

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the library media center at Memorial Middle School. Board members present: Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons, Mr. Renninghoff. Members absent: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Flanagan. Also present: Mrs. Mangini, Mrs. Viccaro.

Mr. Hennick called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Public Comment: Michael Doyle of Durham commended the Board for their service and oversight. He has been dealing with a couple of issues at the high school and appreciates the time and interest Mr. Hauser has put into resolving it.

Cindy Nick, a parent of 1<sup>st</sup> grader at Lyman and an incoming kindergartener asked for the Board's support for all day kindergarten. She feels it is necessary if the students are going to meet the new State standards. Although she does not know about Brewster, she spoke to the staff at Lyman and they said they have the room and the furniture necessary to implement an all day program. The District will also save money by eliminating the noon day bus runs.

Mr. Doyle is also in favor of all day kindergarten.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held at Brewster School on February 8, 2012.

On a motion by Mrs. Boyle, second Ms. Gara, the agenda was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Dr. Ochterski, the minutes to the meeting of January 11, 2012 were unanimously approved.

Communications: Mrs. Viccaro shared a letter sent to Brewster School from State Representative Betty Boukus, congratulating the students for their wonderful artwork on display at the capital.

Oil Tanks: Ms. Gara said the Building Committee met on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Marty Cashin of Silver Petrucelli Associates did an overview of the tank replacements. Both oil tanks will be replaced with fiberglass tanks. Everyone on the Committee was comfortable with the specifications.

Mr. Renninghoff was also pleased with the presentation by Mr. Cashin.

On a motion by Ms. Gara, second Mr. Renninghoff, the Board of Education unanimously approved the specifications as described and voted to move forward with both the Brewster Elementary School and Memorial Middle School oil tank replacement projects.

On a motion by Ms. Gara, second Mr. Renninghoff, the Board of Education unanimously agreed to fund both oil tank projects to a maximum cost of \$125,000 for each project with the understanding that the State will reimburse approximately 59% of the project costs.

Superintendent's Report: Mrs. Viccaro said all day kindergarten is being explored in light of the requirements for the new common core assessments. The declining enrollment, facility needs and costs are all being reviewed. A lot depends on what happens in the next couple of weeks as parents select a program for their incoming kindergartener. She will know more after the first week in February. She has not made a decision yet whether she will be including it in her budget for next year or wait until the year after. Seventy percent of the parents have responded to the survey and a huge majority is in favor of an all day program.

Mrs. Viccaro shared a letter sent to Amy Emory from the State Department of Education congratulating the District on being one of only 11 districts in the state that were 100% compliant for two consecutive years with regards to our secondary transition program.

Mrs. Viccaro shared a letter from the Worker's Compensation Commission to Rob Francis, commending the District for following their guidelines by establishing a Safety and Health Committee.

Mrs. Viccaro received a letter from State Senator Suzio asking to meet with the Board of Education. Mrs. Viccaro will see if he is able to attend the meeting on February 8th. Our other State Senators and Representatives will be invited to attend as well.

On a motion by Ms. Gara, second Ms. Parsons, the Board of Education unanimously approved to amend the agenda to include a field trip request for the Ocean Sciences Bowl Team.

Mrs. Viccaro distributed the field trip request and explained that the Ocean Bowl team was on the waiting list for the competition until yesterday when a team dropped out. They never anticipated being able to attend the competition but have still been meeting on a weekly basis. The lateness of this request was beyond their control.

On a motion by Ms. Gara, second Mrs. Boyle, the Board of Education unanimously approved the field trip request for the Cuginchaug Ocean Bowl Team to attend the Regional Quahog Bowl Competition on Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4, 2012.

Mr. Hauser will tell all club advisors that even if they are on a waiting list for a trip, they should bring the trip before the Board for approval.

Mr. Hicks said the Policy Committee will also make note of this in the field trip policy.

Concussion Management: Mrs. Viccaro distributed information on concussions and concussion management from the Connecticut Concussion Task Force. She would like the Board to review it and give her feedback. Dr. Adam Perrin, a past medical advisor to the District is on the task force. Included is a list of high schools in the state that are doing "Impact Testing" on their athletes. The test measures a student's cognitive ability just prior to the start of a sport season and is a baseline measurement if the student receives a concussion. It would cost approximately \$1000 to test all of our students in grades 7-12. It is usually given to students participating in contact sports but the Board can determine what sports to include.

Mrs. Mangini spoke with our liability insurance carrier in regards to increase liability. The District increases liability whenever professional services increase, but the insurance carrier will work with the District to mitigate liability. There are policies and consent forms in use by other Districts that we can review and put into use.

Mrs. Viccaro clarified that the program is computer software that would be loaded onto a District computer. District personnel would be trained in the implementation. The information is then uploaded to a website for access by physicians. Mrs. Viccaro said educationally this will be very valuable information to have for the school and for parents.

Mrs. Boyle said having a baseline is priceless information for the parents. It makes it very clear what the child can and cannot do. She hopes that it gets put into the budget.

Dr. Ochterski asked if they could consider making it available to students in other sports at the parent's expense. Mrs. Viccaro does not think the costs are going to be significant to expand the program.

Mrs. Viccaro said she has also heard that Dick's Sporting Goods is offering to provide one year free to explore the program. She is going to explore this option further.

2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Calendars: Mrs. Viccaro said she made the decision to bring two years of calendars to the Board for approval for the first time this year. Many other neighboring Districts approve 2 or 3 years in advance. The two years are very similar so she was very comfortable bringing forth both years.

Members asked if there has been any negative feedback about not having a February vacation this year. Mrs. Viccaro said it has been accepted well.

Parent concerns about the delayed openings have also subsided. Parents are managing and staff is doing a better job of communicating the benefits of the days to the parents.

Members were not comfortable voting on the calendars this evening. They would like to review them and vote at the next meeting. The calendars will be posted on the website as "proposed calendars" until final approval.

Vote on Administrators' Contract: Ms. Parsons said the Administrators' Contract has been finalized. It is a three-year contract. The salary increases for three years are 2.5%, 1.25% and 1.25% respectively. Step one was removed in the first year and an additional step was added so all administrators will have movement in year one. There will be no step movement in year two or year three of the contract. Administrators will have a choice of belonging to the Teachers PPO group or staying with the HSA plan for health insurance. The employee portion of the health insurance costs are: PPO 19%, 20% and 21% and HSA 12%, 14% and 14% for years 1, 2 and 3 respectively. In the third year of the contract the PPO plan for teachers is expiring so the contract will need to be reviewed for insurance purposes.

The Personnel Policy Committee members said the negotiations were very cordial and professional.

Ms. Parsons made a motion, second Ms. Boyle, to approve the Professional Agreement between the Regional District 13 Board of Education and the Regional District 13 Administrators' Association for the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015. Mrs. Boyle, Mr. Fulton, Ms. Gara, Mr. Hennick, Mr. Hicks, Dr. Ochterski, Ms. Parsons voted yes. Mr. Renninghoff voted no.

Communications Committee: Mrs. Boyle invited members to attend meetings to hear presentations from companies offering web hosting services. Six webinar presentations (three each day) are scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup>. After the presentations the Communications Committee will discuss how they want to move forward.

Building Committee: Ms. Gara said that at the Building Committee meeting, in addition to approving the oil tank projects, the Committee discussed preparing a program audit. It will be a report about the success of the project, how the funds were used, how volunteers were used to support the project and the future needs. She also said a group of volunteers has been meeting to raise additional money to finish the projects. They are making a priority list of items and establishing fundraising goals.

Mr. Fulton questioned if it is ok to solicit funds for capital projects that were not completed. Mr. Hennick explained that these are items that were bid alternates. It is not out of the ordinary or unusual to raise funds this way. Ms. Gara said volunteers have been used during the projects to cut costs as well, for things such as the press box. The program audit will help to clarify all of these issues.

Mrs. Boyle wants to make sure that it is clear that it is a separate committee and not the Board of Education that is trying to raise additional funds to finish the project.

Follow-up: Mrs. Viccaro will get more information regarding Dick's Sporting Goods offering concussion assessments for free for one year.

The 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 School Year Calendars will be finalized at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Hicks, second Mr. Renninghoff, the Board of Education unanimously approved to move into Executive Session for a discussion regarding written attorney-client privileged information.

The Board moved back into regular session.

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

*Susan Gaudreau*