

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Brewster School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams (8:17 pm), Mrs. Boyle (7:36 pm), Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Absent: Ms. Gara. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Melnik.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Comment: Lisa Onofrio of Durham spoke regarding the 5 Professional Development delayed openings for 2011-2012 school year. She told the Board that these delayed openings are hard for working parents. Mrs. Onofrio asked the Board to think about splitting the 5 delayed openings up by making some of them early dismissals.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be on the July 5, 2011 at 6:30 pm at Central Office.

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

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second by Dr. Ochterski to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 23, 2011. Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Golschneider abstained.

Communications: Mr. Hicks said he attended Awards Night at Coginchaug last week. He also attended the viewing of "Race to Nowhere" today at Coginchaug with the 9th, 10th and 11th grade classes. After the viewing, Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Flanagan sat on a panel and the students asked questions and shared their thoughts with them.

Mr. Currlin read a Proclamation and presented a plaque to Mrs. Golschneider for her years of service to the Board.

The Proclamation is as follows:

**Regional District #13 Board of Education
Durham and Middlefield, Connecticut**



Be it hereby resolved that on this date Debra Golschneider, member of this Board of Education since 1999 is duly recognized and acknowledged for her dedication to the children of Regional District #13.

Whereas, Debra Golschneider, having served with honor, hereby concludes this challenge for the responsibility of educating our youth. Be it known that by these words that her deeds will be long remembered and cherished by her peers, this community, and our children.

And whereas, Debra Golschneider, having been a resident of Durham, a proud mother of two children and a loving husband.

And whereas, Debra Golschneider served this Board as Curriculum Chairman where her dogged attention to detail and to the educational process for this community will long be remembered as a guide for those that follow in future public service.

And whereas, Debra Golschneider, demonstrated her presence on the Finance & Policy Committees. Her common sense provided the school system with balance and a clear point of view for the successful development of district policy and financial balance.

And whereas, Debra Golschneider, board member and mother of a soldier serving in Iraq & Afghanistan continued her dedicated service to this district in spite of the fear of danger to a loved one and unknown consequences.

And be known that Debra Golschneider, made an extraordinary difference in the success of this Board of Education.

By your actions, you have distinguished yourself and brought great pride upon your community, our schools, and a community of children that will love and remember you always.

Mrs. Viccaro presented Mrs. Golschneider with a gift certificate as a token of appreciation from the Board.

Mr. Hicks read a Proclamation and presented a plaque to Mr. Currlin for his years of service to the Board. The Proclamation is as follows:

**Regional District #13 Board of Education
Durham and Middlefield, Connecticut**



Whereas, that on this date William Currlin, Distinguished Board of Education Member since 1995, is duly recognized and acknowledged for his dedication to the children and citizens of Regional District #13; and

Whereas, Bill Currlin, having served with honor, hereby concludes this challenge for the responsibility of educating our youth. Be it known that by these words that his deeds, his positive manner and enduring smile will be long remembered and cherished by his peers, the Towns of Middlefield and Durham and, indeed, our children; and

Whereas, Bill Currlin served this District as a Board of Education member. His persistent attention to detail and his vision of operational success for this community will long be remembered as a guide for those that follow in future public service; and

Whereas, Bill Currlin brought state-wide distinction to Regional School District #13 by chairing the ACES Governing Board; and

Whereas, Bill Currlin demonstrated his tireless work ethic on many subcommittees for this Board including Policy, Buildings and Grounds, Transportation and Communications. His vast background provided insightful direction and proudly moved the District forward. He is also the architect for the District Recognition program that serves as a model throughout the state; and

Whereas, Bill Currlin was active on two Building Committees by chairing them both. His determination and common sense provided this District with balance and a clear point of view for the successful completion of these vital projects; and

Whereas, Bill Currlin, is a respected and admired leader having been a tireless volunteer in and around this District including the Coginchaug Benchwarmers, Middletown Elks, Project Graduation and the Durham Fair Association.

Therefore be it resolved that we, the members of the Regional School District 13 Board of Education on this eighth day of June, two-thousand eleven salute Bill Currlin and encourage others to do the same and join us in recognizing Bill Currlin, a man who made an extraordinary difference in the success of this School District and the advancement of its mission. All this is with our sincere gratitude for your many years of unselfish service. By your actions, you have distinguished yourself and brought great pride upon your community, our schools and hundreds of children that will love and remember you for all the good work you have done.

Mrs. Viccaro presented Mr. Currlin with a photo of the 50 yard line of the track and football field.

Mrs. Golschneider thanked everyone for the great experience she has had over the past 12 years and said she will miss serving on the Board.

Mr. Currilin said that he will miss everyone he has served with over the past 15 years but that this is not the end of his commitment to the District. He said he will always support the efforts of the school district. Mr. Currilin then presented Board Chair Tom Hennick a gavel.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro said the District received \$16,835.00 from the Merwin Fund Grant. The funds will be used for several LCD projectors, update the lights in the auditorium at the high school and the wiring of the screen and the curtains so that both can be controlled backstage.

Mrs. Viccaro updated the Board about last weeks CogFest that took place at the high school. She said the day went off without a hitch and thanked students Ben Hamilton, Aubree Keurajian and Kelly Dorsey who ran the event.

Mrs. Viccaro said that Coginchaug students Sam Baker, Lora Manley and Alex Morin will be traveling to Burlington Vermont this weekend to attend the New England Track and Field Championship.

Mrs. Viccaro reminded the Board that Old Homes Day is this weekend and that the June calendar is out and packed full of events.

Mrs. Viccaro passed out the May 2011 Board & Administrator to the Board.

Mrs. Viccaro passed out the Guidelines for Data Teams and Common Formative Assessments to the Board. These guidelines define what is being done during the data team meetings.

Business Managers Report: Mr. Melnik said that he and teachers' union president Candy Brickley started going around to the schools this week to discuss the HSA plan with teachers. He said the plan has been warmly received so far and expects double digit member enrollment for the plan.

Mr. Melnik said that bids went out for the general liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance last week. He said that they received 4 bids and went with the low bid which also happened to be who the District currently uses. HD Segur for general liability and CIRMA for workers comp.

Mr. Melnik said they are looking to change out the outdoor lighting at the high school with energy reducing wattage bulbs. Mr. Melnik said this will save the District 50,000 kilowatts per year. The cost for this change will be approximately \$67,000. The District applied for and received a Clean Energy Grant for \$21,000 and is looking to lease the remaining balance of \$46,000 in a 5 year lease payback. The lease is a zero percent lease with no cash flow impact.

On a motion by Ms. Parsons, second by Dr. Ochterski the Board of Education unanimously approved to amend the agenda to include discussion on the CL&P Energy Conservation Program Proposal.

On a motion by Ms. Parsons, second by Dr. Ochterski the Board of Education unanimously approved the CL&P Energy Conservation Program Lease.

Mr. Melnik passed out and reviewed with the Board a handout outlining 3 potential bus savings alternatives that he, DATTCO Vice President Phil Johnson, Eileen Bengtson of Central Office and Karen Meiman, a Durham parent have been working on for the past several months. Of the 3 alternative, Mr. Melnik said Alternative A had the biggest budgetary impact saving the district \$47,000 per year, but it will also have a huge parental backlash as it involves cleaning up bus stops and enforcing policy that is already in place. Alternatives B&C need further study as it has a larger impact on staff members who work between schools and school bell times. Mr. Melnik said that they will continue to look at Alternatives B&C and see if they can make modifications to it for possible implementation for the 2012-2013 school year, but Alternate A should be enforced for the 2011-2012 school year.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Dr. Ochterski the Board of Education unanimously approved to amend the agenda to include discussion on school bus transportation routing options.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mrs. Golschneider the Board of Education unanimously approved Alternative A which enforces the guidelines as stated in the Board Education Transportation Policy 3541(a).

Old Business:

Delayed Openings: Mrs. Viccaro said she talked again with her principals and staff and all have found the delayed openings to be beneficial to their work in the Data Teams and CFA's. The overall feeling from the staff is that the delayed openings provide them with a freshness to the day, uninterrupted time and better focus on the work. Mrs. Boyle stated that the delayed openings have an economic implication and is harder for working parents of students from K-6 grade. She asked what it cost for a child to attend BASREP during the delayed openings. Mrs. Viccaro said she was not sure but would find out and get back to the Board. Mr. Hennick said the Board has listened to everyone's thoughts and feelings but in the end the educational advantages come first.

New Business:

Middlesex Community College Collaboration:

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second by Mr. Currlin the Board of Education resolves that Susan L. Viccaro is hereby authorized to make, execute and approve the agreement and contract with Middlesex Community College on behalf of Regional School District 13 and to affix the District Seal.

Committee Reports:

Policy Committee: Mr. Hicks said that the Policy Committee met last week and reviewed several policies and had many questions for the attorneys. Susan Gaudreau of Central Office and Mr. Melnik also attended the meeting to discuss the use of the athletic facility. Mrs. Gaudreau will be gathering information from other Districts to see how they handle their field use. Mr. Hennick and Mr. Hicks said that the committee may need to meet over the summer to discuss the use of the athletic facility further.

Mrs. Viccaro said that she and Rich Fielding, District Technology Director, are very close to launching the Policy Manual on the District web site.

Building Committee: Mr. Currlin updated the Board on the current status of the track and field at the high school. He said the signs are up listing the Do's and Don'ts for the field; the gates are open and will remain open; the back parking lot will not be paved due to inland/wetland issues; the green fence is up but the gate still needs to be installed. Mrs. Boyle asked about lights and Mr. Currlin said that there won't be lights for this fall as they were not funded in the 2011-2012 school year. He said that he was hopeful that the lights could be added to the 2012-2013 budget and installed by next fall.

Mr. Currlin said he would like to head a group to get the concession stands at the athletic field going. His thoughts are to gather different organizations together and through donations they could raise the funds to have the concession stands built.

Finance Committee: Ms. Parsons said that the Finance Committee met tonight and discussed the budget status and said the expenditures look better than they had anticipated.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second Mrs. Golschneider the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:25 pm.

Virginia Antonelli