Please Note: These minutes are pending Board approval. Board of Education Newtown, Connecticut

Minutes of the Board of Education special meeting on October 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education conference room, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.

K. Alexander, Chair
L. Roche, Vice Chair
K. Hamilton, Secretary (absent)
D. Leidlein
J. Erardi
R. Mills
4 Public
1 Press

J. Vouros

D. Freedman (absent)

M. Ku

Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Alexander called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Vouros moved that the Board of Education go into executive session to discuss an attorney-client privileged communication regarding disclosure of Board communications and invited Dr. Erardi and Attorney Richard Mills. Mrs. Roche seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 2 – Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 9:00 p.m.

Item 3- Public Session

Mr. Alexander said their concern is about a Board communication released to the public and how that happened. If someone intentionally sends something out we have to be concerned about our own privacy.

Mrs. Leidlein asked if anyone has come forward with any information.

Mr. Alexander stated that no one has come forward.

Mrs. Roche said we have to understand how this breach occurred.

Mrs. Leidlein said to work together there has to be a level of trust which now has been broken. Mrs. Ku feels the unauthorized release of information undermines the work of this Board and prevents us from doing our work. Those who received the confidential information could also come forward.

Mr. Vouros said this issue is about the trust factor in other Board members.

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved that the Board of Education authorize the Board Chairperson, acting on behalf of the Board and in coordination with the Board's legal counsel, Shipman and Goodwin, to initiate the retention of an independent investigator for the purpose of conducting an investigation regarding the unauthorized disclosure of an attorney-client privileged communication. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mr. Alexander said the Superintendent, Attorney and he would find an investigator which needs to take place soon. He prefers to spend this money on students; however, this concern compromises trust with the Board.

Mrs. Leidlein agrees that the Board of Education has to have a consistent way of dealing with confidential information because there could be dangerous legal ramifications. Motion passes unanimously.

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MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Roche seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Keith Alexander
Chair