starting at 7:45 a.m.

Mr. Wisnioski asked what the other students did while the three hundred students were participating in the Lend-a-Paw. Varum Sachdeva said the other students attended normal classes and it wasn't a free day for anyone. Mr. Wisnioski asked if the participation in Lend-a-Paw is limited in any way by the availability of transportation, etc. Varum Sachdeva said no and he said the number of sites was even increased because there were so many participants so that everyone could be accommodated. Mr. Wisnioski asked if everyone who wanted to participate was able to. Christine Pergolizzi said everyone was able to participate this year.

Report of Students from Stevens/Moser Elementary Schools

Jessica Grodovich said she was a fifth grader at Stevens School and Nathaniel Rivera said he was a fifth grader at Stevens School. Students have described their new Principal John Colonghi as being really nice, funny and the best principal they have ever had.

Husky Herald tickets and Moser pride stickers have been the rage at Stevens School and Moser School. Students have been working really hard to earn these for positive behaviors in and out of the classroom. Some Husky heroes have had the opportunity to help teachers with bus duty and others have been able to announce morning announcements with Mr. Gilbert.

The students at Stevens School and Moser School will be collecting change for UNICEF this Halloween. This money will be donated to provide medicine and education, etc. in more than one hundred and fifty countries.

Students who are in kindergarten, as well as in first grade and second grade, participated in Fire Prevention Week. The theme this year was “Stay Fire Smart, Don’t Get Burned”. Firefighters visited the schools to teach students about the importance of fire safety as well as staying safe.

Students are continuing to collect spare change in their classrooms for Relay-for Life.

1. Consent Calendar

Disposal of Obsolete Equipment

Schedule of Board of Education Meetings for 2010

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, to accept the Consent Calendar of October 15, 2009. (Maria Mennella was absent for this motion.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2. Personnel and Negotiations

Mrs. Calciano-Coler said the Personnel and Negotiations Committee met this evening and they began their contract negotiation with administrators.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

10. NEASC Update

Ms. Raisa Bublick said they wanted to inform the Board of Education on a very general level about NEASC. They are doing very well. Approximately ninety percent of the statistical information has been gathered by each standard. They want to also add the newest statistics they have so this is why this is not one hundred percent. The first half day will be on October 30, 2009. This will be the first opportunity they will have where they will meet together as a group for each standard to discuss what they have done exactly thus far. She explained what each person is responsible for. From what they can tell, everyone is on time and on target. They are in very good shape for their revisitation for next year.

Vice Chairman Rivard asked if part of the self-study with the NEASC accreditation is an assessment of facilities. Ms. Bublick said yes. Vice Chairman Rivard asked if this has been addressed at this point in their self-study. Ms. Bublick said yes. Principal Almeida said the final report hasn't been done but there have been some ongoing meetings with Rich Cooke (Director of Facilities for the Town of Rocky Hill) and Finance Director Connolly.

11. Class Size Analysis

Superintendent Dr. Villar told the members of the Board of Education that they have two reports in their packets. The first one is the district class size one and he mentioned what this reflects. The second one is a printout of the master schedule of Rocky Hill High School.

The district enrollment is up twenty seven students for the 2009-2010 school year. There are two thousand, six hundred and forty students. The preliminary reports from early September compared to the October 1, 2009 data revealed the following exceptions. The preliminary reports didn't include forty-eight students who were enrolled in preschool programs but the enrollment report does. Rocky Hill High School and Griswold Middle School are continuing to enroll new students well into the school year. At Rocky Hill High School, ten new seniors have been enrolled. Nine students at Rocky Hill High School are reenrolled from the previous year's senior class. There are thirty-four new students at Griswold Middle School. Four of these weren't anticipated in September. Enrollment is up at Moser School by seven students. Enrollment is down at Stevens School by eighteen students. At this school, there was a shift in the number of teachers who were assigned to Grade One. This was decreased by one teacher and Grade Two was increased by one teacher. This results in a slightly higher class size in Grade One at Stevens School. There are two students over the recommended guidelines currently for each class. His recommendation at this time is to continue to monitor this situation given the number of students, the lack of classrooms and the overall cost of adding faculty. No immediate action can be taken.

Enrollment at West Hill School is down by twenty-three students. The large kindergarten classes from last year are now part of large first grade classrooms.

At Griswold Middle School, Grade Six has two hundred and thirty-one students. This is thirty-six students more than what they had last year. This is one of the largest classes that Principal Watson can remember in the history of that school. Grade Seven has two hundred and nine students and this is up by six students. Grade Eight has two hundred and nine students and this is up by twelve students. There are a number of instances where classes are out of the Board of Education's guidelines in Grade Six and there are a few instances in Grade Seven and Grade Eight. The health and PE classes have the vast majority of these occurrences. Superintendent Dr. Villar said in conversations with Principal Watson that the addition of a faculty member would do little to address this situation because of the schedule design at the middle school and the lack of instructional space. Also, the larger instructional space provided in PE does best allow that class to accommodate a larger class size. The recommendation is to continue with what they have as far as their resource allocations are concerned.

There are twenty-five classes at Rocky Hill High School that exceed the recommended guidelines. The guideline is exceeded by one student in twenty-two of these classes and the guidelines are exceeded by two students in three of these classes. The recommendation is to study the impact of course offerings on the ability of the master schedule to contain a sufficient number of sections for required courses and to monitor class size. Twenty-six classes at Rocky Hill High School have less than ten students enrolled in them. Ten of these classes are academic ones and sixteen are electives. This includes some standard courses, advanced placement ones and remedial ones.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he and Assistant Superintendent Hourigan have begun a process to review the curriculum with each department at Rocky Hill High School in order to establish a revision and a review timeline. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he intends on sharing this information with the Curriculum Committee at a future meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Villar asked the members of the Board of Education if they had any questions about the report. Mrs. Vargas asked if nine students didn't graduate last year. Superintendent Dr. Villar said that was correct and he said these are students who are seniors for a second time. Mrs. Vargas asked if these students had a lot of classes that they had to make up and Superintendent Dr. Villar said he didn't know their specific situations. Mrs. Vargas asked if this is a large number. Superintendent Dr. Villar said it is a large number.

Mrs. Bell asked if these nine students are enrolled at the alternative high school or at Rocky Hill High School. Superintendent Dr. Villar said these students are in the main population of Rocky Hill High School.

Mr. Wisnioski asked if these students come to the high school to receive the one or two periods of instruction if they were a credit or two short and he asked if they are able to participate in extracurricular activities. He asked if there was something unique that as a Board of Education, they failed those students. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the students would have to abide by the course policies and the registration. They have to take a full load of courses. They are able to participate in activities unless they aged out of the CIAC regulations.

Mrs. Bell asked if these students are eligible to finish their credits through summer school even if they have to go to another town to do so. Superintendent Dr. Villar said in some instances that students are able to take advantage of a summer school opportunity but he didn't have the specifics on these individuals.

Mr. McMonigle referred to the total population of two thousand, six hundred and forty students. They had done two different projections on student enrollment a couple of years ago. He asked how their current population compares with either one of these projections. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they are sixty-three students above the NESDEC projection. This was the one that had been adopted by the Board of Education. Mr. McMonigle asked if the implications going forward are tighter spaces and larger classes. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they are members of NESDEC which updates their enrollment projections. NESDEC will be supplied with information and this district will adjust on an annual basis. NESDEC can adjust their numbers and make new projections if there have been changes.

Mr. Morse referred to “AGH” in the report and he asked if this stands for academic general honors. He asked if “A” equals three and “G” equals three in music then if this means there are three academics and three generals. Superintendent Dr. Villar said that was correct and that this is a blended level class.

Mrs. Bell asked if it is unusual to have ten newly enrolled seniors. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they have had some interesting enrollments in the last three weeks. They have also experienced enrollments that are going to be quite expensive on the Special Education side.

Chairman MacDonald asked how many students participate in the Virtual High School. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they have three or four students now. There is a larger number of students enrolled for the second semester. The enrollment period was nearly closed when they had the authorization to begin this program. His expectation is that there will be a higher enrollment this coming spring for the following school year.

Chairman MacDonald assumed that whoever will be on the Board of Education one month from now will want to have a little more information on the senior reentries. He told Superintendent Dr. Villar that maybe he can work together with the high school administration to put together a report for the Board of Education in November so that they can have a better understanding of the nine students and if there was anything they could have done to have prevented those nine from having to reenter. He thinks this will be of value. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they will do this.

Mr. Wisnioski confirmed that there are nine students who would have graduated plus he confirmed that there are ten new seniors. He asked out of the ten new students if any of them are exchange students or foreign students. Superintendent Dr. Villar said yes that there are a number of those. Principal Almeida said there are three students. Mr. Wisnioski thinks the most interesting number is that the elementary students are down by thirty-four and this appears to be about three percent.

Mr. Wisnioski told Superintendent Dr. Villar that he challenged him on the NESDEC information. The difference is sixty-three and Mr. Wisnioski said they gave their report about eighteen months ago. Mr. Wisnioski said he didn't understand this and he said it might be interesting to revisit their actual report because it is helpful in some ways for future planning. He explained more.

Mr. Wisnioski referred to the other report about the number of students by course and by teacher. He asked for the twenty periods to be explained. Superintendent Dr. Villar said multiple periods had to be put in, in order for PowerSchool to work with the lunch waves that exist at the high school. These don't represent a full class period. Principal Almeida said Period 1 and Period 2 is really Period 1. Period 3 and Period 4 is really Period 2.

PowerSchool recognizes twenty minute slots so a forty minute period takes up two of their periods. Superintendent Dr. Villar explained how they had produced the report that was in front of them with regards to the number of students by course and by teacher.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he agreed with Mr. Wisnioski with regards to NESDEC. Superintendent Dr. Villar thinks they will need to have updated enrollment projections adopted by the Board of Education as they move forward anticipating some type of work on the schools so that they will be able to apply for any reimbursement for construction work from the State Department of Education.

Vice Chairman Rivard asked if a student has to get the approval of the instructor and the guidance counselor when they withdraw from a class or he asked if they can just withdraw. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is going to depend on what time they withdraw and he said there is a set procedure. Principal Almeida explained about this. Vice Chairman Rivard asked if there is an exit interview. He said where he was leading with this is that he wants to be aware of students who withdraw from any of the Virtual High School classes because he wants to make sure they are going in the right direction with the Virtual High School. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is one of the conversations that he and Principal Almeida have had. They have to be very selective in the process of picking students for those courses. Vice Chairman Rivard suspected that sometimes students will enroll in a Virtual High School program anticipating it is much easier than a regular class. Superintendent Dr. Villar said it is actually very rigorous.

Mr. Wisnioski said he was following up on the high school selection issue. He asked if they have any students this academic year who aren't doing the full course load because they didn't like what is being offered. He asked if the high school administration and the guidance counselors are enforcing that every student must take the course load that is stated in the student handbook. Principal Almeida said he will be asked if they go below the required number in any situation. They have had a few minimal cases including the nine students that are being talked about. They have let students go below the required course load but as a general rule, guidance counselors won't let the students withdraw if they are going to drop below the six classes. Mr. Wisnioski asked if there are any present situations where a student states that they don't like what is being offered and then someone says okay. Principal Almeida said there aren't any.

12. Assistant Superintendent Report

Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said she was going to be reporting on the summer reading initiative at the high school. This year, a different approach was implemented for this. She explained about the Committee that there is for this. The data from Rocky Hill High School indicates that student participation in the summer reading initiative was increased. She told the Board of Education members that they have a report for this which has specific information.

This was compiled by Ms. Bublick who is the Reading Specialist at Rocky Hill High School. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan explained what is in this report.

In 2009, fifty-five percent of Rocky Hill students participated. In 2008, twenty-seven percent had participated. They read an average of 3.21 books and some students read well beyond the suggested number of 2 books. The highest participation was the freshmen participation. They had sixty-nine percent who participated. Juniors had sixty-one percent who participated. The sophomores had fifty-five percent participation and seniors had thirty-nine percent.

There was a one hour extended homeroom period in which the students shared their summer reading with their classmates and their advisors. She explained more about this and said she was able to visit a number of classes during these discussions. She was very impressed with the ideas that had been shared by teachers and students. She received positive comments about this initiative from parents, students and teachers. She is collaborating currently with the Rocky Hill High School English Department to develop a teacher-student survey in which input can be garnered from all participants so that the strengths of this program can be capitalized on for next year.

They had a schoolwide assembly last June with the marching band and Mr. Scot Haney from WFSB when they kicked off this program. Mr. Haney had promised to put the top readers on his program, *Better Connecticut*, in the fall. This past Tuesday, four students were on his program.

Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said they are encouraged by the results. They are hoping to build on this and improve the program for next year.

Mr. Wisnioski asked what the middle school participation rate for this was. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said she didn't prepare that information for this report but she told him that she can certainly get that for him and it is usually very high. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said she had the information for this evening for elementary school. This was a little lower than they had expected. The librarians at the Cora J. Belden Library felt it was like this because of the renovation going on at the library and the fact that the program was started a little later. Mr. Wisnioski asked Assistant Superintendent Hourigan if there will be a future report with regards to the percentages at the middle school and what very high means. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said she can do this.

Mrs. Vargas asked Assistant Superintendent Hourigan if the group that met this year is anticipated on being reconvened for next year. Mrs. Vargas said when they had met last year that they had said this was a working document and they had wanted to get something going for the summer to see how it played out. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan thinks it would be a very good idea to have the same group brought back. If they have the survey results then they will have some data to look at that will help them to make this program even better.

Mrs. Vargas confirmed that Assistant Superintendent Hourigan would bring back the group and then come back to the Board of Education Curriculum Committee. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said she would share the information from the survey.

Mrs. Bell gave a quick thanks because she said an increase of twenty-eight percent is a phenomenal increase for the first year with it being a trial one and hopefully this percentage will continue to go up. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan explained how encouraging it was for her to walk from room to room to listen to the types of discussions that were taking place. She thinks this encouraged students to look at reading for enjoyment.

13. Director Finance & Operation's Report

a. Adopted 2009-2010 Budget

Finance Director Connolly told the Board of Education members that they had a memo that was dated October 9, 2009 in their packets. This dealt with the September financial report. The report had been run off on September 30, 2009 and then they received a memo from the state on October 1, 2009 about the ECS ARRA money. During the adoption process, they had been notified that the Governor had included the ARRA money in the state budget but it would be coming directly to the Boards of Education and not to the town. This is almost \$500,000 and this was clearly shown in their adopted budget. This money has to be treated as a regular grant according to the guidelines that came out on October 1, 2009. This amount of money has to be netted out of their budget. He explained what this involved. The new financial reports that will be presented to the Board of Education upon the completion of October will reflect the \$469,000. The September 30, 2009 report had included this but it is a skewed report based on the new guidelines. The caveat is that in two years when they are preparing their budget, there will be a potential \$500,000 hole of ECS funding in the Board of Education's budget assuming the ARRA money ends because it is a two year grant. The hole would have to be made up with direct ECS money coming from the town back to the Board of Education.

Chairman MacDonald asked the Board of Education members if they had any questions. Mr. Wisnioski referred to recent media and how there were complaints in it about how Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Connecticut had used federal funds inappropriately. Similar funding might not be available to them in the future. He asked Finance Director Connolly if he knew what he was talking about and if this was the same money. Finance Director Connolly said it is. Mr. Wisnioski said the Connecticut State Department of Education got a positive response as to how they are going to use the money. He asked how this will impact them other than just the fact that the program goes away. Finance Director Connolly said he didn't know how this was going to shake out and he explained more. Mr. Wisnioski referred to the bottom of the memo and how it stated that there was five days notice.

He asked Finance Director Connolly who gave five days notice for them to respond. Finance Director Connolly said they had a memo from the State Department of Education with regards to the procedures that need to be followed. This district had to file the reports. They had to do a very comprehensive report online with regards to what could have been cut if they didn't get the ECS money. They used this to reduce the budget to meet the ECS guidelines. The deadline for this was October 5, 2009 and there were no extensions. He explained more about this report.

Mr. Wisnioski asked if the caution for this follows down to individual towns with regards to that whatever the intended use is for the ARRA funds that is stated should be used specifically for this or they would become penalized. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the State Department of Education gave them guidelines on how to use the ARRA monies but the thing in question is the guidance the State of Connecticut has been giving to its school districts. The State is "in hot water" so he said they would be guilty by association. He explained more. He questioned if the federal government will exclude Connecticut from the "Race to the Top" dollars along with other grants that exist because of its poor application of the initial ARRA funds. Mr. Wisnioski said the "Race to the Top" is for future funds to be given out. He asked if this includes compensating teachers based upon how well their students do. Superintendent Dr. Villar said yes and Connecticut is not well positioned right now to receive any of those funds because of laws that are on the books in this state. Mr. Wisnioski asked Superintendent Dr. Villar if it is likely that he will receive direction through the state after they have received this from the federal government that Rocky Hill and other communities like this one would have to develop a program that would show evidence it is compensating its teachers based on how well the students do. Superintendent Dr. Villar didn't believe this scenario was likely and he explained what the Commissioner had shared with the superintendents at the beginning of the school year. The changes in teacher evaluation would need to happen first at a state legislative level before this district would be directed to develop new evaluation plans, etc. Superintendent Dr. Villar said it appears to him that they are not well positioned at all in the "Race to the Top" for the funds.

Mrs. Vargas referred to the hypothetical report that Finance Director Connolly had to put together. Mrs. Vargas asked Finance Director Connolly if he was assuming that these were all FTEs or if he was assuming that programs were being cut. Finance Director Connolly said they went with the FTEs and stayed just within the salaried accounts. Mrs. Vargas referred to what Superintendent Dr. Villar had said. Mrs. Vargas said if the Board of Education had had this discussion then there may have been some programs on the table as opposed to "cutting heads". Finance Director Connolly said yes and he said it was an academic exercise. Mrs. Vargas said this was a bogus report because there may have been other ways to come up with the total dollar amount instead of cutting people. Finance Director Connolly said yes.

b. Football Game Receipts

Finance Director Connolly said they will be working on a report for the Board of Education with regards to this. They are now charging for night events. He had a memo from Mr. Tom McCabe (Athletic Director) that explained this. They will currently be charging five dollars for adults and two dollars for students for night games. This money will be used to pay timekeepers, game proctors and officials. Mr. McCabe is looking at establishing a fall pass which will be a family discount pass. Finance Director Connolly said he has asked for a financial report because this goes to the Student Activity Fund and not through the Board of Education.

Mrs. Bell referred to the collecting of money at the gate now. Finance Director Connolly said he has no idea how much money they are talking about. He has to look at much money is coming in and going out, etc. Mrs. Bell said it will be interesting to see what the offset is. Mrs. Bell asked if this is for any night field game (i.e. Girls' Soccer, etc.) and not just for football. Finance Director Connolly said this is for soccer, basketball, football and volleyball. Mrs. Bell referred to how they are trying to promote school spirit within the school and she said now they are going to be charging students to get into games that they have never had to pay for before. She is concerned philosophically about why they would be doing this because she said the money is in the budget already. Finance Director Connolly said all of the schools in the CCC charge for night events. The schools use the money differently with regards to where it goes. This district will be putting it directly into the Student Activity Account. Most schools charge at least five dollars for adults and two dollars for students but some charge seven dollars for adults and three dollars for students. Mrs. Bell said if the Board of Education allocated funds to do this and a decision has been made to have money charged at the gate then it seems this should go through the Board of Education and a decision should be made that this is going to be done one way or another and to her that this is double dipping.

Superintendent Dr. Villar mentioned how Finance Director Connolly had said they need to get a handle on how much money is going through the funds. Superintendent Dr. Villar said historically that he is not sure if they have had an understanding of how many people are hired for each event, how much money goes out for each event and how much money is required. It is possible that there is a mix of gate fee funds going to the Student Activity Account and Board of Education funds to pay for proctors. He said it is imperative that they know how many people, how much money and which people are hired for those positions. Mr. McCabe has said that staff members work in those functions. Mrs. Bell thinks a conscious decision should be made by the future Board of Education as to which way this should be funded and how it should be funded.

Mr. McMonigle hates the idea of charging students to go to anything in their school. He asked who made the decision to add these other activities to the charge list and why nobody on the Board of Education knew about this.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he had a conversation with Mr. McCabe about this and at his level it was decided to add the gate fees for the soccer games. Mr. McCabe felt this was necessary so that they could maintain the level of services at those fields.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he will feel more comfortable once he has a full analysis from the Business Manager. Superintendent Dr. Villar thinks Mr. McCabe has outstanding judgment and if he felt this was necessary then there must be a reason but he will feel more comfortable if they can accurately budget within their budget in order to support all activities that the Board of Education has endorsed. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they should have a very clear cut set of regulations on how they use monies from gate fees going into the Student Activity Fund.

Mr. Wisnioski agreed that students should not be charged at all for most activities. They shouldn't create any impediment or roadblock that prevents a student getting into the practice of watching their fellow student do anything. He believes the Board of Education budget does have funds for a lot of the activities. He thinks the Central Office and high school administration need to have a very clear method of control of funds. He mentioned how there are a lot of things that could be better. He gave an example of the band show. This is run by the Bandbackers but the Parks and Recreation Department has some obligations. The Fire Marshal was also there. He then referred to Porta Potties. He had gone to a football game where there had been at least three thousand people there and three Porta Potties. He spoke about the placement of these. People shouldn't be ticketed if they park on the street for events and he said all of these things need to be coordinated better. He said Mr. McCabe has done a good job but he disagrees with the sudden charging. Mr. Wisnioski hopes the future Board of Education ties this together better so this town invites students to participate. The location of the Porta Potties at the locker room of the football players is offensive and it is not right.

Mr. Pentland said the Bandbackers bring extra Porta Potties in and they pay for them. He wanted them to know that Mrs. Lisa Zerio (Director of Parks and Recreation Department), Mr. Walt Sykes (Parks and Recreation Department) and everyone works really hard as well as working with the high school administration to do everything possible. Mr. Pentland said the location of the Porta Potties is probably not the best one but the whole back of the high school needs work. All of this would have been taken care of if the referendum had passed. He told the Board of Education members to make sure whatever they decide to do that they work closely with Mrs. Zerio. Mr. Pentland said there is no problem with town staff and they are right there to do everything that needs to be done. If something needs to be done, he said the town staff will sit together and come up with a solution that will probably be the best thing in the world.

Mr. Wisnioski told Mr. Pentland that he agreed with him and wasn't saying there was anything wrong with the town staff. Mr. Pentland said sometimes people watching these meetings don't understand because they aren't as involved as much as he and Mr. Wisnioski are. Mr. Wisnioski said he would want Mr. Sykes beside him if he volunteers to do something.

Mrs. Vargas referred to the gate fees and paying for proctors. She said when they start doing this then they start taking away from what the total cost of a sport is. The cost of the proctors, etc. is included in the total cost of having a soccer team. She thought the Student Activity Fund is supposed to be used more for students going on trips and for class dues instead of taking money from this for the sports. When this happens, she said the Board of Education doesn't have a true understanding as to what a sport costs. She doesn't think this is a good practice to get into because they start developing a dark hole of money. She knows the Board of Education has budgeted for the sports and she thinks they should continue to do this. If there are gate fees, it should be to pay for something else but not what the Board of Education has already budgeted for. They need to know how much a certain sport costs and she thinks they need to get a handle on this.

Superintendent Dr. Villar told Mrs. Vargas that he agreed. He thinks it has been a long standing practice that these monies have been used to pay for these different positions. They need to get a handle on what this is exactly so that the numbers incorporated in the budget are made more accurate.

Mrs. Calciano-Coler told everyone that she thinks they are all saying the same thing but they can't make an analysis and they can't draw a judgment until they have the reconciliation and they know what is being done. They all have valid opinions but they are just opinions. She thinks all of these discussions are premature without the facts.

Chairman MacDonald said he looks forward to this report at the next Board of Education meeting. He told Mrs. Calciano-Coler that he thinks there is a bigger issue that some of the Board of Education members have touched on. Chairman MacDonald said there should be a motion this evening if this Board of Education is inclined to not charge students regardless of what the accounting is. They should not charge students to attend an event at the high school. He said Mr. McCabe has done a great job and he is looking forward to the report to look at the past practice and the new events. Chairman MacDonald said the bigger issue for him is the students. He explained one of the number one reasons as to why they hired the new principal and that was for student engagement. The students are engaged much more at the high school. It is worth it if they get ten or twenty more students to attend a game.

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Nadine Bell, that any student (Rocky Hill) who wants to attend an event (at RHHS) goes for free.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Before this motion was voted on, Vice Chairman Rivard asked if this would be for any student which would include Rocky Hill students and visiting students. He was told that it would be for Rocky Hill students.

Mrs. Bell asked if they could hear what Superintendent Dr. Villar had to say about this. Superintendent Dr. Villar said because he didn't know the ramification of the numbers they are talking about that there could be a budgetary impact. He thinks this will be nominal but he said there are going to be line items that will be offset by this vote. Mrs. Mennella said they could attach the two dollars onto the adult fee. Mr. Wisnioski said they trust Finance Director Connolly to find the money in the budget.

Principal Almeida suggested to the Board of Education that they at least wait until Mr. McCabe gives the numbers. Principal Almeida said they can't control who is or who isn't a Rocky Hill student at a football game because there is no one entrance. He was asked how they are charged. Principal Almeida said there are three areas with proctors. Chairman MacDonald asked if Rocky Hill High School students have IDs. Principal Almeida said the students haven't gotten them yet but they just had them done. Chairman MacDonald told Principal Almeida that if he understood him correctly that his main concern is football. Chairman MacDonald said he has no problem with letting every child in because this is what high school activities are for. He said they have been told that all of these items are in the Board of Education budget. They will have to rectify it if they have been misinformed on the budget.

Mr. McMonigle felt it was worth voting on this now. He said they can figure it out later if there is some minor financial implication. They have figured out bigger financial problems than this at the end of the year. Chairman MacDonald said he wasn't worried about one hundred children going to a game for two dollars each.

Moved by Rene (Skip) Rivard, seconded by Charles Wisnioski, to make a friendly amendment to allow all students access without fee.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Before the friendly amendment was voted on, Mrs. Bell asked if they wanted to wait for this second piece until they get information from Mr. McCabe. Vice Chairman Rivard said his amendment would be all students at this point. Mr. McMonigle asked if this would be for all students or for all Rocky Hill students. Vice Chairman Rivard said for all students.

Mr. McMonigle said the idea is to get participation. When there is a big crowd, it creates a whole different atmosphere.

At this point, the amendment was voted on.

At this point, the original motion was voted on.

Chairman MacDonald said the other item is the Porta Potties. He referred to the location of these which are in such a close area to where the football players change. They should be ashamed that they have them change in that room and it is even more of an insult that the Porta Potties are put near where they are. They had the same exact issue last year which was brought up and these were moved. He has been behind the scenes for two weeks now trying to get more of these and he said he would probably be moving these with Mr. Wisnioski over the weekend. He said they have to take action and can't let these things happen because it is disgusting. Mrs. Bell thinks it would be a health hazard to have these so close. He referred to them hearing that this is the only location they can have them at and he said that complacency no longer can go. They have to do what is best for the children. Mrs. Calciano-Coler doesn't understand how they can have three Porta Potties with the health codes that are in place because there has to be a certain number depending on the number of people participating. Chairman MacDonald said after weeks and weeks of going back and forth, the town has to put in two or three more. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he has put a request in to Town Manager Gilbert for additional Porta Potties and he can put an additional request in for the location of these. Chairman MacDonald asked Superintendent Dr. Villar if he could do this tomorrow and send them a memo about this.

c. Budget Preparation 2010-11

Finance Director Connolly said they started on the budget preparation already. All of the EXCEL spreadsheets have been prepared and they have been sent out to all of the principals. The principals have been given directions as to how the forms should be filled out. The CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) requests coming directly from the principals on a five year schedule have also been included for the first time. They will have a formal adoption of the CIP as part of the budgetary process this year.

Mr. Wisnioski asked if they are waiting for the Town Council to get back to them on the CIP. Chairman MacDonald said this is Finance Director Connolly's next item that he is going to be talking about this evening.

d. Capital Improvement Plan

The CIP has been reviewed by the Town Council and there are no formal adoption proceedings for this. The Town Council has returned this back to the Joint Facilities Committee which will be meeting next week. A number of items in the CIP are moving ahead quickly. One of these is the bleachers. Finance Director Connolly told the Board of Education members that he left memos that have just come in, in front of their places this evening. These look at the inspection and they deal with clarification. Mr. Rich Cooke (Director of Facilities for the Town of Rocky Hill) made arrangements to have a formal inspection done by a firm that is certified to work on the bleachers they have at the high school and at West Hill School. The bleacher replacement is in the CIP.

The report they received this evening states that the high school bleachers are beyond their useful life. They need to be replaced. There are two firms that they will be getting formal prices from for bleacher replacement at the high school. They will be coming back to the Board of Education once they have these numbers so they can decide what course of action they wish to take. There is a problem with some of the brackets that connect the latches that hold the seats on the bleachers at West Hill School. Mr. Cooke already authorized today for repairs to be made on those bleachers right away.

Finance Director Connolly said these are two things in the CIP that they really need to be moving ahead on. The floor in the high school gymnasium is related to this. There have been several meetings on this and they are moving ahead with this. A price estimate to do the floor has come in and this is less than what they have in the CIP. He said there is going to be a big meeting next week that includes himself, Mr. Cooke, Mrs. Zerio, Principal Almeida and Mr. McCabe so that they can try to find a window where they can take the high school gym offline for four weeks next summer so the floors can be totally redone. They have to look at what other schools they might be able to have the Parks and Recreation programs run at. If there is a long lead time for the bleachers, they could end up taking the bleachers out of the gymnasium next summer, having the floors done and then new bleachers could be put back in but he said hopefully they can do the bleachers ahead of time. There is an interrelationship of the bleachers to the floors.

Finance Director Connolly said they have gotten firm prices on the lockers for West Hill School per the Fire Marshal's report. The Joint Facilities Committee is supposed to meet on Monday night and this has asked to be put on the agenda.

Finance Director Connolly said they have obtained firm prices through state bid for the carpet replacement at the high school. The carpet in the Central Office is in terrible condition. They have requested to have this brought before the Joint Facilities Committee on Monday evening so that maybe this can be done over the Christmas holidays.

The front steps of the high school had repairs made to them this past week but they still have a long way to go. There is money in the CIP and they still want to look at doing a lot more repairs at the high school itself.

Chairman MacDonald asked the Board of Education members if they had any questions. Vice Chairman Rivard said he had a problem on the report with regards to the bleachers. He asked who the consultants were and what their qualifications were. He said it seems like someone who signs off for the company is contradicting the report from the technician. He referred to the report on the bleachers at the elementary school and how it states that the latch may come off or open and then the seating would be allowed to deploy out unexpectedly perhaps. Some of the parts have been replaced with homemade parts. He quoted where it stated this could "still be considered unsafe" even though it could be grandfathered in.

He said the suggested maintenance is to have the high school and elementary school bleachers condemned but then Mr. Jim McEvoy said he didn't mean to condemn them. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the bleachers at West Hill School would be considered unsafe based upon the spacing of the rails because the codes have long changed if these were to be purchased new. This afternoon, the latches on the bleachers are being ordered to be repaired. The second memo is a clarification. He said their very question was that they need to know immediately if people can sit on the bleachers at Rocky Hill High School and be safe. Vice Chairman Rivard said Mr. McEvoy's rebuttal doesn't state that people can sit on the bleachers and be safe. Mrs. Bell said they just had a pep rally where the bleachers were filled with children.

Vice Chairman Rivard said if they are against code that unsafe is unsafe even if it can be grandfathered in. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the individuals who have conducted this review are certified by the company that produces the bleachers. These individuals are licensed to repair, replace and build the bleachers. The company is saying now that the bleachers can be used structurally but it would cost more to try to repair everything that is damaged on them compared to buying new ones. Vice Chairman Rivard said he would like a clarification on this if this is the case because they have a lot of liability here right now as he reads these memos. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they are always faced with an extreme level of liability with a building that is full of human beings. Vice Chairman Rivard said he understands but he said he would own this town if he fell off of the bleachers and saw this report. He thinks a clarification on this report is indicated. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they will seek an additional clarification on the report. They will not have seating capacity at their schools for quite a period of time if the report indicates the bleachers are not safe. Vice Chairman Rivard said he understands but he said the word condemned means judged unfit for use for service. Superintendent Dr. Villar said another alternative route perhaps would be to have a second opinion sought. Vice Chairman Rivard said okay.

Mr. Wisnioski referred to the spacing that was mentioned in the first memo. This is something that is very easily addressed at a very low cost in order to meet a health safety life code. He said Mrs. Vargas knows that sets are inspected for plays and they do whatever they are told. Mr. Wisnioski believes that the spacing can be addressed as an interim thing between Mr. Peter Langlois (Building Inspector) and Mr. Cooke. He thinks this should be addressed. Mr. Wisnioski thinks it was a good idea to have the manufacturer look at the bleachers and now he thinks they should have someone who is independent from the selling of the item to give their input. He has all the faith that Finance Director Connolly will do what is prudent. Superintendent Dr. Villar thinks they will seek a second opinion in the upcoming days and go from there.

Mr. Wisnioski told Finance Director Connolly that he had mentioned he was addressing the lockers at West Hill School. Mr. Wisnioski asked what the resolution of the flooring will be there because this is where kindergarten students through fifth grade students put their boots in the winter and this is an area where they stage for the loading of the buses.

He thought there is carpet there now but Finance Director Connolly said there is tile there. Mr. Wisnioski asked if this is being considered in the replacement of the locker issue. Superintendent Dr. Villar said no and he said the lockers are approximately six inches off of the floor. Mr. Wisnioski asked if they are going to keep what is there and he was told yes. Finance Director Connolly said two different contractors have looked at this and the lockers are going to be off of the floor. Mr. Wisnioski asked what they are expecting the students to do with their boots. Finance Director Connolly said they must be putting them in the lockers now. Mr. Morse said they leave the boots on the floor now. He spoke about the lockers that are coming and he said they don't know if these are going to the floor until they see the bids. He assumed that the students would put their boots in the lockers if they have them. Finance Director Connolly said there is supposed to be a space underneath the new lockers. Superintendent Dr. Villar thinks there should be some type of ventilation at the bottom of the lockers when they look at lockers. Finance Director Connolly said they had to look at what kind of ventilation they have on the lockers. He said if they go with CRCOG (Capital Region Council of Governments) then they don't have to go out to bid. CRCOG has prepared a very detailed list of bid specifications for the West Hill School lockers. They met with them at the school and showed them exactly what everything was. These specifications will be used as the basis for getting a formal bid. He explained what the lockers will have. Mr. Wisnioski asked if Principal Cori-Ann DiMaggio has been involved in this. Finance Director Connolly said they have spoken to her and she is fairly adamant about the color she wants.

Mrs. Vargas asked what time the Joint Facilities Committee meeting will be held on Monday because she assumed that this discussion will continue then. Superintendent Dr. Villar said that meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m.

14. Superintendent's Report

The Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD) is considering offering H1N1 Influenza A vaccinations to school children in Berlin, Newington, Wethersfield and Rocky Hill. This is with regards to the Swine Flu. The district is being asked to send a letter home to parents to determine if there is interest in having their children preregistered to receive this. The vaccine would be offered on a voluntary basis and it would be free of charge. The CCHD is considering having these school based clinics in the afternoon and evening. They would require that a parent or guardian be present to provide parental permission prior to having the vaccine administered. The Health District's employees would be the ones administering the vaccines. Mr. McMonigle asked if the shot will be available for the staff too. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they have worked with the town and there was an offering of regular flu shots. They met with the CCHD and they were willing to examine the possibility of setting up local flu shot clinics for this virus as well. This would be at a \$15 or \$20 cost with the potential that their health insurance would cover this. Mrs. Calciano-Coler referred to the H1N1 vaccine and she said the CDC (Center for Disease Control) has put out strict guidelines with regards to who should be receiving it. She explained who is in the first tier, second tier and third tier.

Superintendent Dr. Villar spoke about last week's CUBE meeting that he attended. He said they received confirmation that recent state budget and implementation bills provide Hartford public schools with funding necessary to cover the tuition cost of magnet school students for the next two fiscal years. Rocky Hill's tuition bill is \$161,000. Twenty-two Hartford area districts had banded together refusing to pay these fees. This forced the hand of the legislature and caused implementation bills to pick up the tab on these.

The next area in which the State Department of Education is seeking to meet the obligation of the State of Connecticut to desegregate the Hartford Public Schools is the Choice Program. Members of CUBE and the Hartford area superintendents are now looking at what possible implication this could mean for districts. Superintendent Dr. Villar explained more about this. He fears that the Commissioner in future legislative sessions is going to seek permission to require suburban districts to take additional Hartford students. They need to be vigilant that the funding must follow the student at some level because they can't afford to take children at a negative balance.

Superintendent Dr. Villar told the Board of Education members that he had left a report on their desk in response to a question from Chairman MacDonald. This report is on the Class of 2009's post graduation plans. The Guidance Department from the high school put together the statistics for him and Superintendent Dr. Villar went over them this evening. There has been some improvement in the number of college applications among their students. Vice Chairman Rivard asked if graduate surveys are done for the NEASC accreditation. He asked if NEASC asks that they do any follow-up on students who have been out of high school for awhile. Mrs. Bell said a survey was done in past years. Principal Almeida said he wasn't aware of any survey being done but he would duly note this. Mrs. Bell mentioned how Mr. Wisnioski's daughter had graduated in 2001 with her children and they received a survey several years out. Mr. Wisnioski said all of his five children who went through Rocky Hill High School received a survey. There was also a day when these children would come back to the high school for feedback. He thought this was important and he is not sure why this stopped happening. He referred to the report they had just been given and he said he didn't understand it entirely. He referred to the nine students who hadn't graduated and he thought this report needed to be more complete. He thinks there needs to be more of a qualitative explanation as to what is going on. He explained more. Mrs. Calciano-Coler referred to how eight students from last year's graduation class went to the University of Hartford. She asked if they have any programs they share with the University of Hartford where advanced placement students could get college credits towards their freshmen year and Superintendent Dr. Villar said they have programs with the University of Connecticut but not with the University of Hartford. Mr. Wisnioski said the University of Hartford used to have a program that Rocky Hill High School's art students participated in. He hopes that Principal Almeida is doing more to try to place the students in those types of programs. Vice Chairman Rivard asked if they had any statistics with regards to how many of their high school students are getting college credits. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they have students enrolled in courses that they will earn college credits in if they are successful.

15. Board Chair's Report

Chairman MacDonald said this evening was the last regular Board of Education meeting for the nine of them as a group. Four of the Board of Education members were not running again for reelection and these are Mrs. Bell, Mr. McMonigle, Mrs. Vargas and Mr. Wisnioski. Chairman MacDonald personally thanked each of them for their hard work and their dedication as well as the extra time they put in over the years which was a tremendous amount of time. He said they did this all for the children and it is all evident from everything that has been happening for the past years they were on the Board of Education. Chairman MacDonald told them they will have them back at the next Board of Education meeting for a ceremony. He thanked all of them once again.

Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Nadine Bell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth

Accepted by: _____ Date: _____