

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

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

Public Comment: Bob Fulton, a Durham resident asked about getting a copy of the recent audit. He was told that it is available at the town halls, the libraries and at the Central Office.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Brewster School on February 13, 2008.

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

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of January 9, 2008.

Communications: Mrs. Flanagan said she has been asked about the fund balance carryover and thinks that there is confusion in the public about the use of a fund balance by a Regional School District. She asked Mr. Melnik to update the Board on the use of the fund balance at the next meeting of the Board of Education.

Mr. Hennick said he and several other Board members attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show Choir Concert held this past Saturday evening. He feels that this District and the music department must be very special that 75 students came back to participate. Mrs. Viccaro added that hearing the list of professions and accomplishments of the students was really exciting for her.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro showed a copy of the CAS Bulletin which features an article and picture of Andre Hauser as the CAS Vice Principal of the Year.

Mrs. Viccaro briefly discussed the 2006-07 NCLB reports. She did not copy them for Board members because they are available on-line through the CT Department of Education website. The District met AYP in all schools and as a whole the District did very well.

Mrs. Viccaro and Mrs. Emory met with staff at IDS to discuss nursing services. They are in the process of comparing the needs of IDS with the District and then an offer for nursing services will be made. The District could possibly fund nursing services or send a nurse to cover; the options are still being investigated.

The second session for site planning at Coginchaug is being scheduled for late May.

Mrs. Viccaro said that Mrs. Luckenbach found out this week that the grant the District received for Differentiated Instruction came with \$6,000 to be used for professional development activities.

Mrs. Viccaro said she and Mr. Melnik have met with all of the administrators to review their budgets and they are in the process of going over the details.

Mrs. Viccaro said a reception to showcase the new website for the Devil's Advocate is being held tomorrow. A demonstration will be given; the website will be linked to the district website.

Business Manager's Report: Mr. Melnik distributed copies of a letter received from the nurses' union requesting that the Board begin negotiations with them for a new contract. He said they will begin after the teachers' contract negotiations are complete.

Mr. Melnik was asked by Mr. Currin to report on the Building Committee's progress in his absence. Mr. Melnik said that at this week's meeting of the committee they went over the need for the wells and discussed track and field options. A meeting has been scheduled with the State Department of Health to discuss the wells. The Committee is trying to determine the priorities of the projects.

Dr. Shoemaker asked when the Committee was considering going to referendum because he doesn't want it to fall too close to the budget referendum. Mr. Melnik said the committee needs a couple of more meetings to determine the scope; a referendum will then be scheduled about forty days after that. Mrs. Viccaro said it will probably be the first or second week of March.

John Lyman School Presentation: Karen Brimecombe presented on the 4 R's, "Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and Art". She shared several different examples of work done by 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms to show how the 4 R's are integrated while teaching the subject of the oceans. Mrs. Brimecombe also distributed a HOT School brochure that featured John Lyman School and students in several pictures and she gave Board members copies of the Hot Schools Annual Report. Mrs. Brimecombe thanked JLPA for their annual support of the Artist in Residency program; this year they contributed \$11,000 in funding for the program.

High School Field Trip Request: Mr. Pulino, a Social Studies teacher at CRHS was present to answer questions about the proposed trip to Ireland, Scotland & England in April 2009. Mr. Hicks was concerned about the price of the trip and the fact that students only have to take the course for one year to be eligible to attend. Mr. Pulino said there are some incentives for students that will lower the price if they sign-up early. He has attended several trips run by ACES, the tour company, and has been very pleased with their knowledge of the country. Some fundraising will be done to help pay for the buses to the airport and for tips. Dr. Shoemaker was concerned that there appears to be a lot of free time in the schedule. Mr. Pulino said the tour company will give the students options of things to do and see during those times.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Ms. Parsons the Board of Education unanimously approved the Cuginchaug High School field trip to Ireland, Scotland, and England from April 17, 2009 to April 26, 2009.

Dr. Shoemaker wanted it to be made clear to the students that the Board of Education has the right to cancel the trip if they determine it necessary and that students should be encouraged to purchase the trip insurance.

Curriculum Committee: Mr. Hicks said the committee met and discussed the listening tour that is being conducted by the Commissioner of Education to discuss the secondary school reforms being proposed. Some of the Committee members will be attending the meeting being held next week. They also looked at the new Math curriculum that will be reviewed at the next meeting. The Curriculum Committee also discussed the on-line virtual learning classes that have been introduced by the State. The courses are primarily for students who need to make-up credit but they could be used as an alternative to homebound tutoring or possibly by students who have been expelled.

Personnel Policies Committee: Mrs. Flanagan reported that there have been no changes with the teachers' negotiations. The arbitration dates have been scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>.

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