

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library of Cuginchaug High School. Board members present: Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons. Absent: Mrs. Boyle. Also present: Mrs. Viccaro and Mr. Melnik

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

Public Comment regarding Thanksgiving Football Game Discussion: Randall Luther of Durham asked the Board that the final game of the football season be played at the new athletic complex. He feels the field was nearly complete and the final items that needed to be completed could come together with the help of the football community. He stated that people really want this last game played at the new football field and that if given the ok to play the game at the new field they would take the steps necessary to make the game happen.

Peter Donecker of Durham also spoke out in support of having the final football game of the regular season be played at the new athletic complex. He stated the CRHS Booster Club would set aside funding for lighting and for the set up and clean up for before and after. Mr. Donecker said that the Falcon Youth Football Organization would also set up a food booth for the game.

Dan Wheeler of Middlefield said that the Falcon Youth Organization would also be willing to provide 3 port-o-lets and portable stands to the athletic complex for the game.

Donna Auger of Durham stated she was speaking out on behalf of the graduating seniors and felt they were robbed by not being allowed to play on the field and that the Board has the ability to undo a wrong.

Mr. Hennick said that the decision to play was in the hands of the Building Committee and asked Mr. Currin, Mr. Melnik and Mr. Lombardo to address the Board and the public.

Mr. Currin passed out and read a letter from Project Manager Richard Webb of CHA stating that they could not recommend use of the field as the field had not achieved substantial completion. Mr. Currin also passed out and read a letter from Nancy Cosgrove of H.D. Segur Insurance who also recommended that the field not be open to the public due to increased liability exposure that it could bring to the District.

Mr. Currin stated the Building Committee is not recommending use of the field for the Thanksgiving Football game.

Mr. Lombardo stated that from a game management point of view the field was not ready and that Middletown High was a state of the art facility that could accommodate the 2000+ attendees comfortably and even with the items being donated by the Falcon Youth Football Organization and the Booster Club it would still fall short on what was needed. Mr. Lombardo stated that there were no locker rooms, 3 port-o-lets would not be sufficient for a crowd of that size and the track was not ready for portable lights.

Mr. Hicks asked if the Town needed to give the District a Certificate of Occupancy or something along those lines saying it was ok to use the field.

Mr. Currin said that a town official comes out each week and reviews and approves the work that has been completed to that point

Mrs. Viccaro stated that the sound barrier wall, part of the agreement with the Town, has not been done and that was an item that must absolutely be completed.

Mr. Hennick stated that because of some unfair legal hang-ups a lot of kids were hurt and unfortunately the field is just not ready and the game can not be played at the new athletic complex.

On a motion by Mr. Currlin, second by Dr. Ochterski the Board of Education unanimously approved that the 2010 varsity and junior varsity football and soccer team members be recognized as guests of honor at the grand opening of the completed athletic facility when it occurs in 2011 and that they receive appropriate recognition as members of the 1st 2011 football and soccer teams.

Next Board Meeting: The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be December 8, 2010 at John Lyman School.

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

Mrs. Golschneider made a motion, second by Mr. Currlin to accept the minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2010. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currlin, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Golschneider, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Ms. Gara abstained.

Public Comment regarding CRHS Girls' softball team field trip request: John Esposito of Durham spoke on behalf of the parent group and players regarding the field trip to the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Florida the team would like to attend from April 15, 2011 – April 19, 2011. Mr. Esposito stated that they hope to raise most if not all of the funds for the trip with fund raising events. He said that this is an opportunity for the team to meet and play against students all over the country and that the trip is not just about going to Orlando. Mr. Esposito said the girls have worked hard for what they want and this trip will teach them life skills and make them a better team and better students.

Girls' softball coach Ann Moscovics said the girls' softball program at CRHS has been very successful and that this group of girls in particular have shown they deserve the opportunity to attend this function as a team.

Mrs. Golschneider and Mr. Hicks pointed out several omissions in the field trip request such as there was no signature from Principal Andre Hauser, there was no certified faculty member to attend and the return and departure times were not written in. They also asked about insurance.

Mr. Hauser said he did not sign the request because of the omission of the certified faculty member.

A parent then spoke stating that Coginchaug teacher Matt Thompson has agreed to chaperone the trip and will be the certified faculty member.

Mr. Hicks then asked Mr. Hauser if now that a certified faculty member was attending the trip would he sign off on the field trip request. Mr. Hauser said yes he would.

Ted Lombardo then spoke regarding scheduling problems and rescheduling the games the team needs to play because of CIAC guidelines. He stated that there would be 2 games that would need to be rescheduled.

Mrs. Golschneider felt the trip itself should not be up for Board approval. She felt the trip could be done independently from the school with the parents of the team members.

Dr. Ochterski spoke and clarified the insurance issue. He stated that if the insurance in question was trip insurance.

Mrs. Viccaro stated that the Board had to cancel a trip several years back after the 9/11 attacks because they felt the trip was too dangerous. Mrs. Viccaro said that because of trip insurance the students only lost a portion of the cost of the trip and not the entire cost.

Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Adams and Ms. Gara all thought the trip should be approved as long as all the outstanding issues were cleared up.

Mrs. Flanagan felt that the field trip request should not have been brought before the Board with so many outstanding issues still pending. She asked that a check list be put together for future field trip requests and that unless they required items were in place they should not go to the Board for a vote.

Mr. Currin made a motion, second by Mrs. Adams to approve the CRHS Girls' Softball Team trip to Orlando, Florida on April 15, 2011 – April 19, 2011 pending the name of a certified staff member attending the trip; final approval of the field trip request by Principal Andre Hauser; rescheduling of 2 games that will be missed while the coaches and team are in Florida; and trip insurance. Mrs. Adams, Mr. Currin, Mrs. Flanagan, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Dr. Ochterski, and Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mrs. Golschneider and Mr. Hicks voted no.

Communications: Mrs. Golschneider said that she was asked by a resident if the District was paying for the buses that were used to shuttle people to the Craft fair last weekend. Mrs. Viccaro stated that the CRHS Music Department paid for the shuttle buses and not the District.

Mrs. Golschneider wanted to know about the 10th grade health books. She said she was told by a 10th grade student that the books were shared with another 10th grade class and there was a .25¢ fee for forgetting your book. Mrs. Golschneider asked if it would be possible to get more books if there are not enough. Mr. Hauser will check with the health teachers on this and get back to the Board.

Mrs. Golschneider attended the Halloween Parade at Korn School and thought the costumes were excellent as always.

Mr. Hicks said he and Mrs. Viccaro attended the ACES staff development day at Thomas Edison Middle School in Meriden. He also attended the Magnet School presentation at Memorial School.

Ms. Parsons attended the Halloween Concert at CRHS and said it was an interesting and wonderful night.

Dr. Ochterski said he spoke to a Middlefield resident about budget increases.

Mrs. Flanagan said she spoke with Mrs. Boyle and said Mrs. Boyle would support having the game played at the new field if the Board thought it could be done.

Mrs. Flanagan said she attended a seminar on health insurance.

Mr. Hennick met with the selectmen of both Durham and Middlefield to talk about budget saving ideas for this year's budget.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro said she was approached by the Director of Farnham House in New Haven who was interested in partnering with the District to do a Science, Math and Technology summer exchange program with 6th grade students of both schools. Farnham House would be applying for a grant to fund the program and there would be no cost to the District. Principal Kevin Brough thought this would be a great opportunity for the students.

Mrs. Viccaro reminded the Board that the January 12, 2011 Board Meeting will be a Community Forum on the Budget and that the date had been posted on the District web site.

Mrs. Viccaro passed out a copy of a page from the high school's student handbook explaining the National Honor Society and the criteria on gaining entry.

Mrs. Viccaro said that the new report cards will be going out for the high school on Monday. The report cards are being issued from the Power School Program and are very different from the ones in the past. Mrs. Golschneider thought maybe they should send out a parent survey to see what their thoughts were on them.

Mrs. Viccaro gave the Board a Service Learning Survey handout that showed a list of community service activities Coginchaug students have participated in. She asked the Board to review the handout and discuss it at the next Board Meeting.

Presentations:

Positive School Climate: Mrs. Viccaro had the principals from the District present the Board a sample of how each school teaches a positive school climate in their school. Each principal gave the Board a handout outlining their school's initiatives for the 2010-2011 school year. They discussed how they each use the Core Ethical Values starting in kindergarten and expand on those same values through 12th grade.

New Business:

SPIN: Mrs. Viccaro spoke to the Board briefly about an email she received from Durham Town Selectman Laura Francis regarding SPIN – Student Partners in Nation. She told the Board that she would forward the email to them for review and they could discuss it at the next Board Meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mrs. Golschneider Board of Education unanimously approved to adjourn at 10:20 pm.

Virginia P. Antonelli