

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, July 5, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the media center at Coginchaug High School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka. Absent: Mr. Hicks, Dr. Shoemaker. Also present: Mr. Gourley, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mrs. Viccaro called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Currilin made a motion, second Mrs. Flanagan, to nominate Mr. Raczka as Chair of the Regional District 13 Board of Education.

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Mrs. Adams, the Board unanimously approved to close nominations for Board Chair.

Mr. Raczka was unanimously elected as Chair of the Regional District 13 Board of Education.

Mr. Currilin made a motion, second Mrs. Flanagan, to nominate Mr. Hicks as Secretary of the Regional District 13 Board of Education.

On a motion by Mrs. Golschneider, second Dr. Ochterski, the Board unanimously approved to close nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Hicks was unanimously elected as Secretary of the Regional District 13 Board of Education.

Mrs. Golschneider made a motion, second Mrs. Adams, to nominate Dr. Shoemaker as Treasurer of the Regional District 13 Board of Education.

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Mrs. Flanagan, the Board unanimously approved to close nominations for Treasurer.

Dr. Shoemaker was unanimously elected as Treasurer of the Regional District 13 Board of Education.

On a motion by Ms. Parsons, second Dr. Ochterski, the Board of Education unanimously approved that the treasurer be allowed to invest the funds of Regional District 13 according to State Statutes.

Public Comment: Pat DeSimone asked if any further discussion has been held regarding the Board meeting with groups, such as the District 13 Parents for Good Schools. Mr. Hennick responded that it is possible for a couple of Board members to meet with an outside group but if the entire Board is invited then the meeting would have to be noticed as a special meeting of the Board of Education. Mr. Raczka said it needs to be discussed further as a full Board and the Policy Committee will also be discussing the topic.

Mr. Raczka said that it was decided that the public will be given an opportunity to speak a second time after an agenda issue that is of public interest.

Mrs. Flanagan asked Mrs. DeSimone if a schedule of meetings for the District 13 Parents for Good Schools could be given to the Board members to allow them to schedule members to attend.

Michael Doyle of Durham asked Mrs. Viccaro what contact she has with the Park and Recreation Departments of the Towns. He talked about Camp Farnam and questioned why the Town/District did not get involved with the facility as a summer camp. He said he would like to speak further with Mrs. Viccaro about his ideas.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting will be on August 23, 2006 in the library at Coginchaug High School.

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

Mr. Hennick made a motion, second Mrs. Golschneider to accept the minutes to the meeting of June 28, 2006. Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Raczka voted yes. Mrs. Adams abstained.

Communications: Mr. Currlin asked Board members how they are feeling about the charter revision proposal that may change the Board of Education elections to coincide with the November elections. Board members would be elected on the ballot like other town committee members and would be expected to campaign. Mr. Raczka said that the Durham Charter Revision Commission invited Board members to a meeting and both he and Mr. Hennick expressed their views. They are both concerned about the Board becoming political. Middlefield has also shown interest in making this change, but they are not as far along in their charter revision process. It may be a problem if the towns don't make the change at the same time; they are waiting for a legal opinion. Mrs. Viccaro received an email today stating that Durham would be voting on the Charter revision on July 17th.

Mr. Raczka passed out the calling tree information and committee selection sheets to members. He would like these back by the August meeting.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro asked members if they have tried to access their new District email and if they are having any problems to contact John DeMeo at Coginchaug.

Mrs. Viccaro said that she is in the process of getting stipend requests back from teachers. They have until July 17th to return them. Teacher's contracts will not be sent out until after that time. She is waiting for a legal opinion regarding the support staff cuts before the paraprofessional contracts are issued.

Communication with Selectmen: Mr. Raczka talked about the correspondence that was received prior to the last meeting from Renee Primus Edwards, a Durham Selectwoman. He feels that a monthly dialog with the selectmen from both towns would be valuable. He would like to start with that and add quarterly meetings with the full Board if needed. At this point he does not want to pursue her other suggestions. Mrs. Viccaro will contact the selectmen to suggest a meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Hennick, second Mr. Currlin, the Board of Education unanimously approved a field trip request for the Girls Cross Country Team to Maurice's Campground in Cape Cod, MA from September 1 to 4, 2006.

On a motion by Mrs. Adams, second Mrs. Flanagan, the Board of Education unanimously approved a field trip for the Girls Cross Country Team to Thetford, VT from October 6 to 7, 2006.

Transition Committee: Mrs. Adams said the Transition Committee met this evening. An executive search committee will be appointed to begin the search for a new business manager. Mr. Gourley said that he has received several calls and there is interest in the position.

Building Committee: Mr. Gourley reported that the legal side is still moving forward and may lead to mediation with Haynes Construction Company.

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