

**REGION ONE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Monday, October 5, 2009**  
**HVRHS Library – 6:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Agenda 1
3. *Communications to the Board: written/Oral*
4. Approval of min. of 9/14/09, 9/29/09 2
5. Athletic Director's Report: Dan Carroll 3
6. HVRHS Student Representative's Report: K.Riley, L. Adams
7. Committee Reports:
  - a. ABC – J. Manning – none
  - b. Policy -A. Halle - none
  - c. Personnel – A. Halle
  - d. Ag. Ed. Advisory – L. Freund
  - e. HVRHS Building Committee – P. Hart
  - f. Long Range Planning Committee - P. Hart
  - g. Arboretum – P. Hart
8. Superintendent's Report-Written 4
  - a. Official Enrollments
  - b. Grant Information
  - c. School Calendar 2010-2011 5
  - d. Announcements
9. Assistant Superintendent's Report:
  - a. Announcements
10. Business Manager's Report
  - a. Business Software
  - b. Announcements
11. Director of Pupil Services Report: 6
  - a. Special Ed Monthly Report - C. Gross
  - b. Announcements
12. Principal's Report: (Written) 7
  - a. NEAS&C – Two Year Report
  - b. CAPT
  - c. Maintenance Report 7 a

- 15 New Business:
  - a. Foreign Travel Club 8
  - b. New Hire – Math Intervention 9
  - c. Parenting Leave 10
  - d. Career Pathways – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading 11
- 16. Old Business (none)
- 17 Public/Board Comments on Agenda Items
- 18 Adjourn

*Mission Statement*

*The HVRHS community promotes personal and academic growth, as well as independence of thought and spirit for all its members, within a culture of respect, responsibility and safety.*

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Town Votes

Canaan: 7      Cornwall: 9      Kent: 18      North Canaan: 21      Salisbury: 26      Sharon: 19

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**Board Goals 2009-10**

1. Continue development and monitor implementation of the Long Range Plan.
2. Develop Board of Education priority criteria associated with stated goals of the Long Range Plan.
3. Monitor and support NEAS&C accreditation recommendations.
4. Conduct Board Self-Evaluation process before the beginning of each school year.

It is the policy of Regional School District One that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise discriminated against under any program, including employment, because of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, mental retardation and past/present history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability.

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REGION ONE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**Monday, October 5, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Region One Board of Education was held on Monday, October 5, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the HVRHS Library. A quorum was seated: Chairman, Judge Manning, Sharon; Gale C. Toensing, Falls Village; Laura Freund, North Canaan; Philip Hart, Cornwall; Amanda Halle, Salisbury. Stephanie O'Rourke, Kent was absent.

Also present were: Assistant Superintendent, Diane Conclaves; Business Manager, Samuel Herrick; Director of Pupil Services, Carl D. Gross; Principal; Martha Schwaikert, Supervisor of Special Education; Dr. Gretchen Foster; Student Representatives: Kara Riley, Lynzie Adams. Absent was Superintendent, Patricia Chamberlain.

Mr. Manning called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Upon a motion by Mrs. Halle, seconded by Ms. Freund, the Board unanimously approved the agenda as submitted.

Under communications, Mr. Manning announced the receipt of a letter from Carl Williams of Salisbury regarding the airing of President Obama's speech on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hart reported his having received numerous phone calls and submitted a petition regarding President Obama's Sept 8<sup>th</sup> speech. Norma Lake, Cornwall, stated she wanted to see the Board take up this issue (President Obama's speech of 9/8/09) for future airing of speeches. Marie Prentice, Cornwall stated this issue is about decision making process; it appears the Superintendent made the decision by herself. A resident of Cornwall, Jackie Sacciccio, read aloud the petition from Cornwall residents: *We, members of the Cornwall community, do not support Superintendent Patricia Chamberlain's decision to deny our public school children opportunity to participate in the live airing of President Obama's nationwide speech to all American children on September 8. In bypassing a discussion with the members of the BOE, we feel that her unilateral decision was made neither with the best interest of our children, nor with an educational system that fosters debate and involvement in current events in mind. It is clearly in direct conflict with the Mission Statement of Cornwall Consolidated School which states, "It is our mission to inspire children to go forth as confident, curious and actively compassionate individuals." We are not in favor of this level of censorship in our schools and hope that our unease with her decision will prompt the Board of Education to keep this open dialogue.*

Mr. Hart distributed his written statement in which he asked the Region One Board Members to endorse: *The Region One Board of Education at the meetings of September 14, and October 5 has heard from numerous citizens of our 6-town district and regrets the anxiety, confusion and anger caused by administrative decisions concerning President Obama's national address and its presentation to students in our schools. We understand that the combined issues of previewing the content of that speech for appropriateness before showing it, not scheduling the speech in "real time", and inviting students to "opt-out" of hearing it or seeing it, has given weight to people's concerns about politics entering educational decisions. While seeking an end to this divisive issue, the Board agrees with open dialogue and appreciates the willingness of citizens to express their opinions in civil discourse and debate. The way forward must include, at the least, clear headed suggestions, perhaps policy, related to school presentations, student "opting out", and reviewing speech content for appropriateness, the latter especially for high school students. The Superintendent and boards of education must clarify and deal with these issues and accept that responsibility.*

Gale Toensing reported that while she can vote among the Region One Board of Education members, she does not feel comfortable speaking for the other six Boards of education in the Region. David Caldwell, Cornwall, stated that the people who have come forth at last month's meeting and this one are 100% against the Superintendent's decision and feels "she doesn't get it". John Miller, Cornwall, stated if 50 or so people call in, their protests should be heeded and not have to bow down to one person - the Superintendent.

**Assistant Superintendent, Diane Goncalves read into the minutes a statement from Superintendent Patricia Chamberlain:**

- 1. She encouraged all principals to meet with their faculties to determine the best venue for student to view President' Obama's speech of September 8, 2009, if they had not already shown the speech. The principals have responded to this request. This was also reported to local newspapers.**
- 2. Further, the Superintendent suggest that the Region One Board direct the Policy Committee to work with the Superintendent, high school Principal and faculty representatives to develop a resolution regarding school-wide broadcasts "in real time" of elected officials' speeches.  
(This can be a motion or simply the Chair asking the Committee to do the work.)  
(The local boards may wish to do the same, utilizing the high school resolution as a model.)**
- 3. She welcomes further discussion and would be more than happy to schedule an office appointment.**

Upon a motion by Mrs. Toensing, seconded by Mr. Hart, the minutes of the September 14, 2009 meeting were approved as amended, with Mrs. Halle abstaining.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded Ms. Freund, the minutes of the September 30, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously as submitted.

Dan Carroll, Athletic Director, submitted his monthly report and highlighted important announcements.

Kara Riley and Lynzie Adams gave the Student Representatives' report, highlighting the activities of the Ag-Ed Department at the Goshen Fair and the Big E; their upcoming field trip to Indianapolis for the National Competition; they reported on activities for students at the Library; the upcoming field trip to Florida by the Music Department with their fund raising events; the Art students will hold "portfolio" day; this weekend is "Homecoming" and a King and Queen will be chosen; SATs will be held on Saturday 10/10/09.

Under Committee reports Mrs. Halle reported that a Policy Meeting will be scheduled in October. Lynn Scoville, reporting on the Ag-Ed Advisory Committee meeting highlighted agenda items at its September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting; two new members have joined: Jason Bresson of Sharon and Scott Thorton of Kent.

Mr. Herrick reported that a meeting of the HVRHS Standing Bldg. Committee will be scheduled before November to review the capital expenditure portion of the 2010-2011 proposed budget.

Mr. Hart reported that the *Long Range Plan* is being edited by the Committee and will soon be complete for publication. Mr. Hart reported that the Arboretum Committee will be placing a stone monument adjacent to the White Oak Tree in the senior courtyard; the Kaelan Paton tree planting will be done by the Science wing; Kevin Wheeler of the custodial staff has brought forth some concerns about the campus.

Assistant Superintendent Goncalves submitted the monthly report of the Superintendent: the official October 1, 2009 Region One enrollments, the distribution of Title 1, ARRA, REAP and ECS grants to our schools; a draft of the 2010-2011 calendar for review; a brief report on the 2009 Summer Curriculum work and the K-12 Curriculum Council. Her report included the announcement that the CABE/CAPSS Convention will be held November 20-21, 2009 at the Mystic Marriott in Groton and urged BOE members to attend.

Mr. Herrick gave an explanation of the ECS grant and how the "Stimulus" money from the government ties into those distributions.

Dr. Foster has proposed June 17<sup>th</sup> for graduation.

Assistant Superintendent, Diane Goncalves reported on Freshman Committee work being done, which will be the focus of a conference to be held in Tennessee that she and others will be attending. She also added that Grade Level meetings are being held and that the Department Chair Evaluation process is continuing.

Mr. Herrick reported on the status of updating the computer software for the financial and payroll functions for the Region.

He also reported that a proposed 2010-2011 budget for RSSC will be presented at the November 2, 2009 Board meeting.

Mr. Gross presented his written Special Education Monthly report, highlighting areas of importance such as the LE Eligibility Update, professional development for special ed and explained the October 1<sup>st</sup> Special Education Profile Data. The total Special Education Enrollment by placement for Region One schools is 278 students.

Dr. Foster presented her report on NEAS&C reporting that the October 1, 2009 deadline for reporting was met; the five year report is due March 1, 2012. She reported that 55% of the 71 recommendations are done and completed, with 45% still in progress. She will report on the responses from NEAS&C upon receipt.

Dr. Foster reported that the CAPT scores clearly indicate continuous improvement, with the continued focus on curriculum, instruction and assessment practices.

Dr. Foster reported that the PBIS initiative continues to demonstrate success.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Toensing, seconded by Ms. Freund, the Board unanimously approved the Field Trip for HVRHS students to Switzerland and Italy.

Upon a motion by Ms. Freund, seconded by Mr. Hart the Board unanimously approved the hiring of a math interventionist, Ms. Brittany Barrett, starting salary BA-1, \$38,306/yr.

Dr. Foster gave an overview of the new course proposal, **Career Pathways**. Ms. Kim McLeod defined the elements of the course and benefits to students. Upon a motion by Mrs. Toensing, seconded by Ms. Freund, the Board unanimously approved **Career Pathways Course**.

Under public comment, Norma Lake, Cornwall suggested the BOE purchase microphone to enable each BOE member speaking to be heard.

Mr. Hart stated he wanted to see the issue of the President's speech move forward. He stated the Superintendent has not addressed the issue and would like the BOE members and Superintendent Chamberlain to endorse the resolution he has submitted.

Mr. Manning stated that "people" have discussed the issue and the Superintendent has made two (2) public statements addressing the issue. Perhaps this BOE has not discussed it to its fullest. Mrs. Halle interjected that if a policy or resolution is to be developed, it should come from the Policy Committee, which will be meeting on October 22, 2009. Mr. Manning added that the Board may agree in principle, but is not ready to make a final decision as there are ramifications regarding faculty and other elements that must be taken into consideration.

Upon a motion by Mr. Toensing, seconded by Ms. Freund, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved as submitted at the 11-2-09 meeting

Lucille A. Paige, Board Clerk