

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Korn School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker. Members absent: Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Comment: Bob Yamartino of Middlefield spoke regarding the bonding issue. Although he has supported most prior proposals of the Board, he does not support this one and he wanted the Board to know the reasons why. He feels the track and tennis court repairs are long overdue, but he does not support the magnitude of the project. He feels the stadium seating, press box, additional parking, and the concrete pad for the locker rooms are not needed. He also feels that the principal and interest costs of having a synthetic field make the field more expensive than a natural turf field. He would like the Board to present the projects as three separate questions so the Board would be able to get a better sense of what the people support.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be the District Meeting on May 5, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. at Cuginchaug High School. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Brewster School on May 14, 2008.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Adams the Board of Education unanimously approved to amend the agenda to include Committee Reports.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider the Board of Education unanimously approved the amended agenda.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mr. Currlin to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2008. Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker voted yes. Mrs. Adams, Dr. Ochterski abstained.

Communications: Mr. Hicks was saddened to hear of the death of Bob Betterini, a longtime teacher at Cuginchaug. The Board observed a moment of silence.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro attended the 1<sup>st</sup> ever talent show at Strong School. She said the show was very entertaining and she was very impressed with how respectful the students were when anyone performed.

Mrs. Viccaro met with the new Hartford Courant reporter, Josh Kovner. He seems very willing to cover events happening in the District.

Mrs. Viccaro said the Consortium Career Fair is being held at Wesleyan on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The sophomore class will be attending. There are 115 presenters scheduled at the event.

The Fajita Fiesta is being held this Friday evening at Cuginchaug.

The Strong School Play is being held this Saturday. The students have invited senior citizens to attend a pot luck dinner prior to the show.

Business Manager's Report: Mr. Melnik said the audit of the building projects is complete. He is waiting for the final report from the State to close the projects out.

Mr. Melnik has begun meeting with the Town of Durham to discuss the pension plan for non-certified employees and Town of Durham employees. They are considering redoing the plan and are working on an outline of options. They will be sending out requests for proposals to financial firms to see what the options are and to compare costs.

Mr. Melnik said the bid packets to select a new auditing firm are complete and have been sent out. We are also going out to bid for basic school supplies and lawn services within the next couple of weeks. All of these bids are for multiple years.

2008-09 Board Meeting Schedule: Mrs. Viccaro discussed the Board meeting schedule that was mailed to the Board members. There are a few meeting dates that have been moved from the regular schedule because of conflicts.

Mrs. Adams made a motion, second Mr. Currlin to approve the Board of Education meeting dates for 2008-2009 as presented. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Golschneider, Dr. Shoemaker abstained.

2006-07 Annual Report: The Board received copies of the 2006-07 Annual Report in their mailing. Mr. Hicks questioned why there was not a section for the work done by the Board in the Annual Report. Mrs. Viccaro agreed that it should be included and will follow-up on it next year. Dr. Shoemaker suggested that student art work be used in the book instead of photographs.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Shoemaker, the Board of Education unanimously approved the 2006-07 Annual Report.

Strategic Planning Update: Mrs. Viccaro said this report is an update, building by building, by strategy of what each school has been working on. By next spring the District will be beginning work on the 4<sup>th</sup> strategic plan. Mrs. Viccaro would like to begin putting together a summary of how the District has moved forward through the strategic planning process.

Mrs. Golschneider asked why Brewster School has not had any professional development on differentiated instruction. Mrs. Viccaro said they have focused on assessment this year but three teachers have done their professional growth projects on differentiated instruction and they will share it with the school next year and it will become a focus for the school for next year.

Mrs. Golschneider also asked if it would be possible to make a plea to get parents to sign-up to use school email through a District mailing this summer.

Dr. Ochterski suggested a possible link on the District website that would allow parents to sign-up for email. Mrs. Viccaro will look into the possibility.

2008-09 District Goals: Mrs. Viccaro reviewed the 2008-09 District Goals. She went through each of the goals and why they are important.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currlin the 2008-09 District Goals were unanimously approved.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said the committee met this evening and reviewed several policies. They reviewed the Copyright and Tutoring policies and will discuss these further. There are mandatory wording changes that must be made to the Student Discipline Policy, Restraint and Seclusion Policy and the Gifts and Memorials Policy. Mr. Hicks would like to have these policy changes mailed to the Board Members and then vote on the changes at the next meeting.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons said the Finance Committee did not meet, but Dr. Shoemaker acted as the Finance Committee representative in a meeting with BASREP. The contract with BASREP has been settled and the issues resolved. The rent will be \$12,000 next year and BASREP has agreed to accept the elementary students whose parents are not home after school.

Personnel Policies: Dr. Shoemaker said the Committee has begun negotiations with the nurses. The first meeting was very productive and he is optimistic that they will be completed within a couple of weeks.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Shoemaker the Board of Education unanimously approved to move into Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation, Food Service Union.

The Board moved into open session.

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