

The Regional District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Korn School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Dr. Shoemaker. Member absent: Mr. Hicks. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro, Mr. Melnik.

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

There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board of Education meeting will be October 17, 2007 at John Lyman School.

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mr. Currlin, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion, second Mrs. Flanagan, to approve the minutes to the September 6, 2007 Board of Education meeting. Dr. Shoemaker, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Hennick, Mrs. Adams, Dr. Ochterski, Mr. Currlin voted yes. Mrs. Golschneider abstained.

There were no communications.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro presented Dr. Shoemaker with a ten year service pin for his years of service on the Board of Education.

Mrs. Viccaro stated she would like the Board's approval to form a Board committee to look at designing a new logo for the District. She would like to hold an art contest for students grades 6-12. The committee would develop criteria for the contest and set parameters. Board members agreed that would be a good idea. Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Currlin, and Mrs. Golschneider will be on the committee.

Mrs. Viccaro reported the principals are doing a needs assessment of the front offices and guidance offices. The work load has been steadily increasing with all the new job responsibilities added to staff. This also includes the central office. She will keep the Board informed.

Brewster School has received a Liberty Bank Grant with the help of Senator Meyer and some parents. They will receive \$25,000 for a server and hardware for an enrichment reading program. This will also include Korn and John Lyman schools.

Ten administrators attended a CAS Banquet to hear about ideas for the year from Commissioner of Education Mark McQuillan.

Business Manager's Report: Mr. Melnik reported interviews were held last Monday for a Food Services Director. The leading candidate will be meeting with him on Thursday to sign a contract.

Mr. Melnik has met with Steven Meader and Hugh Pearson to finalize the building projects. Documents will be sent to the State for review and then an audit will be done. With the delays at the State, it will be at least seven months before the District receives any money.

Negotiations have begun with the teachers' union. Dr. Shoemaker mentioned the Boards of Finance were invited to attend a meeting with the Board's Personnel Policies Committee to discuss the upcoming negotiations but no one attended.

Korn School: Laurie Sinder introduced the third grade team from Korn School. They explained how they help students prepare for the science portion of the CMT. Students are taught how to complete science investigations of an experiment. They learn to collect data, make bar graphs, and write down the steps and conclusions of their experiment.

NESDEC Report: Mr. Hennick stated he would like to hold a public forum for people to share their comments on the NESDEC report. After that he would like the Board to form three groups to develop a recommendation regarding the report and the Board would discuss all three recommendations and make a decision.

The Board discussed different possibilities for each group model such as each group discussing different options or each group discussing all the options. It was agreed that each group should look at all the options and come up with a recommendation and then all three recommendations will be discussed by the whole Board.

Mrs. Viccaro will look at the District calendar and set a date for the public forum. It will be held at the beginning of November. People attending the forum will receive the executive summary of the NESDEC report for review.

BASREP Donation: Ms. Parsons reported the Finance Committee reviewed the donation request from BASREP. They would like to donate a picnic table to the District as an in kind payment toward the 2006-07 lease as can be done by the terms of agreement between District 13 and BASREP.

On a motion by Ms. Parsons, second Dr. Shoemaker, the Board of Education unanimously accepted the \$400.00 donation of a picnic table as an in kind payment toward the 2006-07 lease fee.

High School Field Trip Request to the New England Music Festival:

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the High School Music Department's Field Trip Request to the New England Music Festival in Bennington, VT on March 13-15, 2008.

Model UN Club Field Trip Request:

On a motion by Dr. Shoemaker, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Model UN Club Field Trip Request to Brown University, Providence, RI on November 9-14, 2007.

Child Nutrition Program Signature Change: Mr. Melnik reported the authorizing signatures need to be changed for the Child Nutrition Program to reflect the change in personnel. Mr. Melnik and Mrs. Viccaro will be the new authorized signers for the program.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Mrs. Flanagan, the Board of Education unanimously approved changing the authorizing signatures on the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.

School Safety and Security Grant: Mrs. Viccaro reported she can apply for a school safety grant to receive \$5 million this year and \$5 million next year to improve school safety and security. The money needs to be put up front by the District and will get reimbursed if approved. The reimbursement goes to the towns and is reimbursed according to their financial ability. The reimbursement would be 46.3% for Durham and 50.3% for Middlefield. The local police

department would do the assessments at the schools. Mrs. Viccaro needs to notify the State by October 15 if she would like to apply for the grant. She would need to apply for six grants: one for each school.

On a motion by Mrs. Flanagan, second Mrs. Golschneider, the Board of Education unanimously gave Mrs. Viccaro approval to apply for the School Safety and Security Grant.

Sanitary Survey Report: Mrs. Viccaro gave the Board a sanitary survey report regarding the well at Brewster School. Mr. Melnik will be contacting the State to see if the District can receive reimbursement for a new well.

Policy Committee: Mr. Currilin reported the committee discussed an electronic scoreboard for the football program. The club has received a scoreboard from Dunkin Donuts. They would like to mount the scoreboard semi-permanently at the field for the football season only. The scoreboard has donated by Dunkin Donuts written on it. The Board's policy states no advertising allowed. The sign is owned by the football program not the District and the committee doesn't believe the Board policy even applies but the football program has requested permission to mount the scoreboard.

Mr. Currilin made a motion, second Mrs. Adams, to approve the Durham/Middlefield football program to mount the scoreboard semi permanently for the football season. Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hennick, Ms. Parson, Dr. Shoemaker, Mrs. Golschneider, Ms. Gara voted yes. Dr. Ochterski abstained.

Mrs. Viccaro stated the committee also discussed the Discipline Policy. She said there have been changes made to the suspension/expulsion requirements by the State. Mrs. Viccaro can no longer require students to be drug tested at the parents' expense. If required the school district needs to pay for it. Mrs. Viccaro also reported after July 1, 2008, students can only be suspended or expelled out of school for weapons or drugs. This will require additional staffing and space for in-school suspensions.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons reported the committee discussed this year's budget and the warrants are on track but payroll was up a little due to an additional pay week.

The committee also discussed the 2006-07 transfer of funds from accounts that were under spent to accounts that were overspent. A total of \$518,612 was transferred. A copy of the transfers is included with these minutes.

On a motion by Ms. Parsons, second Mr. Currilin, the Board of Education unanimously approved the 2006-07 end of year transfers.

Building and Grounds: Mr. Currilin reporting the request for lighting at the football field is going before Planning and Zoning next Wednesday.

Several Board members, Mr. Melnik and Mrs. Viccaro walked through the DMIAAB land to look at the area that can be used for a school bus depot. There will be a separate access that would go onto Old Indian Trail Road. There are 21 months left on our current lease.

Personnel Policies: Mrs. Flanagan reported they have begun negotiations with the teachers' union.

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