MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 16, 2009
Library Media Center, Beecher Road School

CALL TO ORDER: Sheila McCreven, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Sheila McCreven, Chair; Mr. David Barkin, Vice Chair; Mr. Michael Ewing, Secretary; Ms. Susan Kelley (7:10 PM), Mr. Carl Lindskog, Mr. Mark Livesay, and Ms. Debby Pines.

STAFF: Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent; Chuck Zettergren, Business Manager; Carol Bequary, Primary Grades Principal; MaryLou Torre, Intermediate Grades Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Joseph Holowienko, WEA; James Crawford, Bill Letsch, Rick Wood, Teachers; Margaret Hamilton, PTO; Mark Dutka, Maria Dutka, Lucy Lin, Nathan Lin and Steven Fleischman, community.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Acknowledgement of a petition received from Andrea Fleischman with additional 59 signatures regarding the Math Curriculum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Margaret Hamilton asked that consideration be given to adding "PTO Representative" to Policy 7551 (Naming of Facility).

Mr. Lindskog indicated it was his understanding the March Board meeting would include a Performance Review of the Superintendent in conjunction with BOE Goals. This would then allow for goal setting to occur at the April meeting. The March agenda does not reflect those items. Ms. McCreven noted that last year the Executive Leadership Committee was convened to accomplish this task. This was an Ad Hoc committee and has not been convened this year. If the Board agrees, this Committee could meet in the coming weeks and the applicable follow-up items would then be placed on the April agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

MOTION #1 – MINUTES, FEBRUARY 23, 2009 MEETING

Move that we approve the minutes of the February 23, 2009 Meeting.

Ms. Pines
Second by Mr. Barkin
UNANIMOUS

REPORTS

Board Member Appreciation – Superintendent Stella presented each Board member with a copy of *Six Secrets of Change*, by Michael Fullan. He extended his heartfelt thanks to each member for their dedication and commitment on behalf of the children of Beecher Road School.

Superintendent's Report

- *Beecher Road School Update* – Superintendent Stella apprised the Board he recently accepted a donation in memory of Bunny Yesner of a Storytelling Rocking Chair, which will be housed in the Storytelling Room in the Library Media Center. Another donation of an inscribed rock to be located outside the 5th grade pod area is under consideration and will be reviewed by the Facilities Committee at their April meeting.

- *Student Recognition* – Superintendent Stella recognized recent student achievements at the CEMA Music Festival. Four students, Danny Giebisch, Eli Baum, Nathan Lin and Mark Dutka, represented Beecher Road School at the

Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) Southern Regional Festival at Naugatuck High School. Nathan Lin and Mark Dutka gave a brief solo performance.

- *Sister School Trip* – James Crawford and Rick Wood gave a presentation on their upcoming trip to our Sister Schools in China --- *Building Global Communication Bridges Among Students*. A blog has been created that will allow all community members as well as students throughout the State to participate vicariously in this travel experience. A link will be available shortly on our web site.

- *Last Day of School* – Superintendent Stella proposed adjusting the last day for students to be Monday, June 22 to allow for a professional development day for staff on Tuesday, June 23. The Columbia Reader's Workshop Institute at BRS is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23 to Friday, June 26. Our calendar provides 182 days of student instruction, 2 days over the state requirement of 180 days.

MOTION #2 – 2008/09 CALENDAR ADJUSTMENT
Move that we accept the Superintendent's recommendation and change the last day for students in 2008/09 to June 22, 2009.

Mr. Ewing
Second by Mr. Lindskog
UNANIMOUS

PTO Update: Ms. Hamilton provided each Board member with a gift on behalf of Board Member Appreciation. She noted the Cookbook has been forwarded to the publisher, support for the recently held Kindergarten registration and plans for a non-fundraising social evening.

Facilities Committee: Ms. Pines reviewed the March 6 meeting. Review of the boiler system has been referred to the Town Building Committee. A subcommittee, with Caron Stebinger and Rich Burness as members, was formed in support of ground improvements and planting configurations. While it may be possible to remove the storage trailers, room will have to found within Beecher to house the Recreation equipment. The STEAP Grant was approved but will be resubmitted in hopes of attaining additional funding to address traffic concerns in the BRS North Parking lot.

Curriculum Committee: –Ms. McCreven reviewed the March 10 Curriculum Committee meeting, which focused on a comprehensive review of the Math Curriculum and a petition presented to the Board. Discussion ensued regarding data assessment and analysis, the effectiveness of resources, the alignment of our curriculum to the Middle School, and whether BRS are prepared for Grades 7-12. Board members were urged to attend the upcoming Superintendent's Parent Curriculum Academy on March 26, which will focus on the Math Program.

Policy Committee: – Mr. Ewing presented policies, currently under 30-day review, for adoption.

MOTION #3 – POLICY 5113.1
Move that we adopt Policy 5113.1 (Attendance Regulations).

Mr. Ewing
Second by Ms. Pines
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #4 – POLICY 9110
Move that we adopt Policy 9110 (Number of Members, Terms of Office).

Mr. Ewing
Second by Ms. Pines
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #5 – POLICY 9120
Move that we adopt Policy 9120 (Officers of the Board).

Mr. Ewing
Second by Ms. Pines
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #6 – POLICY 9121
Move that we adopt Policy 9121 (Chairperson).
Mr. Ewing
Second by Ms. Pines
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #7 – POLICY 9123
Move that we adopt Policy 9123 (Secretary of the Board).
Mr. Ewing
Second by Ms. Pines
UNANIMOUS

It was agreed that PTO Representative(s) would be added as part of the "Committee" in Paragraph 3 before community member(s).

MOTION #8 – POLICY 7551
Move that we amend Policy 7551 (Naming of Facilities) and add "PTO Representative" as part of the "Committee" in Paragraph 3 before community member(s).
Ms. Pines
Second by Ms. McCreven
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #9 – POLICY 7551
Move that we adopt Policy 7551 (Naming of Facilities) as amended.
Mr. Ewing
Second by Ms. Pines
UNANIMOUS

CABE Liaison Report – Ms. McCreven noted that Board members were receiving information from CABE directly and there was no need for a formal report this evening.

ACES Liaison Report – Ms. Pines reviewed the 40th Anniversary of ACES, the commitment from state legislators in support of magnet school funding and a collaborative alternative to education initiative.

Mr. Ewing left the meeting (9:30 PM).

NEW BUSINESS
Non-renewal of Non-tenured Staff – Superintendent Stella presented the non-renewal of contracts for two certified staff members who may not have a position in the coming year. This recommendation is made in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-151. The notification of a non-renewal recommendation is perfunctory in nature and followed by districts throughout the state. The determination and selection of individuals is based on seniority and endorsement area. The procedure is generally predicated on a "last in, first out" premise.

MOTION #10 –NON-RENEWAL NON-TENURED STAFF
Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-151, we accept the Superintendent's recommendation to non-renew the teaching contracts of Allison Schulze and Jennifer Schnitzer at the end of the 2008/09 school year. Further, move that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to each and further, that the Superintendent be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests which may be forthcoming from each and/or their representative pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 10-151.
Ms. Pines
Second by Mr. Lindskog
UNANIMOUS

Ms. Pines requested consideration of naming the Beecher Road School Library Media Center in honor of Bunny Yesner. As the policy for naming facilities was just adopted this evening, this request was tabled to the April meeting to allow administration to develop procedures.

FINANCE

Mr. Barkin reviewed the March 9 Finance Committee meeting and presented the Financial Reports.

MOTION #11 – 2008/09 BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Move that we accept the BOE Monthly Summary Financial Report, F1, submitted by the Business Manager for the period ending February 28, 2009.

Mr. Barkin
Second by Mr. Lindskog
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #12 – 2008/09 BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY DETAIL FINANCIAL REPORT

Move that we approve the 2008/09 BOE Monthly Detail Financial Report, F2-5, submitted by the Business Manager for the period ending February 28, 2009.

Mr. Barkin
Second by Mr. Lindskog
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #13 – 2008/09 COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Move that we approve the 2008/09 BOE Combined Financial Statements, F6-7, submitted by the Business Manager for the period ending February 28, 2009.

Mr. Barkin
Second by Mr. Lindskog
UNANIMOUS

RECEIVE & FILE – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:50 PM)
Mr. Lindskog
Second by Ms. Pines
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board