

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Strong School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka, Dr. Shoemaker. Member absent: Mrs. Golschneider. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Gourley.

Mr. Raczka called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Public Comment: Mrs. Viola stated she has a concern with hiring certified teachers to watch over a study hall, she feels the teachers should be in the classroom teaching. She would also like to see the Board appoint new auditors this year for a change. Mrs. Viola also questioned money in the budget for numerous years (1993-1998) regarding bricks and lintels that was outstanding and not accounted for. It was mentioned that the Board does end of year transfers every year in open session to transfer money not used in one account to pay for deficits in other accounts. The District is audited every year and there have been no problems.

Board members were invited to attend the Strong School Reads program on Monday, April 2 from 6:00-7:00pm. Students and adults read the same book and then form groups to discuss the book.

Michael Doyle is working on revitalizing Camp Farnham to become an environmental classroom and learning center. He is working on a grant with Senator Ed Meyer and Representative Ray Kalinowski and would like to get the backing of the Board in his initiative. Mrs. Viccaro stated she toured the 73 acres and said it has a lot of potential.

On a motion by Mrs. Flanagan, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education expressed an interest in pursuing any opportunities to work with the Farnham Association to make the property a usable environmental learning center for students.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting will be January 24, 2007 at John Lyman School.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Dr. Ochterski, to approve the minutes to the December 13, 2006 Board of Education meeting. Dr. Shoemaker, Dr. Ochterski, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Adams, Mr. Raczka, Mr. Hicks, Ms. Parson, Mr. Hennick voted yes. Mrs. Flanagan abstained.

There were no communications.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro reported the Middlesex County Chamber has received additional sponsorships that will enable them to have students attend the chamber meetings. Eight students from CRHS will attend the next Chamber meeting where Dr. Henry Lee is speaking.

Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Raczka have monthly meetings with the selectmen from both towns and said the meetings are very productive.

Upcoming events for students as part of the Consortium towns include: a Career Exposition at Wesleyan, SAT Prep Classes, a Diversity Conference also at Wesleyan and an inter-district drama production during the summer for middle school students. Grants are being written to expand the drama production program to ninth and tenth grade students.

Mrs. Viccaro is looking into having staff ID badges. The District is talking with the Town of Durham to use their equipment to make the badges.

There will be a free show choir performance this Saturday at 7:30pm at the high school.

Strong School- Scott Nicol: Mr. Nicol is implementing a transition program for students from Memorial to Strong to CRHS. A brochure and manual have been developed to detail all the opportunities and activities available for students and parents. Information is given to students earlier and surveys are being done to get feedback from both students and parents regarding the transition process. Teachers are also working together to close the transition gap.

The Board of Education took a brief recess at 8:20pm.

School Library Presentation: Michael Klimas, library media specialist at Strong, and Anne Doyle, library media specialist at Memorial gave a presentation regarding an automated card catalog system. An automated system would help the librarians to keep better control of the books in the library, make it easier to do inventories, and it will be easier and faster getting research information for students. It will also free up more time for the librarians to work with students and teachers. The system will cost \$10,000 for both schools. Last year the District was able to purchase the server needed with grant money.

NESDEC Contract for Program Choice Comparative Study: Mrs. Viccaro has received a proposal from NESDEC to do the program choice study. NESDEC has done studies in the past that have a similar scope to what the District is requesting. They also can complete the study in three months. The cost will be \$15,380.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mr. Hennick to go ahead with the NESDEC study.

In further discussion the Board members would like to review the proposal before making a decision and they have a couple of questions they would like addressed.

Dr. Shoemaker withdrew his motion.

Mrs. Viccaro will set up a conference call with NESDEC that would include Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Adams and Mr. Currin to answer any questions the Board has and to include additional areas of concern in the study.

H.O.T Schools Grant: Each year the Board of Education must show support for John Lyman's participation in the H.O.T. School program that will enable them to receive grant money from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Flanagan, the Board of Education approved that Karen Brimecombe, Principal at John Lyman School, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of Regional District 13 a certain contract with the State of Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism and to affix the corporate seal.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons reported the committee received the final audit for SY 2005-2006. Dr. Shoemaker stated it was a clean audit with no recommendations.

On a motion by Ms. Parson, second Mr. Currin, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Regional School District 13 audit for the year ending June 30, 2006.

Ms. Parson stated the committee reviewed the expenditures to date and everything is doing very well. Both payroll and warrants are in good shape.

On a motion by Ms. Parsons, second Dr. Shoemaker, the Board of Education unanimously reappointed Kostin, Ruffkess & Company, LLC as auditors for the 2006-07 audit.

Ms. Parsons said it is good to keep the same auditors for this year seeing there will be a new Business Manager. This firm knows District procedures, works well with the administration and gets things done in a timely manner.

Magnet School: Mr. Hicks reported the Thomas Edison Magnet School had their budget meeting. ACES came in with a 13.19% budget in October that the steering committee asked them to reduce. They came back with a 4.24% budget that included \$711,773 in reductions. The committee agreed on a 5.02% budget that would put a Language Arts teacher and math textbooks back into the budget. The cost for the District to send students to the magnet school next year will be around \$5300.

Mr. Raczka adjourned the meeting.