

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the library of Strong Middle School. Board members present: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Absent: Mrs. Adams, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider and Mr. Hicks. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Public Comment: Donia Viola of Durham spoke regarding the lunch program and was disappointed that the Board again voted against participating in the State Healthy Food Certification reimbursement program.

Mrs. Viola also spoke regarding the wells that were being drilled at Lyman, Memorial and Brewster Schools. She does not agree that two wells need to be drilled at all three sites. She feels that if one well is sufficient then there is no need to drill a second. Mrs. Viola suggested that in the future these committees need to be made up of both Board of Education members and community members so that there is more accountability.

Scott Wheeler of Durham asked the Board how they are controlling the budget on all the capital projects that are going on in the District and how can they insure that all these projects will not overdraft the bond. Mr. Currlin said that each project is divided out and budgeted individually. Mr. Currlin said that if a project comes in under budget then those funds would be used towards another project under the same bond.

Mr. Currlin also addressed Mrs. Viola regarding the wells and stated that the District is preapproved by the State to drill three wells and must drill at least two at each site per state regulations. One will be used and one will be a back up. The third would not be drilled unless the others are dry.

Next Board Meeting: The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be September 30, 2009 at Memorial Middle School.

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

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second by Mrs. Boyle the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of August 26, 2009.

Communications: Mrs. Flanagan said that she has been working with the Strategic Planning groups and has been getting some interesting feedback from them.

Mrs. Boyle said that as a parent of 2 children in the District she felt that the first day of school went very well.

Mr. Hennick agreed with Mrs. Boyle and said he accompanied Mrs. Viccaro on opening day to a few of the schools and thought the kids were enthusiastic about their first day.

Mr. Hennick said he spoke with the District's attorneys and they strongly advised that the Board members use the District email when dealing with Board issues.

Mr. Currlin said that he was at the Lake Beseck bus stop on the first day of school with the elementary school children and their parents and noted how enthusiastic the kids were.

Dr. Ochterski received a call from a parent regarding tuition for the Greater Hartford Academy and how they were upset about the lack of information they received regarding tuition. Mrs. Viccaro stated that the communications at the Greater Hartford Academy have been very poor since the business office was taken over by Regional Choice Office. She stated that in past years letters were sent in the early summer to parents informing them of their portion of the tuition due. This year these letters were not sent until mid August and some parents were upset with the amount they had to pay. Mrs. Viccaro said that the District pays \$1,233.00 towards tuition for a part-time student and the difference is paid by the parent. She said she did speak with Principal Eric Bernstein and changes will be made for next year so that this situation does not occur again.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro informed the Board that the Strategic Planning Team will be reviewing the action plans from the action teams on February 23, 2010 from 4pm to 10 pm and on February 24, 2010 from 8 am to 4 pm.

Mrs. Viccaro said that she was contacted by the National Institute of Child Development and they will be following 2 of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes this school year. The District will receive \$1,000.00 for participating in this study.

Mrs. Viccaro informed the Board the next Board retreat will be October 25, 2009.

Mrs. Viccaro told the Board that several of the junior Falcon football team were diagnosed with a staph infection. One of those cases is a confirmed case of MRSA. Letters regarding this situation were sent to parents at Strong and Cuginchaug. Coaches at both schools received information regarding MRSA. Mrs. Viccaro also discussed cleaning procedures with Ted Lombardo, Athletic Director and Rob Francis, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds.

### New Business

Update on H1N1: The Board of Education met with the Board of Selectmen from both Durham and Middlefield prior to this Board meeting and one of the items discussed was the H1N1 flu. They will be developing procedures to handle an outbreak of the H1N1 flu. This information will be made available in the coming weeks.

Update on Stimulus Money: Mrs. Viccaro went over the ARRA funding with the Board. She stated that the final award was received last week. The total amount received was \$420,615.00 and those funds will be used toward the following:

#### **Staffing:**

- 1.0 kindergarten teacher (for CEIS-Coordinated Early Intervention Services to Identified and at-risk students)
- 3 part-time literacy tutors
- 2 part-time ABA therapists

#### **In-Service:**

Training for SRBI initiatives through ACES; additional training on special education mandates such as new LD guidelines, behavior, autism, etc...

#### **Professional Technical:**

District data system- will be ordered to track student data as part of SRBI Fast Forward Program- specialized computer program for students with reading and auditory processing needs

#### **Other:**

District van for transition services for students

Consultation services

Smartboards (6)

LCD projectors (4)

Laptops for identified students

Various software: Earobics, Co-Writer, FastMath, etc...

Various program materials such as for Life Skills, transition, ABA, speech, psych, and special education

#### **Equipment:**

Playground equipment for Brewster to support our "Play with Me" program for both the K-2 program and the preschool program (from preschool ARRA grant).

#### **Note:**

All purchases must be connected back to specific identified goals and IEPs.

Mrs. Flanagan's only concern is with the staffing impact that these positions will have and where these positions will be in 2 years once the funding is gone. She feels that the Board needs to keep an eye on them because there is obviously a need behind these positions.

## Committee Reports

### Policy Committee:

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second by Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously approved the following revised policies:

1. Concept, Goals, and Roles in Community Relations (1000)
2. Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings (1120)
3. Distribution of Materials by Students (1140)
4. Visits to the Schools (1250)
5. Soliciting Funds from and by Students (1324)

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second by Mrs. Flanagan the Board of Education unanimously approved to delete the following policies:

1. Parental Involvement (1101.1)
2. News Media Relations (1112)
3. Citizens' Advisory Committee (1220)
4. Video Taping Board Meetings (1121)

### Building Committee:

Mr. Currlin asked the Board to be sure to check out the new reading rooms at both Coginchaug and Korn and was very pleased at how well they turned out.

Mr. Currlin said that over 95% of the roofing at Lyman and Memorial was complete with only trim work, gutters and drainage left to do.

Mr. Currlin informed the Board that a continuation from the last Planning & Zoning hearing regarding athletic fields is scheduled for September 16, 2009 at 8:00. He asked for all Board members to try and attend as Dick Webb of CHA will be presenting. Mr. Currlin also stated that an application to amend the height of the 80 foot lights will also be presented at this P&Z hearing.

Mr. Currlin stated that the main focus of the next Board of Education meeting on September 30, 2009 will on the building project. Dick Webb will be there to answer questions.

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

*Virginia P. Antonelli*