

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 7:45 p.m. in the music room at John Lyman Elementary School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons. Member absent: Mrs. Golschneider. Also present: Mr. Melnik, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Korn School on January 12, 2011. The first hour of the meeting will be dedicated to a public forum on the budget.

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

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second Mrs. Flanagan, to approve the minutes to the meeting of November 10, 2010. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currilin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Boyle abstained.

Communications: Mr. Currilin shared holiday cards featuring artwork from students at ACES.

Ms. Parsons stopped in at the Community Round-up. She couldn't believe how many people were involved. It looked very successful.

Mrs. Boyle attended the fall sports banquet. The event was thrilling. The auditorium was packed and the night was very well attended.

Mrs. Boyle also spoke about an email that Board members received regarding the delayed opening days. She said the parent wants the chance to be able to speak to the Board when the calendar is on the Board agenda. The calendar will be discussed in January.

Mr. Currilin mentioned that all of the Sports Banquets are sponsored by the Benchwarmers.

Superintendent's Award Students: Mrs. Viccaro presented the 2010-2011 Superintendent's Award winners, Erin Holden and Tyler Sibley with gifts from the school district. Both students were honored last month at a luncheon at the Saybrook Point Inn. Mrs. Viccaro shared each of the student's accomplishments that lead them to being selected as the award winners.

Regional District 13 Teacher of the Year: On behalf of the District, Mrs. Viccaro presented Phil Moriarty, the 2011 District 13 Teacher of the Year with a gift of appreciation from the District. Mr. Moriarty is a grade 3-4 teacher at John Lyman Elementary School.

Mr. Hennick thanked the award winners and told them that it does his heart good to recognize people who are such good examples of the District's values.

The Board and the guests present took a break to share cake that was made in honor of Mr. Moriarty.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro handed out a copy of the Next Generation Health Survey. This survey will be given to high school students who will be followed over the next two years.

Mrs. Viccaro also mentioned the two letters received from the parents regarding the delayed openings. She said one suggestion made was to have two full days of professional development instead of the delays. She said that cannot be possible with the work that is being done. The time has to be spread out over the year.

Mrs. Viccaro said she has responses from other Superintendents regarding the next steps in a facilities study ranging from hiring architectural firms to using NESDEC. The Board would like to know more about the different options and the approximate costs associated with each.

Mrs. Viccaro said she has begun a conversation with the teachers' union about the recently passed legislative act that requires school districts to offer parents the option to have two parent-teacher conferences per school year, beginning this school year. It will not affect our elementary schools as they already have two conferences scheduled but it will affect Memorial, Strong and Coginchaug. She also wants to get this settled prior to finalizing the calendar for the next school year.

Mrs. Boyle would like for this information to be given to parents from the beginning so there is no confusion about the need for another half day.

Mrs. Viccaro said she would begin by publicizing the new law.

Mrs. Viccaro reminded members that the first meeting in January will include the public hearing on the budget. Mrs. Viccaro has invited State Senators Ed Meyer and Thomas Gaffey and State Representative Matt Lesser to attend the second meeting in January to talk about State funding. She has not heard from them if they will be able to attend.

Mrs. Viccaro said the Community Round-up was very successful. Approximately 15,000 food items were collected. Food deliveries were made directly to twenty-four Durham families. The Middlefield food bank gave a list of specific items needed. \$3500 in gift cards and cash donations was also collected and was split between the two communities. The rest of the food items were sent to the Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown. The overall donation level was slightly up from last year.

Mrs. Viccaro distributed an article regarding a North Carolina School that has raised money through sponsorship signs. She also passed out the two latest copies of Board and Administrator for School Board Members.

Mrs. Viccaro met with Donna Marino, the Parent Resource Coordinator from Middletown schools regarding the Middlesex County Parent Leadership Training Institute. They have offered to have one or two District 13 parents attend a leadership skills and training conference at no cost to the District. It is a very intensive course and Middletown has had very positive results. Mrs. Viccaro will send Board members a link to a website about the program.

Business Manager's Report: Mr. Melnik said a meeting was held last week with Liberty Bank representatives regarding security. The District learned about some options that we can use for remotely depositing checks as well as some other security measures.

Mr. Melnik said the District is working with the Town of Durham to replace the culvert over Allyn Brook. The majority of the costs are being paid for by a STEEP grant that the town received.

Mr. Melnik said the lighting in all of the school gyms has been replaced with more efficient and better quality lights through the energy project.

Mr. Melnik reminded the Board that he needs to have five people appointed to serve on the Pension Committee.

Mr. Melnik said the solar panels are not live at Lyman and Memorial Schools yet, but should be soon. The inverters have been back ordered but should be arriving soon. He expects the systems to be on-line within a few weeks.

Model UN Field Trip to Yale University: Julie Selberg, one of the Advisors for the Club was present at the meeting. She said this is the same trip that the kids have participated in for several years. They are very excited about attending.

On a motion by Mr. Currin, second Mrs. Adams, the Board of Education unanimously approved the field trip by Model UN to Yale University from January 20-23, 2011.

Thomas Edison Magnet School: Mr. Hicks distributed handouts regarding mastery testing scores from the magnet school and one showing enrollment information. Mr. Hicks discussed the magnet school plan for early dismissal days for next school year. They are going to be dismissing students ½ hour early one day a week, every week next year, to allow teachers time to work in data teams. Because buses for our students can't arrive earlier than the normal pick-up time, the students are going to get activity time until the buses arrive. The school has also found a way to extend the academic school day by ten minutes on the other four days a week so students will not really be losing classroom time.

Mr. Hicks said he and Mrs. Viccaro attended a professional development workshop at ACES in November. A video entitled ACES World – Our World is Just Awesome! was shown that day. Mr. Hicks shared the video with the Board. Bill Currin, who is the ACES Chairman of the Board, was featured singing on the video.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said the Policy Committee has met twice since the last meeting. Policies still being discussed are: Contract Policy, Use of the Schools for Private Lessons, the Field Trip Policy, Fee for Reproducing Records, Use of School Grounds and Food Allergy Management Plan. An Alcohol Detection Policy is also being considered but the Committee would like the entire Board to weight in on this topic. Mr. Hicks suggested a discussion at the full Board level at a later date.

Achievement Committee: Mrs. Adams said the Committee held their first meeting. They are going to be looking at achievement through data. They have selected many topics to focus on for this year. Mrs. Adams said the Committee is a long-term committee for academics. They will be meeting again on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Building Committee: Mr. Currin said not much activity has been happening. The Committee met briefly tonight to pay some bills. The fencing, except for the east side, is complete. The parking lots have been completed. The track will stay closed until weather allows for the completion, which should be in late April or early May.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons said the Committee met this evening. They reviewed a draft of the audit with the auditors. The fund balance and the surplus are exactly where they thought they would be. The financials to date were reviewed. The budget numbers and actuals are much tighter this year than in years past.

Personnel Policies: Mrs. Flanagan said negotiations are ongoing with the teachers and have begun with the nurses.

Long Range Planning Committee: Mrs. Flanagan said the Committee met this evening. The debt was reviewed. Considerable savings have been realized by refinancing the bonds at a

lower interest rate. They reviewed the capital expense budget. It will be impacted by the wells at Brewster but we do not know by how much. The Committee is preparing for the budget process and will be adding a fifth year to the capital expense plan.

Curriculum Committee: Mr. Hicks said the Curriculum Committee met a couple of weeks ago. They are reviewing revisions to several elective courses at the high school. The revisions will be brought before the Board at the second meeting in January.

Communications Committee: Mrs. Boyle would like for the Committee to meet in early January to prepare a survey about the budget process.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Flanagan, the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.