

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Korn Elementary School. Board members present: Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker. Members absent: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Golschneider. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Raczka called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Public Comment: Maria Richardson of Durham distributed a letter to Board members. She is questioning whether there is a District policy regarding dogs on school grounds. Last year her child was bitten on the face by a dog that was on a leash while at a soccer game at Peckham Park. She would like a strict policy that does not allow people to bring dogs to athletic events. Mr. Raczka said that there is not a policy currently in place but that the policy committee can discuss it.

Darlene Merriam of Durham said that in some countries dogs have to wear muzzles if they are out in public.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be the District Meeting on May 7, 2007 at 8:00pm at the Coginchaug Auditorium. The next regular meeting will be held at Brewster School on May 9, 2007.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Shoemaker the Board of Education unanimously approved the agenda as amended to include BASREP under New Business and Student Matter under Executive Session.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mr. Hennick, the minutes of the meeting of April 11, 2007 were unanimously approved.

Communications: Mr. Raczka is concerned about some misinformation that was in a letter to the editor in a recent Town Times. It stated that the starting salary for a new teacher in District 13 was \$76,500. Quoting from the teachers' contract, Mr. Raczka pointed out that for the school year 2006-07 the salary for a new teacher with a bachelor's degree is \$38,830. After 17 years or more (highest step) in the District the salary for a teacher with a master's degree is \$69,079. Mr. Raczka felt it was important to correct the misinformation.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro said that she and Mr. Nicol attended a symposium on sister school programs with China at the learning corridor in Hartford. Many school systems in Connecticut are introducing Mandarin Chinese as an additional language choice. She said there is a lot of grant money available to schools interested in this program. Brewster School currently has a sister school in China through a teacher assistant who's son is teaching in China. She is going to get more information on how to get further involved in this program and report back to the Board.

Mrs. Viccaro reminded Board members that the Writer's Jubilee is at Korn School and the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast is at Brewster School tomorrow. The Strong School Drama presentation is this Friday and Saturday evening.

Mrs. Viccaro showed a DVD of the Channel 8 News segment from yesterday's noon broadcast. On it was a promotion for the Jazz'd 4 Life group and the Dave Brubeck Concert that is being held at Coginchaug on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Coginchaug Jazz Band performed on the news broadcast.

Mrs. Viccaro invited Board members to look at the new sitting wall at Strong School. She said it is done and it is gorgeous. The kids are thrilled with it.

Camp Jewell Field Trip Request: On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mr. Hennick the Board of Education unanimously approved the field trip request for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade to go to Camp Jewell in Colebrook, CT from June 4<sup>th</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

September Board Meeting Changes: Mrs. Viccaro said that Rosh Hashanah falls on the second Wednesday in September this year. She suggested changing the Board meeting dates for September to the first and third Wednesday of the month. This will also free up the week of the Durham Fair.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mrs. Flanagan, the Board of Education unanimously approved to move the September Board meetings to the first and third Wednesday of the month.

District Goals 2007-08: Mrs. Viccaro asked that this item be put on the next agenda because she left information in her office that the administrators worked on at Administrative Council regarding the goals for 2007-08.

BASREP: Mrs. Viccaro read a letter from the President and Treasurer of BASREP. They have experienced a decline in enrollment this year and have fallen behind in their rent to the District. They are requesting a 50% reduction in the balance of the rent due and a reduction in rent from \$2,500.00 to \$1,250.00 per month from this time forward. They currently owe \$12,000.00 in past due rent. Board members felt it is in the District's best interest to help BASREP recover but they did not want to vote on this without meeting with them first. It was decided that the Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet with the directors of BASREP before a decision is made by the full Board.

Personnel Policies Committee: Mrs. Flanagan said the committee met this evening to review the contracts of the Superintendent, the Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, and the District Electrician. They will be meeting again before reporting to the Board.

Mr. Raczka thanked Board members for all the work they do on sub-committees.

ACES: Mr. Currilin distributed a report called "ACES-at-a-Glance" to Board members.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Flanagan, the Board of Education unanimously approved to move into Executive Session to discuss a Student Matter.

The Board moved back into regular session.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn.