

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Korn School. Board members present: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Absent: Mrs. Adams. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Melnik.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Public Comment: Rick Parmelee of Durham asked why the Town Times charges the District for the Coginchaug student run newspaper "The Devil's Advocate" to appear in the paper. He feels that the news should not be something the tax payers need to pay for.

Mr. Parmelee asked for more details in the budget handouts. He also said that some numbers in the budget were not real and asked for a total re-numeration breakdown of every line item.

Donia Viola of Durham said that the budget was too high and that there needs to be shared sacrifices by everyone.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be the District Meeting on the 2011-2012 Budget May 2, 2011 at Coginchaug Regional High School.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be May 11, 2011 at Lyman School.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mr. Currilin, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second by Ms. Gara to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 6, 2011. Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Golschneider abstained.

Presentation:

Discussion with Legislators: Mr. Hennick asked State Representative Matt Lesser and State Senator Len Suzio what the District can expect from the State with regards to funding. Both Senator Suzio and Representative Lesser said that aid to local towns and municipalities will not be touched.

Representative Lesser said that Districts will receive more funds this year than in past years because of the decrease in property taxes. They both spoke about bills that were currently in the legislature that will affect the District.

Senator Suzio talked about the Carbon Monoxide Bill which is a bill that would require 1 carbon monoxide detector on each floor of a school. Senator Suzio said the bill as it is currently written is ineffective. Mrs. Viccaro agreed with Senator Suzio on the bill ineffectiveness and stated she has actually looked at what it would cost for the District to have carbon monoxide detectors installed and hard wired into the current system. The amount she assessed would be around \$12,000 to \$16,000. Mrs. Viccaro stated she was unaware there was an issue with carbon monoxide poisoning and wanted to know where the data and the statistics were. She also asked for the number of times carbon monoxide poisoning has occurred at schools and municipal buildings in our state. Representative Lesser said it's not in the state law that you need to spend \$16,000 although he understands the need for school districts to want to do it right. He felt the cost was negligible in the grand scheme of things.

Mr. Hennick and Mrs. Flanagan both asked about unfunded mandates that the State puts into place but then the Districts are asked to foot the bill for. Mrs. Flanagan stated that there were over 200 mandates that the District is asked to comply with. More are being added but none are being eliminated. Mrs. Flanagan told

Representative Lesser \$16,000 is a lot money for the District to absorb especially in these tough economic times.

Communications: Mrs. Golschneider said she heard from several people who were concerned about the personal comments that were in the survey and the slams against certain individuals. She asked if in the future if we could ask the survey participants to stick to the subject at hand. Mr. Hennick thought that in the future we could add a statement to the survey stating that comments that are made personal in nature will not be reported.

Mr. Hicks attended the Korn School 3rd and 4th grade Writer's Jubilee today and had a wonderful time.

Mr. Hicks attended the ACES Governing Board Meeting on April 12, 2011 of which Mr. Currin is the Board Chairman. He stated how well represented the District is and thanked Mr. Currin for the wonderful job he does there.

Mr. Hennick attended "The Race To Nowhere" presentation at Coginchaug on Monday April 25, 2011 and said it was very sobering. He wanted to thank Lisa Larson and Carol Luckenbach for their contributions in putting the presentation together.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro spoke about "The Race to Nowhere" presentation that took place at the high school on Monday. She said 70 people attended and were asked to fill out a survey card at the end of the presentation. She will review the survey with the Local Wellness Council on Monday. She said one survey comment from a student suggested that the movie be shown to the students at the high school and have the Board Members act as the panel. Mrs. Viccaro thought this was a great idea and is looking into the cost for keeping the film in order to do this.

Mrs. Viccaro looked into the membership cost for CABE. She stated that a trial membership would cost \$8,400 and that is with a discount. She said that cost would double once the membership is renewed.

Mrs. Viccaro said the makeup snow day that took place last Monday. We had over 1500 students report to school that day and 442 that did not.

Mrs. Viccaro reminded the Board that the Teacher of the Year ceremony for Phil Moriarty will take place from 3-5pm at Lyman on May 10, 2011.

Mrs. Viccaro gave the Board a Strategic Planning Update handout and asked them to review it and email her with questions. She said they will review the handout at the next Board Meeting.

Mrs. Viccaro handed out a revised copy of the Proposed District Goals for the 2011-2012 Strategic Plan and asked the Board Members to review them and get back to her with any questions.

Mrs. Viccaro announced that Dr. Linda C. Berry has been hired as the new Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. She is currently the principal at East Hampton High School and will be joining the District on July 1st.

Presentation:

Technology Presentation: IT Director Rich Fielding presented his Technology update to the Board. He reviewed the many changes and upgrades that have taken place this year and many of the items that will be completed by June 30th. Mr. Fielding said that he is currently working with Coginchaug TV Production teacher Robin Fox and they plan to webcast this year's graduation ceremony.

Mr. Fielding discussed the changes that are planned for the 2011-2012 school year which include the PowerSchool parent portal; expanding the WIFI access in all schools, digital broadcasting and webcasting of events at the high school; teacher laptop program; and new tech centers at Lyman and Brewster.

Mr. Melnik said that the PowerLunch program will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Boyle said the District is moving in the right direction towards the future of technology.

Mr. Currilin asked if the Board can add a computer lab agenda item to a Board meeting in future.

New Business:

Field Trip Request to Quebec, Canada:

On a motion by Mr. Currilin, second Mrs. Golschneider the Board of Education unanimously approved the CRHS French III and IV field trip to Quebec, Canada February 2, 2012 to February 5, 2012.

Old Business:

Survey Results: Mrs. Boyle passed out a handout of facts regarding the online budget survey and reviewed it with the Board members. Mrs. Boyle said that the two main things she learned from reviewing the data was that parents want to be heard and there is a lot of misunderstanding on what the Board of Education and District does. She thought it would do a lot of good to put together a brochure and/or handbook explaining how the District operates.

Mr. Hennick thanked Mrs. Boyle for compiling the information and all the work she put into the survey.

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said that the Policy Committee met on April 12th and although they had a full agenda they spent the entire meeting discussing the use of school facilities and the athletic complex. Mr. Hicks said the next meeting will be May 2nd and they plan on putting the item back on the agenda but as the last item of discussion.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons said the Finance Committee met tonight and discussed the facilities need study.

Building Committee: Mr. Currilin said that the final 2 layers of the track surfacing will be completed by Saturday. The stripes will be painted next week. He said the tennis courts should be completed in about 2 weeks.

Mr. Currilin said the Brewster well trench excavation was completed and the project is on schedule.

Mr. Hennick asked if there were any plans for a ceremony for the opening of the track once it is completed. Mr. Currilin said not at present. Mr. Hennick and Mrs. Viccaro suggested that Mr. Currilin discuss the details with the students and Principal Andre Hauser.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:50 pm.

Virginia Antonelli