CITY OF DERBY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
February 11 2010
MINUTES

Call to order
Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
All rose and pledged allegiance.

Roll Call
Present: Stephanie Donofrio, Laura Harris, Andy Mancini, Jodi Chevarella, Ken Marcucio, Martin Hubbard and Kim Kreiger. There is a quorum.

Absent: Casey Picheco and Rebecca O’Hara

Also Present: Dr. Tracy, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Pam Mangini - Business Manager, Nicole Bunnell, Fran Thompson - Principal of DHS and Sally Bonina - Principal of DMS.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda
There are some changes to the agenda. Move Item 5 - (Motion: that the Board of Education approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Derby Education Association regarding health insurance premiums and early retirement, as recommended by the Superintendent) after the Public Portion. Move Item 7 - (Motion: that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to apply for an application for a 21st Century Learning Environment Grant with the Connecticut State Department of Education) right after aforementioned motion.

MOTION to accept the agenda as amended by Ms. Harris, second by Ms. Kreiger, all in favor, motion carries.

Public Portion
No one from the public spoke. Public Portion closed.

MOTION by Ms. Kreiger with a second by Ms. Donofrio that the Board of Education approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Derby Education Association regarding health insurance premiums and early retirement, as recommended by the Superintendent, all in favor, Ms. Chevarella abstained, motion carries.

MOTION by Ms. Harris with a second by Ms. Chevarella that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to apply for an application and submit it for a 21st Century Learning Environment Grant with the Connecticut State Department of Education, discussion. The grant is for $140,000.00 for a CT Standard Based On-line Program, enhanced technology opportunities at the high school and four computer workstations in each of the two libraries. All in favor, motion carries.

Discussion of the Budget 2010-2011
Ms. Mangini addressed the board. There is a half-time position for a guidance secretary for Derby Middle School.
Alternative Education Program
The proposal is one that is not a quick fix but could in time become self-sustaining. This is an investment in the future. There are 41 students out placed.

Mr. Thompson and Ms. Bunnell presented information regarding the key elements of a successful program. This is a school choice for students who have not been successful. The program components are a modified day, a basic curriculum, small student/teacher ratio, special education and social work services.

The program staffing includes two full-time people - the Director/Social workers and a Behavior Intervention Specialist in lieu of a para-professional. There is an academic component, counseling and behavioral components.

Renovations would need to be done in the space where the current Special Education wing is.

The startup costs include supplies, renovations and technology etc. Mr. Thompson is pursuing grant options.

Middle School Budget
The projected enrollment is 353 students. Ms. Bonina went over her wish list items.

There are additional staffing positions due to the incoming sixth graders. Four elementary teachers will be joining the Derby Middle School in the fall. This will leave the Middle School one reading teacher short.

The upcoming year will be bringing in some unique medical needs.

Students only have part-time library access due to only having a part-time library clerk.

The proposed budget has no funds for activities. Athletics keeps kids connected. The cost for a sport can be $3,500.00 to $5,000.00.

Dr. Tracy went over his recommended budget. The school would have two full-time clerical people and the total staff increase would be 7.2. Four of them the sixth grade teachers coming over. There is an addition of one para-professional coming over. There will be an addition of a one half custodian.

High School Budget
Mr. Thompson addressed the board. There is a need for a full-time library clerk. Mr. Thompson has six Italian courses. He would like to offer the Middle School Italian teacher at least one class.

Athletic Program
Mr. Orazietti went over what was cut, and what was brought back by donations. This year the athletic enterprise fund began with $80,000.00, next year it will begin with a much smaller balance, probably at $30,000.00.

Questions from the board include the possibility of collecting gate receipts from the spring sports. Also, there is a need to look at how programs are brought back by looking at participation rates and a need for a junior varsity coach for wrestling.

Dr. Tracy addressed the board on his recommended budget. The programs at the high school that have additional staffing will be a repeat of this year with some exceptions.
MOTION by Ms. Kreiger at 9:10 p.m. with a second by Ms. Chevarella that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, all in favor, motion carries.

MOTION that the Board of Education come out of Executive Session by Mr. Mancini 9:50 p.m. with a second by Ms. Harris, all in favor, motion carries.

Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Cesaroni
Recording Secretary

****These minutes are subject to approval by the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting.