



**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	December 4, 2009
LOCATION	Rocky Hill Town Hall Council Chambers
DATE OF MEETING	December 10, 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. Marc Beliveau
3. Brian Dillon	4. Frank Morse
5. Edward (Alex) Silva	6. Also present: Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar
7. Assistant Superintendent Marian Hourigan	8. 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 Frank Morse, seconded by Edward (Alex) Silva, to approve the Minutes and Working Notes of the November 19, 2009 Board of Education meeting and the December 3, 2009 Finance Committee meeting. (Raffaella Calciano-Coler, Dilip Desai, Maria Mennella and Rene (Skip) Rivard were absent.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

2nd MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Frank Morse, seconded by Brian Dillon, to accept the Consent Calendar of December 10, 2009 (Retirement – Marlene Grower, Grade 2, Stevens School; Immigrant & Youth Education Program Grant – Notification of Application and Receipt of this grant for 2009-10). (Raffaella Calciano-Coler, Dilip Desai, Maria Mennella and Rene (Skip) Rivard were absent.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

3rd MOTION Passed Failed Tabled

Moved by Edward (Alex) Silva, seconded by Brian Dillon, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. (Raffaella Calciano-Coler, Dilip Desai, Maria Mennella and Rene (Skip) Rivard were absent.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

LINK TO WORKING NOTES (will be attached if available)

ACTION

CORRECTION(S) (will be attached if available)

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:48 p.m.

TIME DELIVERED TO TOWN CLERK: _____.

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2009**

Members Present: William MacDonald (Chairman)
Marc Beliveau
Brian Dillon
Frank Morse
Edward (Alex) Silva

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

Members Absent: Rene (Skip) Rivard (Vice Chairman)
Raffaella Calciano-Coler
Dilip Desai
Maria Mennella

A meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 10, 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 Frank Morse, seconded by Edward (Alex) Silva, to approve the Minutes and Working Notes of the November 19, 2009 Board of Education meeting and the December 3, 2009 Finance Committee meeting. (Raffaella Calciano-Coler, Dilip Desai, Maria Mennella and Rene (Skip) Rivard were absent.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent Dr. Villar said there was no correspondence for this evening.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Meeting Open to Public

Chairman MacDonald asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak on any item. Mr. Bill Pentland, 325 Old Main Street, R.H. said he was present this evening to ask the Board of Education to take a second look at the motion they had made in October with regards to students paying to attend events at Rocky Hill High School. He believed this motion had been passed in good intent but some of the ramifications from this have been a little more than anyone thought they would be. His daughter is in the Drama Club. The Drama Club had done a play this past weekend and students weren't charged to attend this due to the motion that had been made in October. The Drama Club relies very heavily on funds that they take in on nights they perform in order to help offset the cost of the plays. He then referred to sporting events. He believed there should be some kind of a system so that only the Rocky Hill students will get into these events for free. He believed that students coming from other towns should pay, especially for the football games. Rocky Hill students have to pay when they go to events in other towns. He explained what type of system he would like. He believed that Mr. Tom McCabe (Athletic Director) had some information about this but he wasn't sure if he had it for this evening. Mr. Pentland told the Board of Education members that he really would appreciate it if they could take a second look at this and reconsider how this motion might have affected things other than the sports.

Chairman MacDonald asked if there were any other comments from the public. There were no other comments.

Report of Student Representatives

Christine Pergolizzi and Varum Sachdeva said they were representing the Rocky Hill High School Student Council. Rocky Hill High School was going to be supporting "Ex to the Text" tomorrow. This is a national campaign where the students pledge not to drive and text. Twenty-eight cities across the country will be participating in this with Rocky Hill being the only stop in Connecticut.

There are over one hundred families in need in Rocky Hill alone. The Advisory Advisee Group, in conjunction with Rocky Hill's Human Services Department, decided they would sponsor families this year. It was mentioned what the local families in need would be given.

The Drama Club just completed a presentation of *Our Town* and this was its first performance of the year. A fabulous production was put on under the direction of Ms. Liz Daigle and Ms. Megan McKinnon.

The technology students and Mr. Michael Iavarone were featured on Channel 30's NBC news segment entitled *Making the Grade*.

Project Graduation was hosting a dinner this evening from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at TGIF on the Berlin Turnpike in Newington. Twenty percent of all of these proceeds will go towards the Class of 2010.

There will be a hypnotist show on January 12, 2010. This will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium and it will benefit the New Orleans trip. The Winter Concert will be held on January 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The Northern Regional Music Festival will be held on January 15, 2010 at New Britain High School. Midterms will start on January 21, 2010 and will continue through January 26, 2010. The Connecticut All State Musical Festival will be held on January 30, 2010 at North Haven High School.

Chairman MacDonald asked how the Board of Education members could make a donation to sponsor the families. Varun Sachdeva said the Project Graduation parents could be contacted. Some of these parents' names were mentioned. Chairman MacDonald said he would pass the phone numbers of these parents along to the Board of Education members. He thought this was another great cause that Rocky Hill High School was doing and he thought it would be great if all of the Board of Education members could participate.

Report of Students from Griswold Middle School

Brooke Race said she is the Student Council Secretary at Griswold Middle School. Thanks were given to the sixth graders and faculty members who had participated in the annual Griswold Middle School Cares Day which was held on November 21, 2009. There were approximately forty students who were involved in this and it was mentioned as to what these students did.

The entire school participated in a food drive to support the Rocky Hill Food Bank. The Student Council's theme of "Children Helping Children" was followed for this. Enough food was collected to stuff a mini-van and stock the shelves at a local food bank.

Congratulations were given to Ms. Scanlon, Ms. Dalton, Ms. Quinn and the entire Drama Club for an outstanding performance of *Sleeping Beauty* on November 21, 2009. There were over fifty cast and stage hand members who participated in this since the end of September. This show sold out for both performances.

On December 8, 2009, the sixth graders traveled to Hartford Stage to see the performance of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. This play had also been read in language arts class. Everyone enjoyed the dramatic performances.

Winter sports are underway. The Girls' Basketball Team is coached by Mrs. Biskupiak, and the Boys' Basketball Team is coached by Mr. McKinnon. Both of their first games were held on December 8, 2009. Cheerleading is coached by Mrs. Cadieux.

The Staff and students at Griswold Middle School wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season that is filled with family time, rest and relaxation.

1. Consent Calendar

Moved by Frank Morse, seconded by Brian Dillon, to accept the Consent Calendar of December 10, 2009 (Retirement – Marlene Grower, Grade 2, Stevens School; Immigrant & Youth Education Program Grant – Notification of Application and Receipt of this grant for 2009-10). (Raffaella Calciano-Coler, Dilip Desai, Maria Mennella and Rene (Skip) Rivard were absent.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2. Personnel and Negotiations

No report was given.

3. Policy

Superintendent Dr. Villar said this Committee had a meeting the other evening. It met with representatives from CAFE to discuss the Board of Education's project with regards to revising its Policy Manual. They are headway into the By-Laws and they will be moving soon onto the next section.

Chairman MacDonald said the policy is the cornerstone of how they operate within the Board of Education. He believed the last policy update was done in April of 1998. He had attended the recent Policy Committee meeting and a representative from CAFE, who is assisting the Board of Education in the development of the Policy Procedures Manual, had indicated that the average Board of Education can have this done in three years. Chairman MacDonald said this Board of Education's term is two years. The fastest amount of time that a Board of Education has done this in is eleven months. This will take this Board of Education to November 7, 2010 and he imagines that the new policies will be approved at their November 2010 meeting.

Their goal is to beat the eleven months as well as to have updated policies. He explained more about this. If there are any changes, he thinks the first cut through the policies will come through Superintendent Dr. Villar. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he was able to get through the By Laws yesterday.

4. Finance

Mr. Silva said this Committee had met on December 3, 2009. Superintendent Dr. Villar had gone over the Durham bus contract and Mr. Silva was sure that Finance Director Connolly would touch on this during his report this evening. The budget requests that Superintendent Dr. Villar is dealing with were talked about at that meeting too. Mr. Silva was sure that Finance Director Connolly would speak about those too this evening. Mr. Silva said they also had spoken about different reports they had asked for during the last meeting that are being put together for them. They saw preliminary numbers for this and they are awaiting this information.

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. CAPSS Student Awards

Superintendent Dr. Villar asked Principal Mario Almeida to join him at the podium. Superintendent Dr. Villar said the CAPPS Student Award is a great opportunity for a superintendent to get to meet students who are contributing greatly to the school community. At the high school level, this award is given to students who are scholars and academic students as well as to those who contribute to the greater community of Rocky Hill and to the school community. He said in his estimation that this is an outstanding award for a student at the high school to receive.

Superintendent Dr. Villar asked Principal Almeida to speak about the high school students who have been selected for this. Superintendent Dr. Villar congratulated these students and he said it is truly humbling with regards to the list of accomplishments that they have reached at this age in their life.

Principal Almeida introduced Pooja Shah, who is one of Rocky Hill High School's CAPPS Award recipients this year. Principal Almeida read Pooja Shah's list of accomplishments. Principal Almeida congratulated Pooja Shah and her parents. A certificate was given to Pooja Shah.

Principal Almeida introduced Evan Pelletier, who is another one of Rocky Hill High School's CAPPS Award recipients this year. Principal Almeida read Evan Pelletier's list of accomplishments. Principal Almeida gave a certificate to Evan Pelletier.

Chairman MacDonald told Pooja Shah that he really appreciated all of the effort she put in for the Summer Reading Program. The Summer Reading Program had been changed dramatically and Chairman MacDonald is sure that there wouldn't be the level of students there are reading at the high school if it hadn't been for Pooja Shah and other people who have helped. Chairman MacDonald told Pooja Shah that he appreciated all of her help on this.

Chairman MacDonald told Evan Pelletier that he has known him since elementary school. Chairman MacDonald complimented Evan Pelletier on everything he has done at the high school. Chairman MacDonald referred to the great speech that Evan Pelletier had given last year and he explained more.

Chairman MacDonald told Pooja Shah and Evan Pelletier that it is students like them who really make Rocky Hill High School. Chairman MacDonald wished Pooja Shah and Evan Pelletier the best of luck in everything they do.

11. Update on Fall Sports

Mr. McCabe told the Board of Education members that he was going to give them a rundown and then he was going to talk about some of the changes that have been in place since August 2009. AED training and CPR training have been completed for the year for the coaches. Approximately ninety percent of the coaches are on a one year August schedule now. This was a goal of theirs with regards to getting all of the coaches trained within the high school.

The first parents' sports informational night was held in September 2009. A speaker from St. Josephs College was brought in and they had a talk about recruiting and grade point average. A lot of good feedback was received after this.

The fall sports pep rally was held in September 2009. This was a big hit.

The Rocky Hill High School band traveled to Platt High School in September 2009. Mr. McCabe thought this was the first band trip to a visiting team. Both of these high school bands performed at half time.

A CIAC Leadership Conference was hosted by Rocky Hill High School in September 2009. Mr. McCabe gave more details about this and he said they are looking to host this every year from now on.

A CIAC Unified Soccer Tournament was hosted by Rocky Hill High School in October 2009. This was with the help of Principal Rick Watson at Griswold Middle School because the high school building wasn't available for this. Rocky Hill High School has had a Unified Basketball Team and now it has a Unified Soccer Team.

The Annual Powderpuff Game was held this November. A coaching module was also put on this November by Mr. McCabe. They are looking to have this done twice a year so all of the coaches in Rocky Hill can be in-house trained.

This November, the Girls' Soccer Senior Bowl All Star Game was hosted by Rocky Hill High School. Ashley O'Connell, Kirstin LeMay and Kayla Magnoli represented Rocky Hill and they played in that game.

This December, the Drama Club held its production of *Our Town*. The Fall Sports Awards Night was also held this month. The second parents' informational sports night was just completed for the winter sports.

Seven new coaches have been hired. These coaches are for the Boy's Diving Team, the Girls' Diving Team, the Girls' Cross Country Team, the Boy's Basketball Team (head coach), the Boys' Freshmen Basketball Team and the Wrestling Team (head coach and assistant coach).

Two new clubs have been added at the high school. Mr. Hott will take on the Photography Club. Mr. Mertens is restarting the Ski Club of which there is a trip planned for Sunapee in January 2010.

Mr. Bill Pacelia, who is a long time coach of the Girls' Soccer Team, recorded his two hundredth career win against Fermi. Mr. Pacelia was honored at the Sports Award Night. He was given a plaque and a plaque is also going to be put in the trophy case at the high school.

The Boys' Soccer Team finished its season with a record of 9-5-2. The Girls' Soccer Team finished its season with a record of 11-3-2. The Girls' Volleyball Team finished its season at 12-6 which was its best season ever. The Football Team finished its season with a record of 4-6. The Swim Team, Boy's Cross Country Team and Girls' Cross Country Team are on the move. All three of those clubs had young teams but the numbers are up in those programs. Mr. McCabe thought it was a very successful season in the CCC for the fall. Sixteen students from Rocky Hill made All Conference. There were three All State athletes: Kirstin LeMay for Girls' Soccer, Eric Calvo for Boy's Soccer and Kyley Reed for Volleyball. Kirstin LeMay also made the All Region Team in Girls' Soccer. Four hundred and twenty students participated in the fall sports. Chairman MacDonald asked the Board of Education members if they had any comments or questions about this. None of them did. Chairman MacDonald complimented Mr. McCabe, Principal Almeida, the rest of the staff and the students in Rocky Hill High School.

Chairman MacDonald said the high school was built in 1981 and nothing has been done with the gym floor since then. There is money allocated in the Capital Improvement Fund for the entire gym floor to be redone at the end of the year. They gave the students at the high school the opportunity to vote on what the new graphic should be on the basketball court. He asked Mr. McCabe to give an update on this. Mr. McCabe said they got three designs and they gave these to the homerooms to have the teachers and students vote on these. He thinks over seventy percent chose one design and this is what they are hoping to go with.

Chairman MacDonald referred to what Mr. Pentland had mentioned earlier in this evening's meeting. Chairman MacDonald said the Board of Education had made a motion several months ago which eliminated the fees for students to attend events at Rocky Hill High School. He had supported this then and he still supports it. He looked towards the administration to come back with a cost analysis of this as to what is left out on the table because of this new policy and what the recommendations will be. At the point at which the motion had been made, students didn't have their new IDs at Rocky Hill High School so that was why they couldn't tell them to bring their IDs and have only the Rocky Hill students get in for free to these events.

He explained some more and he said this was why they let any student either from Rocky Hill or some place else come in for free. He asked Mr. McCabe to come back at the next Board of Education meeting to let them know how much has been left on the table and they can have a discussion on the execution changes in the policy they came up with if there are any. Mr. McCabe said he would get this information for them.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he will post a picture of the gym floor at the high school on their website under his notes. This will just be a graphic but it will give everyone an idea of what it is going to look like.

12. Durham Bus Transportation Contract

Superintendent Dr. Villar asked Finance Director Connolly to review the details of this. Finance Director Connolly said the Board of Education made an amendment to the existing contract this past summer. This included having "Rocky Hill" put on the sides of the regular buses that service the Rocky Hill Board of Education. The Statutes allow Boards of Education to go out five years on a bus contract. Rocky Hill had a clause in the contract that stated there will be an automatic one year extension for next year which will be for the fifth year that starts on July 1, 2010 unless the Board of Education notifies the contractor by December 31, 2009 if it intends not to extend. They will go into the final and fifth year of the bus contract if the Board of Education took no action this evening.

Finance Director Connolly said he and Superintendent Dr. Villar sat down with the Durham Bus Transportation officials to review the service level and their compliance with several things that had been asked of them. Rates were also looked at for next year. Finance Director Connolly told the Board of Education members that they had information with regards to this in their packets for this meeting. He said both he and Superintendent Dr. Villar are recommending that the contract be extended for the fifth year, which is the final year and they are also recommending that the bus rates for next year be at a 2.35% increase over the current year. Finance Director Connolly explained to the newer Board of Education members about how the fees for this year had been changed dramatically. If the 2.35% increase is looked at over a two year period then this is probably closer to zero or less.

Chairman MacDonald asked the Board of Education members if they had any comments or discussion. Mr. Beliveau said they had asked that the administration go back to Durham Bus Transportation to see if a sixth year could be added at no increase from the fifth year in an attempt to push out some savings. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they did some more homework based on this request and they are obligated to stay within year five of the contract. They would have to enter into a separate and new contract to get to year six. His recommendation is that they consider completing year five and the Board of Education can make a decision at that time to use a RFP (Request for Proposal) to go out to bid for services which could increase savings for them potentially.

Mr. Silva said it was brought up at a Finance Committee meeting that it is a huge asset having this bus service in town and keeping the buses at the facility in town. There are a numerous amount of reasons for this and he gave some of these reasons.

Chairman MacDonald said no action was needed for this and they are going to just go into the fifth year for this contract.

13. Assistant Superintendent Report

Assistant Superintendent Hourigan told the members of the Board of Education that they received information about the Explore and Soar Program in their packets. This program has been headed for the past three years by Ms. Marguerite Alpert. This program started in 1991 and Assistant Superintendent Hourigan explained what this offers the teachers. Many worthwhile programs in the schools began as Explore and Soar Grants. The students in Grade Three go on a historical field trip each year and they visit several important historical locations around Rocky Hill. This program aligns with the third grade social studies curriculum and she gave more details about this.

There is a course at the high school that is called “The Connecticut River From Source to Sound”. This course began as an Explore and Soar field trip a number of years ago. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan gave more details about this.

Explore and Soar funds school and districtwide programs which align with this district’s instruction and curriculum. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan named a few of these programs such as “A One Book Experience” at Griswold Middle School every year. Ms. Alpert has also been applying for grant funding in addition to the funds that the Board of Education provides for this programming in order to add even more offerings. Ms. Alpert has an updated column on the website that tells about the things going on in Rocky Hill Public Schools. These things have also been mentioned in the *Rocky Hill Post*. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan thanked the Board of Education for funding this program.

Chairman MacDonald asked the Board of Education members if they had any comments or questions. No one had any.

14. Director of Finance & Operations’ Report

a. Monthly Financial Report

Finance Director Connolly told the Board of Education members that they had the monthly financial report for the month ending November 30, 2009 in their packets. The salaries and benefits, which are the major line items, are within their budget expectations.

He had noted last month that they expect the unemployment compensation to go over the budgeted amount. The latest federal change now is that the unemployment compensation benefits will be extended for another thirteen to twenty weeks. This affects the Board of Education. He called the labor department about this and he was told that this is the way it is.

Finance Director Connolly referred everyone to the Special Education tuition line item (Object Code – 561). There is a significant deficit in this of \$414,000 at this point. There will be some offsetting revenues coming in for this and he gave more detail about this. He mentioned how the state operates under what is called an excess cost reimbursement to the towns. He explained more about this and said this is a mandate.

Finance Director Connolly spoke about another mandate that tied in with this. This district had four placements by the State of Connecticut for students who were placed out-of-district. This cost Rocky Hill \$140,000 for four students. Under the excess cost reimbursement, this district will get reimbursed. Rocky Hill will get approximately \$104,000 back out of the \$140,000. The initial cost of \$36,000 will hit their budget. This is a mandate in Special Education that this district has no control over. He explained more. He is anticipating a deficit at the end of the fiscal year in this line item. Special Education students change almost daily and the Special Education Director is on top of this but she has to meet certain mandates. Finance Director Connolly said this is something he will be flagging each month and he will be discussing the excess costs each month. One of the strong mandates is the Special Education cost and this is not unique to Rocky Hill but it is happening to Boards of Education throughout the state.

Chairman MacDonald asked the Board of Education members if they had any comments or questions. Mr. Dillon asked Finance Director Connolly if all of them would be able to get a copy of the financial breakdown per school. Mr. Dillon told Finance Director Connolly that he knew he had started working on that. Finance Director Connolly said yes. He said the breakdown was started to be worked on and he asked Mr. Dillon if he wanted the summary by program. Mr. Dillon said they had talked about having this by location. Finance Director Connolly asked Mr. Dillon if he wanted this by location as well as by program. Mr. Dillon said he thinks that will work. He also said second from this that there would be a discussion as to how they are making out with looking at some of the facilities costs to run the schools themselves. He told Finance Director Connolly that he knew this wasn't under his control right now but as they move forward with facilities then he thinks this is going to be a critical understanding between the Facilities Committee and the Finance Committee. Finance Director Connolly said he has reviewed the first draft of this with the Finance Committee. He has met with the town's Finance Director and the town's Treasurer to go over this because it is their financial report and he wants to make sure he understands the numbers. Finance Director Connolly said this is just about ready and he can get this information out to the whole Board of Education.

There are two separate spreadsheets. One of these looks at the cost of operations for maintenance, heating and custodial, etc. He is taking this data and then using a per pupil cost. The results are very astounding. Mr. Dillon asked Finance Director Connolly if it would be possible for them to get a draft of this before their Facilities Committee meeting that is scheduled for December 17, 2009. Mr. Dillon made this request through Chairman MacDonald. Mr. Dillon said this can be a starting point for their discussions on facilities. Finance Director Connolly said he can get this information out on Monday. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he will have to talk with Mr. Rivard, who is Chairman of the Facilities Committee, because they will want to add this as an item to the December 17, 2009 Facilities Committee meeting agenda. Chairman MacDonald said he was sure they would be fine. Mr. Dillon thanked Finance Director Connolly for his hard work on this and said he thinks it will be critical to the Facilities Committee.

15. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Villar said there had been a failure of the heating system at Moser School this week and he had alerted the Board of Education about this. Superintendent Dr. Villar explained what happened. The Facilities Department did respond quickly to this and they were able to get the building up to temperature in time to have the children brought in so they could have school. Moser School was built in 1927 so Superintendent Dr. Villar said he anticipates these kinds of things happening no matter how many pieces of new equipment are put into the building because a lot of old equipment is connected to the new equipment.

The elementary conference day has to be rescheduled due to the school closing on December 9, 2009. This will be moved to January 7, 2010 and notification will be sent out to all of the parents of elementary age children.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he met today with Hartford area superintendents and the Commissioner had met with them for a brief period of time so that information could be shared with them about the "Race to the Top" funds. For the State of Connecticut, the application is due on January 19, 2010. The Commissioner shared with the superintendents his desire that they work with Teachers Unions, the Boards of Education and other professionals in the area to enter into a memorandum of understanding for support of the state's plan but unfortunately they don't know currently what the state's plan is. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he will be attending a meeting next week to learn about the state's plan. From what he can see in preliminary documentation, Rocky Hill will stand to receive approximately \$33,000 out of a pool of money that is equal to \$187,000,000. The large sums of money appear to be allocated towards urban districts. He will keep the Board of Education as informed as possible about all of this.

The Central Connecticut Health District will be holding a series of free H1N1 school based vaccination clinics for school age children and other people who have been identified as priority groups. Registration is not required but it is recommended. Parents must call to register even if they had submitted a pre-registration form. After 5:30 p.m., walk-ins will be accepted. There is a clinic that is scheduled in Rocky Hill at Griswold Middle School on December 15, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He told people to call the Central Connecticut Health District if they have any questions about this and his office will help if anybody has difficulty in finding that phone number.

Chairman MacDonald confirmed with Superintendent Dr. Villar that the Commissioner wants them to support his plan for which they don't know what the plan is by entering into a memorandum of understanding with one of the parties being the teachers' union. Superintendent Dr. Villar said that is correct. Chairman MacDonald wished Superintendent Dr. Villar the best in this and said this is ludicrous.

16. Board Chair's Report

Chairman MacDonald referred to the school closing on December 9, 2009 and he personally thought the First Alert worked very well. He had received an e-mail and a phone call to his house to let him know there was no school that day. He told Superintendent Dr. Villar that he thought his staff did a great job in implementing this and this is another improvement in communication to the parents of Rocky Hill.

Chairman MacDonald wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Moved by Edward (Alex) Silva, seconded by Brian Dillon, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. (Raffaella Calciano-Coler, Dilip Desai, Maria Mennella and Rene (Skip) Rivard were absent.)

**FAVOR: ALL
MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth

Accepted by: _____ Date: _____