

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Strong School. Board members present: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currin, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Absent: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan and Mrs. Golschneider. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Strong School on March 16, 2011.

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

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second by Ms. Parsons to accept the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2011. Mr. Currin, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Boyle abstained.

Communications: Ms. Gara said she attended the information forum on the college application process given at Coginchaug and thought it was very well done. She asked if it was possible to designate A level classes as honors classes. Mr. Hauser said that this has been an area of concern with his team leaders and that they are looking into how other districts designate honors classes. Mr. Hauser said they will revisit this subject in the spring.

Mr. Hicks said the Curriculum Director Search Committee met today and they have narrowed the applicants down to 8. He said that the District has some great candidates to pick from. He noted that Mrs. Viccaro picked great candidates for the committee to review as he found no others he wanted to interview.

Mrs. Boyle said that the Scholarship Ball will take place on March 19, 2011. She said attendance is down by 100 and urged everyone to attend.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro read a letter she received from Middlefield First Selectman Jon Brayshaw asking the Board for their input on the possibility of using Memorial Middle School as their voting location. Mrs. Viccaro said she told Mr. Brayshaw she would discuss this with the Board and Principal Kevin Brough. Her concerns were parking and the inconvenience it would have on the school day.

Mrs. Viccaro said she had the answer to the Contract Policy question Mrs. Flanagan asked last week about prescribed standards. Mrs. Viccaro spoke with Attorney Gwen Zittoun and she said the language was meant to be broad.

2011-2012 Regional School District 13 Budget: Mr. Hennick started the budget discussion stating that the total increase from last year's budget is 1.74% but unfortunately our revenue is down.

Mr. Currin commended Mrs. Viccaro stating that the 1.74% increase was the best the District has ever had and that this 1.74% increase was all the District can control.

Ms. Gara asked about the Apple IT full time position being added. Mrs. Viccaro said that the District could hire a full time employee for what we are currently paying a contractor for 2 days a week.

Ms. Parsons asked about certified salaries and Mrs. Viccaro said that retirements were being replaced for next year but that no new staff will be added. Mrs. Viccaro also noted that certified staff was down 1.5 positions. People added during this year school were small increases in several positions.

Ms. Parsons asked if Mrs. Viccaro could come up with \$100,000.00 in cuts for the next Board meeting.

Ms. Parsons asked about the purchase service security line item and why it's decreased \$6000.00 for the next school year. Mrs. Viccaro explained this is for State Police services and changes were made so that they will be used only for graduation and other major events. The District has its own security staff for other events.

Ms. Parsons asked about the Central Office Computer lease and how that number increased. Mrs. Viccaro stated that this figure represented the entire District not just Central Office.

Ms. Parsons asked about the Pension Administration and Mrs. Viccaro asked that she bring that question up again at the next Board meeting when Mr. Melnik is present.

Mr. Hicks said that the Magnet School presented its budget and the increase was .68% which translates to a \$105.00 per student increase. Mr. Hicks said that the District currently sends 8 students to TEMS at a cost of \$51,147.35. Mrs. Viccaro said that this was great news as this figure is approximately \$14,000.00 less than what was budgeted.

Mr. Hicks asked about an early retirement package and Mrs. Viccaro asked that this be picked up next week when Mr. Melnik was in attendance as he had this information.

Mrs. Viccaro handed out a letter from Dattco regarding switching from a 3 tier system to a 2 tier system.

Mrs. Viccaro handed out 2 sheets on enrollment and average class size. She said that kindergarten is currently closed at Brewster until Lyman catches up and then they will go back and forth.

Mrs. Viccaro handed out a detailed list of the courses provided at Cuginchaug that showed the number of students taking each particular class. She noted that most classes were at the maximum capacity.

Mrs. Viccaro handed out a list of activity stipends along with a detailed listing of student participation in athletics at Strong and Cuginchaug. Mrs. Viccaro said sports and clubs offer a niche to many students.

Mrs. Viccaro said that any cuts made would have to come from staffing and programs in order to save significant dollars.

Mrs. Boyle asked about the staff that were hired with the ARRA funds 2 years ago. Mrs. Viccaro said their positions are not being extended past the end of this year and those positions were not included in this budget.

Several Board members agreed that this vote needs to be an educated vote. The community needs to understand how the loss of revenue played a roll in the 6.25% increase.

Mr. Currlin asked Mrs. Viccaro to provide a summary of new positions created over the last 3 to 5 years.

Mrs. Viccaro asked the Board to email her with any specific questions.

Concert Band Field Trip Request:

Mr. Currlin made a motion, second by Ms. Gara to approve the All State Music Festival field trip at the Hartford Convention Center on April 7, 8 and 9, 2011. Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Currlin, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mr. Hicks abstained.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Ms. Gara the Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:55.

Virginia Antonelli