

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the media center at Memorial Middle School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara (7:45 p.m.), Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski (8:05 p.m.), Ms. Parsons. Member absent: Mr. Currin. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Strong School on March 3, 2010.

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

Mrs. Adams made a motion, second Mrs. Boyle to approve the minutes to the meeting of January 27, 2010. Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Golschneider abstained.

Communications: Ms. Parsons attended the CRHS Parent Group meeting. Communicating to parents about the class selection process was the topic of discussion, how it needs to be thought of as a four year process and how requirements for college admission need to be communicated. Parents would like to see the budget schedule posted in the Town Times and they liked the format last year where the Board answered questions in the Town Times.

Mrs. Flanagan attended the Strategic Planning session for the last two days. She found the process very interesting and was most impressed that the Strategic Plan is what drives the day to day operations of the District.

Mr. Hennick also attended Strategic Planning and agreed with Mrs. Flanagan. He said that each action team was clearly cognizant of the current economic times. He said the new initiatives have little or no new major expenses tied to them that will impact next year's budget.

Mrs. Viccaro said she has participated in all four of the District Strategic Plans. This was a particularly well done session. She thanked Carol Luckenbach and Amy Emory for their leadership with the action teams and for crafting the plan.

Mr. Hicks inquired as to how the CRHS ski trip over the February vacation went. Mrs. Boyle spoke with the parent chaperone, Liz Conroy who said that everything went well. The students had a fantastic time and many friendships were made. Chris Bertz, who was in attendance at the meeting, was a teacher chaperone on the trip. She also said that it was a wonderful trip and that the students would love to come back to the Board to share some of the videos that they made.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro said that they are working to finalize the playground installation date at Brewster School. She is hoping that it will be in June. They are still looking for volunteers to help with the installation. The date should be finalized soon.

Mrs. Viccaro is working with the area coordinator from Capturing Kids Hearts, Stanley Leone, on a project they will be bringing to the State Board of Education. They would like the Capturing Kids Hearts program to be able to be used as a SRBI standard. In March they will be presenting their plan to the superintendents of the Middlesex and shoreline areas. In October, an evening event will be held at Cuginchaug, where area educators will be invited to hear more about the positive impact of the Capturing Kids Hearts program.

Mrs. Viccaro said plans are being finalized for the football program to be housed in the District in the fall. Plans are still unfolding as to what teams will be practicing on what fields. Meetings are currently being held with the principals affected.

Mrs. Viccaro said the budget presentation will be held at the Board meeting next week.

Teens in the Driver Seat: Chris Bertz, CRHS Health Teacher, and several students were present to talk about a new program that they began at the high school this year in response to the death of another student, Michele DiVicino, who died earlier this year in a car accident. The program, Teens in the Driver Seat, is a peer-to-peer safety program for young drivers. The girls discussed what they have done, shared a video and teen driving statistics. A survey on student driving habits was completed by CRHS students and is being compiled. They intend to do the survey again at the end of the school year to see if driving habits have changed. More activities are being planned for later in the year.

The Board thanked the girls for the work they have done. Hearing from their peers is much more effective than being told by parents or teachers. A suggestion was made to see if the video could be put on the CRHS website.

Field Trip Request to Camp Jewell: On a motion by Mrs. Golschneider, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the Camp Jewel Field Trip request for June 3 and 4, 2010.

Field Trip Request to Oaxaca, Mexico: Mrs. Golschneider questioned how the students will get transported to New York City. She also wanted more information on how students will make up the work they miss while they are in Mexico and Coginchaug is in session and why they will only attend school for ½ the day in Mexico.

Kate Martino, chaperone for the trip, explained that on the last trip students were driven to NYC on the school vans. If the group is too large to use the vans they will rent a bus and fundraise for the expense. Students have time each day to go on-line to get their homework from teachers at Coginchaug and in the past were able to keep up with their schoolwork. They will use some of their free time each day to do this.

Mrs. Golschneider wanted it to be clear that the Board reserves the right to cancel the trip at the last minute if there are issues of homeland security.

On a motion by Mrs. Boyle, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the CRHS trip to Oaxaca, Mexico from February 12-26, 2011.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said the Policy Committee met on February 2nd. They have received suggestions from the attorney for the elimination of ten current policies. She has made suggestions for changes in many others. They will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting.

Long Range Planning Committee: Mrs. Flanagan said the committee has met twice and made a proposal to the Board at the Board retreat. They took feedback from the Board, made some revisions and will be present as a part of the budget presentation next week on the five-year capital expenditure plan.

Magnet School: Mr. Hicks reported that the magnet school partnership agreement has been endorsed by the steering committee. The magnet school budget was approved with an increase of 4.54%.

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