



**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	June 12, 2009
LOCATION	Rocky Hill Town Hall Council Chambers
DATE OF MEETING	June 18, 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. Charles McMonigle	6. Maria Mennella
7. Frank Morse	8. Catherine Vargas
9. Charles Wisnioski	10. Also present: Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Villar
11. Assistant Superintendent Marian Hourigan	12.

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, as amended, of the May 18, 2009 Finance Committee meeting, the May 21, 2009 Board of Education Executive Session, the May 21, 2009 Board of Education meeting, the May 27, 2009 Facilities Committee meeting (Minutes only) and the May 28, 2009 Curriculum Committee meeting.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

2nd MOTION  Passed  Failed  Tabled

**Moved by Nadine Bell, seconded by Frank Morse, to accept the Consent Calendar of June 18, 2009.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

3rd MOTION  Passed  Failed  Tabled

**Moved by Rene (Skip) Rivard, seconded by Catherine Vargas, to make the recommendation of John Colonghi for the position of principal for the Stevens/Moser Elementary Schools.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

4th MOTION  Passed  Failed  Tabled

**Moved by Rene (Skip) Rivard, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, that the Rocky Hill Board of Education adopt its budget for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 which is composed of \$27,771,659 funded by the Town of Rocky Hill and an additional \$469,732 by the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund that is part of the American Resource and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This money is to be sent directly to the Board of Education by the state for a total Board of Education budget of \$28,241,391 in accordance with the Town Council Budget Resolution of May 18, 2009.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

5th MOTION  Passed  Failed  Tabled

**Moved by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, seconded by Catherine Vargas, to adopt the Elementary Language Arts Program textbooks that were recommended by the Curriculum Committee on May 28, 2009.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

6th MOTION  Passed  Failed  Tabled

**Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Rene (Skip) Rivard, to go into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. for the purposes of evaluation of the Superintendent.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

7th MOTION  Passed  Failed  Tabled

**Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Frank Morse to adjourn the meeting.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

LINK TO WORKING NOTES (will be attached if available)

ACTION

CORRECTION(S) (will be attached if available)

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:36 p.m.

TIME DELIVERED TO TOWN CLERK: \_\_\_\_\_.

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2009**

**Members Present:** William MacDonald (Chairman)  
Rene (Skip) Rivard (Vice Chairman)  
Nadine Bell  
Raffaella Calciano-Coler  
Charles McMonigle  
Frank Morse  
Catherine Vargas  
Charles Wisnioski

**Also Present:** Dr. Jeffrey Villar (Superintendent)

**Those absent:** Maria Mennella

An Executive Session of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 18, 2009 before the regular Board of Education meeting.

**Executive Session**

**Moved by Rene Rivard, seconded by Catherine Vargas, to go into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Personnel Matters – the Stevens/Moser Elementary Principal position.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Raffaella Coler, to come out of Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2009**

**Members Present:** William MacDonald (Chairman)  
Rene (Skip) Rivard (Vice Chairman)  
Nadine Bell  
Raffaella Calciano-Coler  
Charles McMonigle  
Maria Mennella  
Frank Morse  
Catherine Vargas  
Charles Wisnioski

**Also Present:** Dr. Jeffrey Villar (Superintendent)  
Marian Hourigan (Assistant Superintendent)

**Members Absent:** Frank Connolly (Finance Director)

A meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 18, 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, as amended, of the May 18, 2009 Finance Committee meeting, the May 21, 2009 Board of Education Executive Session, the May 21, 2009 Board of Education meeting, the May 27, 2009 Facilities Committee meeting (Minutes only) and the May 28, 2009 Curriculum Committee meeting.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Superintendent Dr. Villar read aloud and in full a letter from Tom and Laura Hock that was addressed to him and to the Board of Education with regards to their deepest gratitude for the teachers that their children Nathan and Justin have had this year. These teachers are Mr. Beardsley and Mrs. Crawford. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is a very nice communication for the teachers and he thanked Mr. and Mrs. Hock.

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

### **Meeting Open to Public**

Chairman MacDonald asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak on an item that was or wasn't on the agenda. Principal Watson said he was present to represent the Parent Advisory Committee and entire staff from Griswold Middle School. One of the staff there, Mrs. Carneiro, passed away recently after a long illness. She left behind a son, CJ Alva, who is fourteen or fifteen years old. In conjunction with Mr. Dan Randall, a teacher at Griswold Middle School, and the Parent Advisory Committee, a fundraiser is being conducted. In honor of Mrs. Carneiro, the men of Griswold Middle School have agreed to let the students watch them have their heads shaved or their hair dyed "wacky colors". Principal Watson went over the goals that were set for this. Well over \$4,000 has been raised so far and on June 23, 2009, after the field day activities at the school, all of this will take place. Everybody is invited to come to this to take pictures and to donate money. The cause is the Carlos A. Alva Jr. Education Fund in care of TD Banknorth, 25 Wells Road, Wethersfield, CT. Donations can also be sent directly to Mr. Dan Randall at Griswold Middle School. Principal Watson gave a handout with regards to this and he said they would appreciate it if anybody would like to make a donation to this.

Chairman MacDonald asked if there was anyone else from the public who wished to speak and there was nobody.

### **Report of Student Representatives**

Chairman MacDonald asked if there was anybody from the high school who was going to speak. Tanya Mital said a lot has been going on at Rocky Hill High School this year. Yesterday, the Summer Reading Program kicked off. Scot Haney was the guest speaker and he shared his personal experiences about reading. Evan Pelletier and Pooja Shah also had explained the Summer Reading Program. The homeroom teachers explained this further today and they answered questions. The Virtual High School Program just started at the high school. This program offers a wide selection of courses that aren't offered at the high school. Many students have signed up for these courses. Tanya Mital thinks this is a great opportunity and a wonderful program and she also signed up for a course that is related to science because she wants to be a doctor. Many end of the year activities are going on. The senior ball was held on June 5, 2009. The senior picnic was held at the Farmington Club on June 8, 2009. Awards Night was held on June 9, 2009 and Class Night was held on June 10, 2009.

Chairman MacDonald said he read the recent newspaper that was issued from the high school today and he told Tanya Mital that they outdid themselves again. Chairman MacDonald referred to an article in this that he enjoyed the best. He said there was a

listing that showed the United States. This mapped out where the students are going to college. He said “hats off” to whoever had come up with this.

**1. Consent Calendar**

-American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

**Moved by Nadine Bell, seconded by Frank Morse, to accept the Consent Calendar of June 18, 2009.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**2. Personnel and Negotiations**

No report was given.

**3. Policy**

No report was given.

**4. Finance**

No report was given.

**5. Curriculum**

Mr. Wisnioski said there had been an extensive discussion about the Reading Program (Language Arts) which he believes is also in the budget. All of the positive aspects were talked about as well as how they arrived at the selection of a particular series. They also talked about all of the benefits this will have for the K-5 program. If anyone is interested in the details of this, this information is online on the Board of Education’s website.

**6. Professional Development**

No report was given.

**7. Facilities**

Mr. Wisnioski said facilities is a matter in flux and there is a Joint Facilities Committee, made up of Council members and Board of Education members. Finance Director Connolly is devising a five year program with the Town Council’s allocation of approximately \$229,000. This five year plan is still in draft form. This has recently been supplemented by money from a lawsuit that was resolved.

The Town Council has allocated additional sums. Anyone interested in the details of this should read the Minutes. In the near term to come, there is an effort for the Joint Facilities Committee and the Board of Education to do quite a number of things. The initial focus will be on issues that are related to fire safety, etc. The Board of Education is benefiting from the Town Council's allocation of funds and Finance Director Connolly's effort to create a five year plan. When Board of Education funds are in surplus, the Town Manager, Mayor and Town Council will be putting those excess funds into this, plus funds from a resolution of a lawsuit with the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority as well as funds from the budget. Nothing is finalized with regards to all of this but Mr. Wisnioski said this looks positive as opposed to the hope that some referendum will take place and maybe something will get done. He said this is a very good development.

#### **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. Recognition of Rocky Hill High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he and Chairman MacDonald discussed the opportunity this year to acknowledge the top students at Rocky Hill High School before the Board of Education. Superintendent Dr. Villar told the Board of Education members that they would be meeting the Salutatorian and the Valedictorian of the school.

Superintendent Dr. Villar read a biography of Caitlin LeMay, who is the Salutatorian. Caitlin LeMay was the secretary of the Class of 2009 for four years. She was the editor of the sports section of the school newspaper as well as Vice President for the National Honor Society. She was the Captain of the Tennis Team and the Volleyball Team. She was named All State and All Conference in volleyball. In tennis, she and her doubles partner, Rachel Rozewski won the Northwest Conference Doubles Tournament. Caitlin LeMay has taken dance lessons for more than fifteen years outside of school. She has volunteered as a day care instructor at her church during an annual summer bible camp.

She will be attending Villanova University in the fall where she will be a communications major. She plans on pursuing a career in the future in either public relations or in advertising. Superintendent Dr. Villar asked Caitlin LeMay to come forward and he presented her with a small token of everyone's appreciation for her hard work. Superintendent Dr. Villar told Caitlin LeMay that she will be recognized at her graduation as well.

Superintendent Dr. Villar next read a biography of Kelly Miskunas, who is the Valedictorian. Over the last four years, she has been an active member of the community and of the high school. She is a member of the Spanish National Society and she is the secretary of the National Honor Society. She is also a member of the Freshmen Leader Advisory Group and the Student Advisory Group. She has been the managing editor of the *Broadside*, which is the high school newspaper. For over four years, she has played volleyball and she ran track for two years. This spring, she was Co-Captain of the first Girls' Lacrosse Team at the high school. She was named a Rocky Hill Scholar Athlete and she finished as the commended student in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Outside of school, she works for Mitchell's Restaurant and Mitchell's On The River. She has volunteered as a bible study teacher, a tutor and she organizes clothing drives for local shelters. This February, she attended the New Orleans Relief Trip with Habitat for Humanity. She has been playing piano for the past nine years. Kelly Miskunas will be attending Providence College next year and she will be studying mathematics or engineering. Superintendent Dr. Villar asked Kelly Miskunas to come forward and he presented her with a small token of everyone's appreciation for her hard work.

Superintendent Dr. Villar congratulated Caitlin LeMay and Kelly Miskunas. Superintendent Dr. Villar said this is an outstanding achievement and it shouldn't be taken lightly.

#### **11. CAS Scholar Leader Award Recognition**

Superintendent Dr. Villar asked Principal Watson to come to the podium so that he could help out with the next few agenda items. Principal Watson congratulated Caitlin LeMay and Kelly Miskunas. Principal Watson said they recognize some students at the middle school level in similar fashion to the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. He referred to the CAS Scholar Level Award and he said this award is presented by the Connecticut Association of Schools. Approximately sixty of the students in Grade Eight qualified for this in April. These students had the academic record to participate in the possibility of being selected as one of the Connecticut Association of School Scholar Leaders. About forty of these students, took this to the next level and they submitted essays to a Committee at the school. These essays were evaluated by that Committee. Two students are selected every year from this process.

Principal Watson introduced and congratulated Emily Miehkle. Principal Watson asked Emily Miehkle to come forward. Emily has made high honors every marking period in middle school. She was a seventh grade science award winner. She has been a Student of the Month and a Laws of Life essay competition winner. She won the CAPSS Superintendent's Award this past fall. She plays soccer and basketball at Griswold Middle School. She is part of the Sister School Program as well as the after school Circle of Friends Program. She also participates in Griswold Middle School giveback activities and care activities for the community. She has participated in the Family Consumer Science Senior Luncheon Program. She plays travel basketball and travel soccer outside of school. Since first grade, she has been involved with dance. She is an assistant swimming instructor at a day camp and she assists at the preschool Sunday school at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. Principal Watson congratulated Emily Miehkle again and said she is truly an outstanding student.

Principal Watson introduced Dan Madigan and asked him to come forward. Dan was also the CAPSS Superintendent's Award recipient this past fall. On the Connecticut Mastery Test, he received a perfect score on the writing assessment in the past. He is part of a creative writing class at GHAMAS. He was a finalist in a geography bee and has been in accelerated math throughout middle school. He has been on the honor roll for the last three years. He has been Student of the Month twice and won the Family Consumer Science Award as well as the Citizenship Award. He was a tour guide for the NELMS visitation which turned into Griswold Middle School receiving an award as a spotlight school. He has played the saxophone in the concert band. He has participated in volleyball and cross country. He has also been a baseball co-captain and basketball co-captain. For three years, he has been on the Student Council of which he is the Co-President of now. He attended the CAS Leadership Conference representing Griswold Middle School. He plays spring and fall baseball as well as travel basketball. Principal Watson congratulated Dan Madigan.

## **12. CAS Middle Level Teacher of the Year for 2009-10**

Principal Watson said this is another award that is presented by the Connecticut Association of Schools. This is an outstanding honor for Griswold Middle School and for Rocky Hill. Every year they receive information at the school about the Connecticut Middle Level Educator of the Year. This is not to be taken lightly and somebody who deserves this honor really needs to be nominated. Principal Watson nominated Ms. Gail Thibodeau this year. Ms. Thibodeau has been a cornerstone in this Town for many years. Principal Watson said he and Ms. Thibodeau go back many years. Principal Watson said he had been a classroom teacher at Stevens School and Ms. Thibodeau had been the Reading Consultant there. Ms. Thibodeau is the Subject Area Supervisor now for Language Arts at Griswold Middle School and Principal Watson said she is pretty much the Curriculum Coordinator in that school. Ms. Thibodeau also serves much like another administrator. She has come up with wonderful ideas that have changed things at the middle school.

Principal Watson explained some of these things. Ms. Thibodeau has worked at the high school to assist the teachers in fusing reading and writing in the curriculum. She has her doctorate and she has written articles. Principal Watson said he nominated Ms. Thibodeau in the fall and she made it to the final four. She went in for the interview and she won. Principal Watson said Ms. Thibodeau is the Connecticut Association of Schools Middle Level Educator of the Year in the State of Connecticut. Principal Watson congratulated Ms. Thibodeau.

Ms. Thibodeau said she was honored to receive this award and she said it is a wonderful recognition. She thought though that everyone who is in education knows that nothing in education is ever achieved in isolation. She thinks this award is truly an achievement to the entire Griswold Middle School community and the excellence of that community. She said she wanted to share this award with them. She thanked Principal Watson for his kind words and for the gift she received this evening.

### **13. Retiree Recognition**

Principal Watson said they have someone retiring at Griswold Middle School and that is Mrs. Gavin. Principal Watson said Mrs. Gavin was an outstanding school nurse and she also was an outstanding member of the faculty. Ms. Gavin went above and beyond the call of duty. She took children, as well as teachers, “under her wing” and she was involved in the educational process. Principal Watson said he couldn’t say enough for what Ms. Gavin has done for thousands of students in Rocky Hill which goes well beyond being a school nurse. Principal Watson said Ms. Gavin was part of the administrative team in many ways. Principal Watson said he will miss Ms. Gavin. Principal Watson said he was a teacher of one of Ms. Gavin’s children. Ms. Gavin was a supporter of Principal Watson when he had been coaching the high school basketball team. Principal Watson said Ms. Gavin has been awesome. Principal Watson thanked Ms. Gavin for everything and he told her that they love her.

Ms. Gavin thanked Superintendent Dr. Villar, Assistant Superintendent Hourigan, the Board of Education and the entire staff of Rocky Hill. Ms. Gavin said for the last forty-two years that she was quite privileged and happy to be working in a profession that she loves. She said the student body is beyond compare and the staff is amazing. She thanked everyone very much. She will miss everything about this job and everyone.

### **14. Stevens/Moser Elementary School Principal Appointment**

Superintendent Dr. Villar said they had four highly qualified candidates after an exhausting principal search. There were over twelve interviews over a three day period of time. They are very happy to recommend Mr. John Colonghi as the recommended candidate for principal at Stevens School. He has been the Interim Principal for approximately five months at that school.

Superintendent Dr. Villar remembers having called Mr. Colonghi and asking to see him to tell him about an opportunity to be a building principal. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he and Mr. Colonghi had a very honest conversation with regards to the need for him to demonstrate that he was ready to be a building principal. Superintendent Dr. Villar said Mr. Colonghi has done nothing but prove that he has the “right stuff”. Stevens School has made a miraculous turnaround in five months. It is a very happy and relaxed place to be. Superintendent Dr. Villar attributes this to leadership. There is lots of evidence in literature and research, etc. that states that leadership makes the big difference. Superintendent Dr. Villar said Mr. Colonghi has made a great deal of change in a small period of time at Stevens School. Superintendent Dr. Villar had told Mr. Colonghi that he would have to prove himself in the interview process and he did that. Mr. Colonghi rose to the top out of a pool of very qualified and experienced sitting principals. He was the unanimous selection of the Committee. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he was recommending Mr. Colonghi to the Board of Education this evening and he hoped that the Board of Education agreed that he was the perfect fit to be the principal for Stevens School.

**Moved by Rene (Skip) Rivard, seconded by Catherine Vargas, to make the recommendation of John Colonghi for the position of principal for the Stevens/Moser Elementary Schools.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman MacDonald congratulated Mr. Colonghi. Mr. Colonghi said he appreciated all of the kind words and he is honored to be the principal of Stevens School and Moser School. He said he will do his very best to make sure that these schools move forward and that they shine as all of the schools in this district do. He thanked everyone very much for their confidence in him and he appreciates the opportunity to serve this district for a few more years.

At this point, a five minute recess was taken.

**15. Budget Approval**

**Moved by Rene (Skip) Rivard, seconded by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, that the Rocky Hill Board of Education adopt its budget for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 which is composed of \$27,771,659 funded by the Town of Rocky Hill and an additional \$469,732 by the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund that is part of the American Resource and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This money is to be sent directly to the Board of Education by the state for a total Board of Education budget of \$28,241,391 in accordance with the Town Council Budget Resolution of May 18, 2009.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

Before this motion was voted on, Mrs. Vargas said as a point of clarification that there had been a question at the special Board of Education meeting with regards to the policy review of the Virtual High School. Superintendent Dr. Villar had sent this information out today via e-mail. Mrs. Vargas asked if Superintendent Dr. Villar could go over this information because she didn't get a chance to read that e-mail today.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said the administration had to sit down and develop some guidelines that would become the school policy for how to award credit, etc. in order to implement the Virtual High School Program at Rocky Hill High School. He had been under the impression early in this process that this would be brought to Board of Education level for Board of Education level policy but the current policy indicates that the high school graduation requirements are set by the high school principal. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he is going to make some recommendations as to how this policy is written as they are conducting their policy review. He believes that most of these types of recommendations will be incorporated into Board of Education policy as well as the program of studies. He then went through seven different points in order for Virtual High School to work. He explained that if any of these issues are problematic, they will have the opportunity to revisit them. This wasn't developed by Rocky Hill in independence and Rocky Hill is actually late to the Virtual High School type of programming. This district was able to reach out to many area schools that already have policies in order to figure out where the problems of implementation were and how the problems were solved. Most of the policies are borrowed from existing systems.

Mrs. Bell thanked Superintendent Dr. Villar and Finance Director Connolly for answering questions she had after this past Monday evening's meeting. Mrs. Bell is very pleased that they were able to reach a compromise that included the alternative high school. She thinks this is really important for a lot of students at the high school. She appreciates the effort the entire Board of Education put in to make this happen. Her one concern she continues to have is with scheduling and with adequate staffing of high school classes to the scheduling requirements. She said Superintendent Dr. Villar said he will monitor this along with the high school staff to make sure that students have meaningful and full schedules. Mrs. Bell told the Board of Education members that they have to keep their eyes on this.

Chairman MacDonald asked if anybody had any other comments or questions.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

#### **16. Elementary Language Arts Program Textbook Adoption**

Superintendent Dr. Villar said they have been discussing this concept for quite some time and he is very pleased that there was the Board of Education's approval to help consider moving this program to a K-5 implementation.

They will be able to make a significant impact in the language arts and reading instruction of all of the students who attend elementary school in this town within one full sloop. The principals, Dr. Thibodeau, Assistant Superintendent Hourigan, Mrs. Brown as well as other language arts teachers in this district have long been looking to make this change. They are working very hard now on how to implement a professional development program. They have spent quite some time figuring out how they are going to implement, train and “hit the ground running” in September under the assumption that the Board of Education will approve this purchase and allow this textbook program to be adopted. They have established ways to use online websites already so that training can begin immediately before the end of the school year. Before school starts, there will be formal training in August. There will also be ongoing professional development to ensure that this investment is used to its maximum potential. Superintendent Dr. Villar said he is absolutely convinced that they are going to see a significant impact on the children’s reading results in a matter of years. This will impact learning over time for the district and Superintendent Dr. Villar thinks this is foundational.

Chairman MacDonald asked if a formal motion was needed. Superintendent Dr. Villar said a formal motion was needed for the adoption of the textbook program.

**Moved by Raffaella Calciano-Coler, seconded by Catherine Vargas, to adopt the Elementary Language Arts Program textbooks that were recommended by the Curriculum Committee on May 28, 2009.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

Before this motion was voted on, Mrs. Vargas thanked Mrs. Brown for all of the hard work she has done since she started. Mrs. Vargas thanked Assistant Superintendent Hourigan also. Mrs. Vargas thanked Mrs. Brown for all of the presentations she has done for the Curriculum Committee and for the Board of Education over the past few months. Mrs. Vargas wished them good luck with the new program.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said Mrs. Brown has singlehandedly saved Rocky Hill thousands of dollars in her very stern negotiations with many different textbook providers. There were a lot of hours and a lot of effort spent on Mrs. Brown’s part. She was able to get a really fair price. Superintendent Dr. Villar echoed Mrs. Vargas’ thank you.

At this point, this motion was voted on.

**17. Update on Spring Sports**

Mr. Tom McCabe said all of the teams had a very successful season this past spring. On June 11, 2009, there was an Awards Assembly. The Sports Boosters sponsored a pizza dinner for the coaches and for the athletes which was received very well.

On various teams this spring, one hundred and ninety athletes competed. There were fifty All Academic athletes at the Awards Assembly. There were sixteen All Conference players. There was an All State runner from the Boys' Track Team who was Andrew Duarte. Andrew Duarte won the Class M All State in the 800 meters. Mr. McCabe said there will be a dinner next week at the Aqua Turf for Andrew Duarte and he will be attending that with him, his family and his coach. The Girls' Tennis Team had five All Conference players on it. In the Northwest Conference, they took the number one singles and doubles. That was hosted at Rocky Hill High School. The Boys' Tennis Team was runner up in their tournament with the doubles team. For Girls' Softball, they won the conference. They had a tremendous year.

The season was begun again with another informational session for athletes, coaches and parents. A speaker, who spoke about drugs and alcohol, was brought in. The speaker also spoke about leadership as far as athletes and playing goes. Mr. McCabe thanked the Boosters for getting the money to bring this speaker in.

Mr. McCabe gave a special thanks publically to Mrs. Lisa Zerio (Director of the Parks and Recreation Department) and Mr. Walt Sykes (Parks and Recreation Department). It was a very rainy spring and Mr. Sykes was available 24/7. When there was the All Conference Tournament with the tennis courts at the high school, Mr. Sykes had his guys out early with leaf blowers to dry the courts off. As far as the fields were concerned, they were well prepped. Mr. McCabe said some of the games wouldn't have gone on if it wasn't for the cooperation of Mrs. Zerio and Mr. Sykes.

Mr. McCabe thanked the Youth Softball League because they allowed flexibility in their schedule at Vicino Field so that the high school softball team could play there at night.

Mr. McCabe gave special recognition to Andrew Hodge, who is a soccer player at Rocky Hill High School. Andrew Hodge will be playing in the High School Soccer Cup at Giant Stadium this Saturday. He will train with the Red Bulls. This is a two day event and his family will be invited. After the Red Bull game, the high school game will be played.

Mr. McCabe said they registering students for the fall season now. They are trying to get the medicals done and get all of the forms in.

Mr. McCabe said he will look at reviewing the student athlete handbook in July. He will be reviewing the co-curricular handbook. He is just about finished with the Coaches' Manual. He would like to bring this to the Board of Education probably in September so they can look at this to see what is being done there.

A new CCC league banner has just been purchased. This will have on it all of the teams that are in the league. This will probably be hung in the gym at the high school.

Lacrosse just finished its inaugural season and it was very successful. Mr. McCabe said the balls from the first goals scored for the Girls' Lacrosse Team and the Boys' Lacrosse Team will go into the school trophy case. Along with these will be a picture of both teams as well as the time and date that these goals were scored and the two players who scored the goals.

Dates are being set now for CPR training and for CEU modules for coaches for the next season. Mr. McCabe said he can train all of the coaches at the high school so that they can retain their coaching certification because he has been trained to do the coaching modules. This will be done in-house at Rocky Hill High School instead of the coaches having to go out to spend money on this or the district having to bring someone in to spend the money. The coaches will always be able to maintain their certification in-house.

The Unified Sports Program is being expanded. Currently, it has just been basketball. In the fall, this will be expanded to soccer.

Mr. McCabe thanked the Board of Education members for all of their support.

#### **18. Assessments Update**

Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said all of the end of the year district testing is complete at this time. The online benchmark testing for Grade Three to Grade Five has been administered for the last time. The results of this were disseminated to the teachers. Over the summer, the CMT scores will come back to the district. These will be analyzed carefully and a full report will be prepared in the fall for the Board of Education members.

Assistant Superintendent Hourigan went over what one of the goals is for the summer. She mentioned the new state SRBI with regards to identifying students with Special Needs. She said how they spoke a lot this year about data and teachers working in teams to analyze student performance and to plan effective interventions. A DVD has been produced of two of the data teams at work at Griswold Middle School. One was for the language arts department which is headed by Ms. Thibodeau. The other one was the vertical data team at West Hill School and there were representatives at each grade level. Mr. Steve Patarini, who is one of the tech ed teachers at Griswold Middle School, was the videographer for this. The DVD can be used for training purposes to show teachers how to share best practices as well as how to analyze student data. Assistant Superintendent Hourigan said the faculty at all of the schools did a very fine job with the data team process. This is the only the second year that this has been started. There is more work to be done in the future but this is a very nice beginning.

Assistant Superintendent Hourigan thanked the members of the Board of Education for the Language Arts Core Program. She said they are very excited. Now that there is the Board of Education approval, the training for the teachers will begin on Monday.

**19. Director of Finance & Operation's Report**

Finance Director Connolly was absent. Chairman MacDonald asked the Board of Education members if they had any questions or comments about the monthly financial report which was in their packets. There were no questions or comments.

**20. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Dr. Villar said the flu is in this town. Lots of students are out ill as well as a few adults. It isn't clear if this is the H1N1 virus. He learned in conversations with the Health Director that many family physicians are diagnosing the flu with a quick test and then making an assumption that the flu is most likely the H1N1 virus.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said he learned that there really is no significant difference as far as treatment goes. They are asking parents to keep their children home if they are ill with a fever, stomachache, etc. and asking them to contact their physician if they have concerns or questions. Immediate treatment can make a significant difference in the recovery rate with regards to the flu virus. This district is continuing to follow the CDC guidelines for dealing with these types of situations. On the Rocky Hill Board of Education website, there are letters that he sent home regarding the flu. There is also a link to the CDC webpage. Superintendent Dr. Villar said they are working with the town. He, along with the Town Manager, have made sure that schools are being cleaned and that surfaces are being sprayed with disinfectants, etc. in order to do what they can to make them the healthiest environments possible. Superintendent Dr. Villar stressed that students who are ill need to stay home. They need to be home for seven days or for a day after they no longer have illness signs. He mentioned that the CDC does not require or recommend school closings and he explained why it is not recommended.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said the Town Council did vote to transfer into the non-recurring school improvement account \$100,000 from the CRRA monies. He explained that this is the town's emergency fund and not the Capital Improvement account. The purpose is to do school improvements as appointed by the Joint Facilities Committee. Also, \$75,000 was encumbered from the \$108,000 that was in the school facilities budget for this year. Of this, approximately \$54,000 is being set aside to cover the cost of the work of Friar Associates and O & G Industries, Inc. These are the Architects and building professionals who have been working with the Board of Education for the past year to help inform it on the cost and the ways that schools can be improved and repaired from the professional perspective. The remaining \$21,000 can be used to cover any unforeseen repairs. He said he is feeling more comfortable moving forward with the facilities that they are going to be able to address some of their concerns.

Superintendent Dr. Villar said the senior class of Rocky Hill High School has made a generous donation of \$4,500 to support the purchase of an electronic alert system that will allow him and Rocky Hill High School officials to communicate with parents via e-mail, phone and/or letter in regards to any important events. He gave examples of this. They are planning on doing this electronic alert system districtwide now. He is proud that they are moving forward with this.

Superintendent Dr. Villar reminded everyone that Rocky Hill High School's graduation is June 25, 2009.

## **21. Board Chair's Report**

Chairman MacDonald followed up on what Superintendent Dr. Villar indicated concerning the additional funding the schools will be receiving from the Town Council. There had been some questions as to whether these accounts are frozen and if they will be able to use them. Chairman MacDonald said he communicated with the Town Manager and the intention of her is that these accounts will be frozen until the state sets a budget however it is imperative that the school repairs are made during the summer months when that is the best time for them to be made so in that case the funds will not be frozen. Chairman MacDonald said this is good news and he thinks this is important for everyone to know.

Chairman MacDonald referred to the SRO (Student Resource Officer). This is a critical component in the high school. Chairman MacDonald spoke to the Police Chief and they should hear within the next two months as far as if the grant for this will be received. Chairman MacDonald said he is looking forward to a call from the Police Chief and from the Superintendent with regards to them receiving this grant. Chairman MacDonald told everyone to keep their fingers crossed because this would be a great opportunity.

Chairman MacDonald wished everyone in the district (i.e. staff and students, etc.) a safe and enjoyable summer.

## **22. Executive Session**

**Moved by Catherine Vargas, seconded by Rene (Skip) Rivard, to go into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. for the purposes of evaluation of the Superintendent.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Raffaella Coler, seconded by Maria Mennella, to come out of Executive Session at 8:36 p.m.**

**FAVOR: ALL  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Anne Booth  
Recording Secretary

Accepted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_