

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room of Korn Elementary School. Board members present: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Absent: Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Golschneider. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Melnik.

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

Forum on Budget: A parent of the District asked if there were any preliminary figures for the 2011-2012 school budget. Mr. Hennick said that there was not and that the purpose of this discussion was to gather information and ideas from the public. Another parent asked if the teachers reached an agreement on their new contract. Mr. Hennick said that item would be discussed later in the agenda.

Ms. Gara asked Mrs. Viccaro to go over the budget process time line.

Mrs. Flanagan said that the Finance Committee is working on ways to make the budget presentation more understandable.

Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be January 26, 2011 at Memorial Middle School.

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

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Flanagan, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting of December 15, 2010.

Communications: Dr. Ochterski attended the Martin Luther King Celebration at Coginchaug on Wednesday, January 19, 2011.

Mrs. Boyle said she heard from parents who were upset about the scheduled 2 hour delay for Professional Development that took place last Friday, January 14, 2011. They were not happy that the delay was not rescheduled since the students had just had 2 days off because of snow. She is also hearing from parents that they do not like the 2 hour delay for Professional Development.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro discussed the recent snow days and explained why each of them was necessary and that student safety comes first. She thanked Patch.com on their recent article explaining what a superintendent goes through when making the decision to either close schools or delay schools due to snow. Mrs. Viccaro said that as of today, the last day of school has been pushed out to June 23rd with a very strong possibility of Friday being another snow closing day. With that happening, the last day of school is more than likely going to be June 24, 2011. Mrs. Viccaro said once the 4th snow day has been used, any further snow days will be taken from April vacation starting with the beginning of the week.

Mrs. Viccaro said that she is still gathering information on the utilization study and will present it to the Board in February.

Mrs. Viccaro said that Senator Meyer and Representative Lesser will attend next Wednesday's Board meeting. Mr. Hennick suggested we put them first on the agenda.

Mrs. Viccaro said the boys' and girls' basketball teams are in the middle of a great season and encouraged everyone to attend a game.

Mrs. Viccaro plans to update the Board next month on Strategic Planning.

Mrs. Viccaro said IT Director Rich Fielding will be presenting an update on technology next month.

Mrs. Viccaro has been going through the budget process and is currently meeting with the administrators and will continue to meet with everyone through the end of next week.

Mrs. Viccaro handed out a letter to the Board that she received from Wallingford Board of Education member Chet Miller asking the District to donate our old and used books, CD's and other media to an organization called Reading Tree. Mrs. Viccaro asked the Board if they felt this was something the Board was interested in doing. Several Board members asked what the District currently did with old or outdated material and Mrs. Viccaro said it depends on the condition of the material but some are donated and some are discarded. She said she would contact the Wallingford Superintendent and see how the program is working in his school district. Mrs. Viccaro thought this could be a good program for one of the student groups at the high school to get involved in.

Mrs. Viccaro passed out a flyer to the Board members inviting them to attend Strong School Reads on February 8, 2011.

New Business:

2009-2010 Annual Report:

Mrs. Viccaro passed out copies of the 2009-2010 Annual Report to the Board and said that copies will be available in all the buildings, the town libraries and the town halls.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second by Ms. Parsons, the Board of Education unanimously approved the 2009-2010 Regional School District 13 Audit ending June 30, 2010.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second by Dr. Ochterski, to approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar. Mr. Currlin, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Boyle opposed.

Mr. Hennick said the calendar is approved with the dates specified on it with the understanding that the 2 hr delayed Professional Development days could be revised to early dismissal days or a mix of both delayed openings and early dismissal days. A decision will be made at the next Board meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin second by Ms. Gara, the Board of Education unanimously approved the changes to the 2010-2011 School Calendar changing March 23, 2011 and March 24, 2011 to normal early dismissal times for the entire District.

Committee Reports

Achievement Committee: Ms Parsons said the Achievement Committee met last week and are redefining the goals. Each committee member was asked to survey 10 parents and ask what they felt the District did well and report back with their finding at the next committee meeting.

Building Committee: Mr. Currlin said the Building Committee received approval from Planning and Zoning for a scoreboard that is being donated by the Benchwarmers.

Mr. Currlin said that the walk through for the water system at Brewster will take place on Friday, January 21, 2011.

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said the Policy Committee met last week and are working on the 4000 series. They are also working on getting the Policy Manual in a .pdf format.

Personnel Policy Committee:

On a motion by Mrs. Flanagan, second by Mr. Currlin the Board of Education unanimously approved to ratify the 2011-2014 Teachers Contract.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Currlin the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:14 pm.

Virginia P. Antonelli